



Minutes of the 416th meeting of Portobello Community Council held on Monday September 2024 - DRAFT

Present: Mike Leeman (Chair), Stephen Hawkins (Treasurer & PAS Representative), Esther Clayton, Frazer McNaughton, Catherine Etoe (BRRRA Representative)

In attendance: Councillor Tim Jones, Cllr. Jane Meagher, Cllr. Alys Mumford and five members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr. Kate Campbell and Chris Murray MP

416.1 Chair's welcome and introductions

416.2 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

Kings Road – Cllrs Campbell and Mumford chasing but no updates.

Action for the PCC: chase up again.

Neighbourhood Market – Preston will attend the October meeting.

Water quality/ sewage issues Duddingston Road – Cllr. Mumford has followed up and the problem was caused by a partially blocked sewer which has now been cleared.

Closure of the Bank of Scotland – Cllr. Meagher received a reply which stated that not enough people were coming into the branch to make it viable. The Post Office was suggested as an alternative. The bank is still expected to close in October.

Cllr. Mumford has also spoken to council officers who have offered to help if businesses are interested in installing a cash machine.

Action for the PCC: Mike Leeman to write to Access to Cash

Library – to be dealt with in the coming month.

Recruitment poster – possible community council elections in February. Cllrs. Campbell and Mumford have raised the need for better communication between Edinburgh City Council (CEC) and community councils.

Local groups – the Neighbourhood Market will come to the October meeting. Porty Community Energy to come in November.

Freeports – Cllrs. Jones and Mumford have raised with officers and the planning committee. Still a work in progress. Frazer McNaughton added that no planning application has yet been made, but it is a conversation that the community needs to have given the potential financial benefits for infrastructure.

20 minute neighbourhood – no update.



Seafield – Action for the PCC: to circulate consultation information.

AOB – a letter of condolence has been written for Tom and delivered.

416.3 Christmas Light and Traders Funds

Update from Stephen Hawkins. Approach by Sybil to make use of the funds with £1200 go towards lighting one tree and CEC to fund two others. PCC has received a signed sheet from traders agreeing for the money to be released.

Decision to include the £28 that remains in that account, proposed by Mike Leeman, seconded by Frazer McNaughton.

416.4 Portobello Police Station Community Right to Buy

Frazer McNaughton detailed Action Party's plans for a community buyout of the building.

Action Party have only lately gained access to the building and plans, but have identified the need to maintain an active use.

Commercial use would support traders and give the town centre a lift. The building could also offer community facilities.

Strong potential for a community wealth building model (how communities maintain ownership but also generate money to benefit the community), but that needs working through with the community in order to create a viable business model.

Police Scotland have already approached other public bodies about taking the building over so time is tight. Discussed the potential for PCC to deliver a public consultation as per our role.

Member of the public – could it be used for housing? Frazer suggests it is one of Portobello's prime buildings and active use would contribute to the town centre more.

Cllr. Meagher – to speak to CEC leader.

Cllr. Mumford – suggests linking in with CEC's community wealth building officer.

Frazer – agrees including Portobello's public library into the building could be an interesting model.

Action for the PCC: ask Police Scotland to pause the sale if Action Party's request for a three month delay is denied. Proposed by Frazer, seconded by Stephen.

416.5 a. Treasurer

One payment £21.16 for the Basecamp fee was made since the last report. We've received the annual grant of £756.74 from the City of Edinburgh Council which leaves a balance of £ 1,333.76.

There has been the additional interest of £1.04 added to the Traders' account which stands at £1228.09.

416.5 b. Police.

No police report this month.



It was noted that the PCC have received emails about graffiti on the promenade and have reported it to police and councillors.

Action for the PCC: Mike Leeman to inform Police Scotland of complaints received.

416.5 c. Councillors

Cllr. Meagher

– good feedback regarding the standard of the work on the groynes and relationship between contractors and residents.

– residents have emailed queries around gully cleaning.

– also spoke on homelessness in Edinburgh where over 5,000 households are living in temporary accommodation. Some Portobello residents are housed here temporarily. If residents know of anyone living in fear of homelessness they can contact councillors who can put support in place.

– transient visitor levy consultation to go live.

Cllr. Mumford

– now sits on the planning committee.

– she is supporting Miros and the Espy following an incident of racist abuse from a large group of people.

– is meeting with the transport convener and working with a fellow Green councillor in Musselburgh to discuss an active travel link from Portobello to Musselburgh. Frazer McNaughton says this has been identified by Sustrans as a regional priority.

– Joppa Rocks ongoing conversation around the re-installation of perspex on the bandstand.

Cllr. Jones

– has met with senior transport officers, also with 10 residents, to discuss the issue of taxis turning around in Bath Street and associated noise, sometimes until 1am. Officers have agreed to look into mitigation measures.

– TRO for CPZ in Portobello in 2025 is about to be advertised, but no date yet. Cllr. Jones asks if PCC might host a presentation from a transport officer.

– has received complaints from parents and residents over the continued absence of the school street light at Hamilton Terrace. Still no idea when it will be fixed, police aware of the ongoing issue.

– trying to champion reinstallation of the restored Portobello clock and there is now an officer looking into it.

– will try to get updates on refurbishment of the baths and toilet facilities with chair of leisure.

In reply:



Member of the public queries the tendering process for the school street signs. Cllr. Jones says it has been raised. Cllr. Campbell has raised a motion at CEC to review contracts and best value.

Cath Etoe asks if the traffic lights at the junction of Duddingston Road and Mountcastle Drive could have the advance light for cyclists switched on.

Cath also reiterated that the School Streets sign was still broken and could this be looked at as a matter of urgency.

Mike Leeman asks councillors to chase up Abercorn Terrace road safety improvements. Cllr Mumford has, but has received no reply.

PCC members discussed what form a CPZ presentation might take, but nothing decided.

Actions for PCC:

To circulate the consultation on the transient visitor levy.

To share library consultation.

To have the wider strategy of toilet provision as an agenda item.

416.5 d. Seafield

Frazer McNaughton – final draft masterplan has gone to planning committee. Further work needed to inform the masterplan. Now out to consultation. Met with other three community councils to reflect on the journey. Celebrate there is a framework to guide planning, long-term framework for infrastructure investment.

Action for the PCC: to promote the consultation and explain how CCs have helped drive this into the City Plan.

416.6 AOB

Upcoming meeting re: The George – Stephen Hawkins to represent PCC and report back.

Pittville Street Lane: developers wrote to former chair Craig McIntyre requesting a private meeting with PCC.

Action for the PCC: invite to our monthly meeting held in public.

Portobello High School: Frazer McNaughton says the head teacher remains keen to make links with the PCC perhaps on a more conversational basis and has offered use of the school for PCC events.

Meeting concluded at 8.45