

PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT FORUM SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
18 NOVEMBER 2013 @ 7pm
SCHOOL LIBRARY

Present: Tom Ballantine (Chair), Peigi Macarthur (HT), Allyson Dobson, Verity Sinclair, Ann O'Hagan, Cllr Maureen Child, Christine Swinney, Sue Davidson, Emma Wood, Alison Holligan, Jacquie Robertson, Sheila Elliot, Liz Meikle, Hazel Bett, Diane Drummond, Elizabeth Bremner, Brock Lueck, Donald McGregor, Michael McTernan, Sean Watters, Sarah Morton, Louise Kelly, Linsey Denham, Elspeth Simpson, Michaela Urquhart

Apologies: Alex Lunn, Carole Tracey, Juliet MacArthur, Tricia Dunn, Gillian Dunn

MINUTES

1. **Welcome.**
2. **Discussion of whether proposed changes to constitution (set out in the draft circulated prior to the meeting) should be accepted.**

TB outlined recommended changes to constitution which tidied up the existing constitution, made it clearer how people could become members of the Parent Council, and included a clause on termination of membership that followed exactly the wording in the example constitution provided by the Scottish Executive in their guidance on developing a parent council.

TB advised he had received a comment from a council member not in attendance expressing concern that the termination of membership clause would breach Article 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998. TB indicated that his understanding was that that Article dealt with the right to free assembly and association. The proposed change was not interfering with that right but simply provided a right for the council to terminate membership of the council if a member of the council was acting in a way that undermined the objectives of the council. In other words if you join a group formed for a particular purpose there was a route for the group to terminate your membership if you acted contrary to that purpose.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the proposed changes, with minor tidying amendments proposed by TB including correcting numbering.