

**Minutes of meeting held at Balerno High School  
Thursday 6 April 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Richard Henderson (Chairman), Ian Hynd, Hugh Watt, Brian Conway, Emma Galloway, Jack Kerr, Dominic Simmons, Phil Thomas, Tony Allen. Councillors Graeme Bruce and Fiona Glasgow. Members of the Public: Paul Cockburn, Julie Pullen, Janis Carmichael, Aoife Schweppe and Yvonne Kerr.

1. The chairman **Welcomed** everyone to the meeting & **Apologies for absence** were received on behalf of: David Brewster, Kathleen Fiddes, Marion Milne, Martin Petty, Ken Shade, Cllr Neil Gardiner and Cllr Stephen Jenkinson.
2. **Approval of agenda:** This was agreed
3. **Declarations of Interest** (non-financial) were noted from R. Henderson, I. Hynd, H. Watt, E. Galloway, P. Thomas and T. Allen in connection with Balerno Pathways Ltd.
4. The **Draft Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday 2 March 2023 were approved *nem con*.
5. **Representations by Main Street residents.** Three residents (Julie Pullen, Janis Carmichael and Aoife Schweppe) of Main Street, Balerno attended the meeting to express their ongoing concern and displeasure at the night-time deliveries to restaurants and take-away outlets in the Main Street. Usually there are one or two food deliveries or trade waste collections each night which creates unwanted disturbance to residents. It was noted that similar objections were made about 12 months ago and despite a very short period of remission, then, the disturbed nights have continued since that time.

The residents' representatives proposed that there should be a formal, daily closure of Main Street each evening from 7pm until 7am the following morning. However, they perceived that there would be a negative reaction from all of the Main Street businesses. It is understood, however, that Rose Street, in central Edinburgh, has a similar night time closed period also. Such a scheme would prevent those drivers who ignore the pedestrian area signs by parking there in the evening or over-night. The Main Street representatives appealed to those Councillors present to support them in their bid.

Further discussions touched on possibilities to prevent the noise and disturbance by the use of bollards and new bye-laws and restraining orders. Cllr Bruce agreed to progress the issue within City of Edinburgh Council and particularly with officials in Environment and Trading Standards. RH thanked the Balerno residents for highlighting the issue with BCC.

6. Yvonne Kerr, from the **Balerno Children's Gala Committee**, spoke on the issue of apparent new charges which the Gala Committee is obliged to pay CEC in order to operate *amusement devices* on Gala Day. This requirement isn't new but the cost of the overall license has risen substantially due to the requirement to make individual safety assessments of all amusement devices provided by the Gala committee. This would incur a total cost to the Gala committee of circa £3,300. The committee will do its best to raise the additional funds needed.
7. **Finance:** HW reported that BCC currently has total funds of £6495.74, including £8.41 in cash.
8. **Police issues:** Police Scotland recently issued its newsletter for the period January to March 2023, covering the South West Community Policing Team Edinburgh Division. Very broad-brush crime figures are provided but nothing specific relating to Balerno.

**9. Governance:** AGM arrangements: It was agreed that the AGM will be held in September. RH and TA to arrange.

**10. Current Issues:**

**Planning** – RH noted a National Planning Framework document which includes local planning policy with Reporters involved. However, nothing is currently showing for our area.

**Proposal for a Local Place Plan** – RH provided an oral update.

**Twenty Minute Neighbourhood and SW Communities Corridor** – some development work on 20 Minute Neighbourhood has taken place.

**Resilience** – Hub@531 has recently opened in Juniper Green. The CEC Warm + Welcoming initiative continues. BVT reported that they are progressing essential work towards re-opening the Balerno Community Centre.

**Environment - Pathways**

Green Bridge - Balerno Pathways Ltd – PT reported that the Bavelaw Green Bridge is in place but technical problems concerning the ramps at both ends and estimates for these works, due to the contractor pulling out, have meant that BPL is looking for supplementary tenders and further sources of funding. The east ramp will connect to the existing path and because of the height differential between the bridge and the ground temporary steps are being considered. Sufficient small grants should be available to build both ramps. BPL has also met with Craig Dunlop to receive his advice for rustic pathways on the west side of the bridge and bulbs to be sown in the grassed areas.

Roads and pavements – a demonstration weed removal trial was given in Marchbank Park using a ride-on tractor with wire brush attachment. This appeared to be successful.

Signage - Main Street sign 22/04037/ADV – this work is in abeyance for the time being.

Harlaw Car Park - TA had written to the Councillors to seek an update on the car park enlargement works at Harlaw Reservoir. Cllr GB advised that it may be necessary to carry out a feasibility study concerning the power supply needed for car parking charging etc. He will liaise with Cllr NG to pursue the matter.

CALA – World War I street names plaque: CALA has offered to provide street name plaques at their Ravelrig Heights and Somerville Road developments. These will be timber display boards.

**11. Complaint to CEC re sale of Open Space land** – nothing to report.

## 12. Portfolio Reports

- a. Police and Fire (at 8 above)
- b. Planning Report
- c. Pentland Hills Regional Park
- d. Culture and Sport Health
- e. Communities, Neighbourhood, Education, Children etc
- f. Transport & Environment – see 7.5 above
- g. **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership** – is seeking bids to their funds.
- h. Balerno Business Forum

13. **Communications - Weed Control:** See RH's Weeds article in April 2023 issue of C&B News.

14. **Councillors & Office Bearers Reports:** Cllr GB noted the following items: **Broken steps at Malleny Avenue:** These have been reported and inspected. Repairs should be carried out soon. **Playpark, next to Dean Park Primary School:** problem has been resolved. **Tree issue at Malleny Ave:** resolution unlikely. **Power cut at Lanark Road West, uphill from traffic lights:** 16 days to reinstate full road-width due to a collapsed drain. **Gala article in C&B News:** see 6.0 above. **Balerno High School:** Kirkliston village wishes to have a high school provided. Will they have sufficient pupils? Apparently Ratho is content to continue using BHS.

15. **AOCB** – PT reported a large tree trunk in the river close to the confluence of Bavelaw Burn and Water of Leith. Cllr GB agreed to report this. He also noted a problem at the 3G pitch where a young person was injured. Also, vandalism damage reported at the gates of the pitch. It was noted that at the former green gate entrance to the Ravelrig short-cut a hand-rail is needed. A70 bends – case for mitigation and slower speed limits: Cllr GB apologised for the length of time taken to reply but a response is expected.

16. **Date of next meeting** – **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May** at BHS.