

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

held on

Thursday 4 April 2024

in **BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT : Tony Allen; Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Phil Thomas; Ian Hynd; Hugh Watt; Emma Galloway; Jack Kerr; PC Brian Green; PC May

APOLOGIES : Martin Petty; Stephen Jenkinson; Paul Cockburn; Neil Gardiner; Jim Polasik; Ken Shade; Brian Conway; David Brewster; Stephen Jenkinson

2. AGENDA : Approved

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST : Richard Henderson, Tony Allan, Hugh Watt; Phil Thomas, Emma Galloway, Ian Hynd - all Balerno Pathways

4. MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING : Approved

6. POLICE ISSUES : PCs Green and May attended the meeting.

- PCs hope to be able to attend our meetings more regularly in the future
- They asked if there are any issues we would like to raise with them.
- It would be helpful for the police to be informed of all forthcoming events being held in Balerno.
- Are there any patterns of behaviour which would be useful for the police to know about?
- There are three PCs in the SW team covering Balerno, Currie, J Green, Ratho, Pentlands, Wester Hailes, Bankhead and Hermiston Gait, all based in Oxfords.
- Response team based in Wester Hailes deals with ongoing issues and emergencies, covering everything from Haymarket to Ratho.
- Currently the biggest crimes are vehicle crime, housebreaking and stealing cars; Baberton in particular and the more affluent areas in general are being targetted.
- There will be a stronger police presence in the Pentland Hills area to prevent sheep and lamb worrying.

- Richard asked if there is anything BCC could do to help the police.
- He mentioned particularly parking in Main Street and driving up and down Main Street.
- Police pointed out that these are generally council issues; however they become a police issue if the vehicles are causing an obstruction.
- **SALE OF BALERNO POLICE STATION** : Jim's and Ken's emails on this subject were noted; it was decided that these should be discussed at our next meeting when, hopefully, Jim and Ken would be present.
- Emma commented that the BVT community transfer was not going to be easy - "BVT is the only organisation in the village who could have done this."
- Richard said that BCC considers it important to note the position of BVT in relation to the sale of the police station and that the building/site is retained for community benefit.

5. FINANCE : £6,802.27 in bank; £8.41 petty cash; Balance - £6,810.68

8. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **RAVELRIG QUARRY** :
 - Tony attended the exhibition which was very impressive.
 - Richard will contact Graeme to find out who he is talking to locally about who is being involved in Tarmac's proposals.
 - We should follow up Tarmac's invitation to go to the quarry to witness a blast.
 - Tarmac's engagement with the community appears to be preparedness on their behalf.
- **LOCAL PLACE PLAN** : Richard has not yet received a response to his request for us to be involved.
- **GREEN BRIDGE** : Phil reported that he has been persistently trying to contact Stephen Knox.
 - In an email from Mr Knox, he now seems prepared to permit CEC to adopt the bridge but with conditions.
 - We should now be in a position to hold a sensible meeting to discuss how to move forward to achieve CEC adoption of the bridge.
- **SIGNAGE** : Tony reported that Scotmid has no objection to the signage being placed on their property.

NEXT MEETING :
THURSDAY 2 MAY
@ 7.00 p.m.
in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE