

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
Thursday 7 APRIL 2022
at CURRIE RUGBY CLUB

PRESENT : Tony Allen; Kathleen Fiddes; Emma Galloway; Richard Henderson; Ian Hynd; Phil Thomas; Ricky Henderson; Neil Gardiner; Paul Cockburn (C+B News); David May, Member of the Public

APOLOGIES : David Brewster; Brian Conway; Jack Kerr; Martin Petty; Ken Shade; Hugh Watt

2. AGENDA : Approved

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

4. MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING : Approved

5. CEC GUIDANCE RE CC MEETINGS : Nothing to report

6. REQUEST FROM CEC RE PLATINUM JUBILEE :

- Information had been received from the Lord Provost's office regarding the initiative to organise Platinum Jubilee parties.
- BCC will be given a "pot" of £500 to be distributed to local groups who may want to organise an event.
- This will be advertised on BCC Facebook page and on Balerno Cares page.
- Applications from local groups should be sent to Tony by email no later than 22 April.
- Relevant applications will be considered by BCC and successful groups will be notified.

7. FINANCE : Current bank balance £6,322.42

8. POLICE : No police report. No police presence at our meeting

9. PROJECTS

SIGNAGE :

- Richard showed us the new Balerno Orientation sign which will be displayed outside the Community Centre. It was suggested that BCC members should email Dominic Simmons, complimenting him on his work on this project.
- BCC will notify the Roseberry Estate, the Barrs, the Flemings, Jamie Buchanan-Smith and Simon Thompson.

- Simon Thompson will be shown a copy of the Orientation sign. It will be pointed out to him that one or two of the pathways involve his property.

GREEN BRIDGE :

- **Phil Thomas** provided an update on the Green Bridge project.
- Bridge continuing to plan; all coming together; will be built during the summer and should be ready, on site, in September.
- **David Kay**, a local resident who lives at Blue Cottage, Malleny Gardens (close to the site of the Green Bridge) attended the meeting on behalf of the community where he lives at Malleny Cottages. He wishes to voice their concerns and disappointment at lack of communication and consultation regarding the replacement of the Green Bridge and works by Scottish Water.
- **David** expressed his concerns and wondered what was happening when he saw the removal of the laurel trees.
- **Phil** explained that clearance of the trees was essential to get the bridge into place; it will be taken in on rollers as far as it can go then will be dropped into place. He tried to reassure David that, once the bridge is in place, regrowth will be very quick.
- **David** told us of some of the problems he and his neighbours have encountered : broken windows, youths tramping over the gardens, banging on doors, litter, greenhouse broken. He feels that, by clearing the area, it has opened it up to youths to invade the community's gardens. The community is concerned that opening up the gate will encourage more people to use the land around the cottages. They are very concerned re security.
- **Richard** asked if there is anything David and the residents of the cottages would like BCC to do.
- **David** asked that BCC communicates with the residents and lets them know of any plans.
- **Ian** informed David that the project had been through the planning process.
- **Neil** said that we need to look for solutions to help the tenants of the cottages.
- **Phil** suggested a meeting with the National Trust and the tenants. He also suggested that when Scottish Water starts work again we need to have dialogue with all parties. Phil will pass any information on to David.

MARCHBANK PARK :

- CEC has provided a quote for the benches.
- Daffodils are now in bloom.
- 50th birthday of the Park co-incides with the 50th birthday of Dean Park Primary School.

COMMUNITY LINK PROJECT : “To develop a safe route linking the schools between Balerno and WHEC and safer routes to your school” - project in development

HUSTINGS : This event has now been cancelled.

10. ENVIRONMENT :

Closure of Cockburn Crescent and alteration to 44 bus service - 18 April into June

11.COVID 19 UPDATE : Ricky reported that staff should be fully back in CEC offices on Monday 11 April. It is to be hoped that access to Balerno High School should be soon.

12.SALE OF GREEN SPACE LAND : Richard has written to Joanna Cherry and Gordon McDonald.

13.PORTFOLIO REPORTS :

- **PLANNING** : SG has approved the Garden District for 1,350 houses.
- **PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK** : Tony reported that CEC is filling in potholes at Harlaw Reservoir.
- BCC supports the superb initiative of **Dean Park Primary School** to celebrate their 50th year..

14. COMMUNICATIONS : Nothing to report

15.COUNCILLORS AND OFFICE BEARERS :

RICKY HENDERSON : This was Ricky's last attendance at a BCC meeting as he is not standing for re-election next month. He said that it had been a privilege working with BCC. Richard reminded us that Ricky had been our councillor for 15 years, that he had provided tremendous support to BCC and to Balerno and that BCC very much appreciated all that he had done for us.

NEIL GARDINER :

- **Post Office** : Daisy, from 20 Minute Neighbourhood project, had said that there is limited action that can be taken.
- **Main Street problems** : damage to doors, windows and vehicles; vermin; noise; cars speeding and going up and down; parking - signage needs to be reviewed; Neil will discuss all these issues with the police.
- **City Plan** : moving on
- **PHRP** : Advertisements will be placed shortly for park rangers.
- **Quarry Blast** today - mild
- Two SNP candidates will be standing for election next month - Neil and Fiona Glasgow.
- This may be Neil's last BCC meeting, depending on the outcome of the elections.
- **Richard** expressed the gratitude of BCC for all that Neil has done for the community.

17. AOCB : "Welcome To Balerno" sign in production

NEXT MEETING :
THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022