



Minutes of the 410th meeting of Portobello Community Council held on Monday 26th February 2024 - DRAFT

Present: Craig McIntyre (Chair), Mike Leeman (Secretary), Frazer McNaughton,, Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer & PAS Representative), Catherine Etoe (Brighton & Rosefield Residents Association Representative),, Lee Kindness

Apologies: Cllr. Kate Campbell, Laurie Berrie, Esther Clayton

In attendance: Cllr. Tim Jones, Cllr. Alys Mumford, Cllr. Jane Meaghar, and 10 members of the public

410.1 Chair's welcome and introductions

Craig McIntyre welcomed everyone and there were introductions. Mike Leeman let it be known that he was the trustee of a charity which would be putting in a proposal for the Place Based Investment Fund (Item 410.5)

410.2 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the January 2024 meeting were agreed. The number of attendees had been counted wrong so this was upped to 47 from 27.

Actions from the Previous Minutes - all had been completed.

Letter submitted in regards Brighton Place and Abercorn Terrace

Promenade etiquette - letter submitted to CEC and they will be driving a new campaign across the prom in time for the Summer.

Mike wrote to the Liaison officer regarding the community council elections, nothing heard back, Stephen spoke to someone in the team and they will not know until a general election is called.

Stephen has prepared the flyer with the ward councillor surgeries and contact details on, he will share with them and then make it live to print and post.

410.3 Abercorn Terrace road safety project – update

Final drawings showing scheme have been cleared with the appointed Design Consultants. These have also been shared with the 20MNH team. We have been advised that delivery will take place in the financial year 25/26.

410.4 Promenade maintenance – Seafield stretch

There have been some real trouble with the promenade. Craig read a reply from the council as follows

‘The structural integrity of the concrete retaining wall, in its role as a sea defence, remains sufficient and satisfactory, although there are areas of broken off edging and two stretches where the balustrading is missing and requires to be replaced. We are arranging for replacement balustrading, although expect it may take some time to source matching components. As an interim measure, we have arranged to have temporary steel posts fixed in the gaps, to which we can secure plastic safety barriers. We had barriers in place already, but without the support of fixed posts, these have



been detached from the adjacent balustrading and are lying on the esplanade, as you will have seen. We expect the temporary arrangement to be in place within the next week or so.

We have advised the area Roads team about the surfacing issues and the requirement to sweep the esplanade.'

Lee Kindess pointed out replacing the balustrade is a temporary measure. The biggest potholes have been filled in but there is a lot of debris there including doors from derelict garages.

Frazer McNaughton - The Council is considering the issues around preparing a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan for Edinburgh, as required by Scottish Government. This would set out the longer term choices and the possible adaptation pathways for the coast. Queried Cllr Jones on the latest news re the structural condition of the ramp down to the beach at Seafield, which was previously seen to be moving on wave impact and has been undermined by beach erosion. Discussion ensued around whether temporary fixes should be implemented to avoid further and costly damage to exposed structures.

Cllr. Tim Jones - CEC have assured the ward councillors but he will bring it up again.

Cllr. Jane Meaghar - The Gabion Groyne repair is now out to tender. She is bringing a motion to the next full council to consider the length of the promenade to ensure it is future proof. All ward councillors are in agreement on this. There is a funding issue in the short term.

Cllr. Tim Jones - Feels that we need to determine what is short term and long term to solve the immediate problems.

Frazer Could the Community Council help CEC with a grant application to Sustrans or Scot Gov.

ACTIONS - Cllr. Tim Jones will check on the ramp and the Revetment undercut. Cllr. Jane Meaghar will clarify about dredging the sand. The Community Council will look at adding a full meeting agenda for the April meeting and invite people from the council to be involved to air our worries and gather their thoughts.

410.5 Place-Based Investment Fund

Craig explained what place based funds are. Closing date is 22nd March so we can discuss at the March meeting to put our proposals to CEC for 31st March deadline. So far there have been no nominations.

A discussion was had about Town hall redevelopment of the garden area and could the community council put forward something re the prom and other areas such as the toilet blocks, playparks etc.

ACTION - Mike to email the local groups again to ask for nominations. Community Council to go onto Basecamp to come up with a list of potential projects which the Community Council could run.

410.6 Review of Scheme for Community Councils and their Boundaries

Need now to renew the scheme to better represent the new communities. For Portobello there are proposed possible changes to our boundary by including all of the Durhams and Hamiltons from the Northfield and Willowbrae Community Council. Phase 2 is now part of a public consultation which closes on 12th April. Phase 3 should be then ratified.



A discussion was had about should we ask for Seafield to be made part of our boundary. It was agreed that it would be good to talk to CEC about this before the consultation closes.

ACTION : Mike to write to the liaison officers about getting a meeting with them to ask about Seafield being put into our boundary.

ACTION: PCC to share online CEC Consultation details.

410.7 a . Treasurer

There have been two transactions in the business account since the last meeting for a total of £37.53, both for Basecamp costs. The monthly cost of the Basecamp subscription in February has risen from \$20.00 to \$25.00 as previously reported. This leaves a balance of £1,142.08.

There has been the additional interest of £1.34 added to the Traders' account which results in a balance of £1219.27.

410.7b. Police

There was no one from Police Scotland available for the meeting

410.7 c Planning

We published a number of advertisements on social channels. It was noted that the application from Joppa Rocks had been refused as it would encroach too much on the public realm.

410.7 d Councillors

Cllr. Jane Meaghar - Had budget meeting on Thursday. Highlights for Portobello: £5.6m into Edinburgh Leisure so the future of the facilities in Portobello are much more secure.

Permanent toilets for Portobello - amount is set aside - there is a plan to bring the old toilets under the Swimming pool back into use, and this will include a disabled toilet and potential showers.

Mike asked what would be happening with temporary toilets this year. They will be something, it does need to be confirmed. Cllr. Alys Mumford will take the action to chase this.

There was also an increase in rents by 7% to council housing stock. CEC recognise this will be very demanding for some tenants. There is a tenant hardship fund - let as many tenants know about this. Jane to provide us with some wording to share.

Cllr. Alys Mumford - Major junctions review. Was not in the budget that passed but there is general money for roads and Alys encourages us to re-raise the concerns from Spokes and the CC about the junction with Sir Harry Lauder Road.

Cllr. Tim Jones - After the last meeting re pavement parking on Marlborough and Regent Street. Tim surveyed all of the households and the surveys have been returned and Tiim wanted to thank everyone who has responded. Tim will share the report with Gavin Brown this month. He will then share it with the Community Council.

There is still interest in a site visit to the 2 streets and he is trying to arrange this and wants to make sure that the Community Council and residents can also attend.



A member of the public raised that there has not been a full impact assessment and it feels very heavy handed for how it has been implemented.

Brunstane Road TRO SRO has been delayed again. Legal services have asked for more time. Due to come to committee at the end of April ETRO has been extended to there.

410.7 e Seafield

No updates this month

410.8 AOB

Joppa Tennis have their AGM at the Kings Manor 6th March.

There is a consultation on the future Library strategy across Edinburgh. The consultation closes on 9th April. **ACTION : Advertise it on the website and facebook**

The George - There have been a lot of emails about how it is falling into disrepair The Council are looking into this and would like a point of contact (Ideally from Friends of the George) to liaise with.

A member of the public brought up that Historic Environment Scotland are considering closing the whole of the park to vehicles. They were concerned that people do not know about this.

The Community Council; shared the consultation in November of 2023. We have not had any results back yet but have promised to keep people updated as soon as we hear anything.

It was pointed out that the consultation, whilst long and not worded well, was at this point just asking for opinions.

The meeting concluded at 21.10

The next meeting is 25th March 2024.