

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

held on
Thursday 3 AUGUST 2023

at **BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL**

PRESENT : Tony Allen; Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Ian Hynd; Jack Kerr; Marion Milne; Martin Petty; Phil Thomas; Ken Shade; Hugh Watt; Stephen Jenkinson; Neil Gardiner; Graeme Bruce; Emma Galloway

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC : Paul Cockburn, C+ B News; Aaron McKeen, Edinburgh Airport; Yvonne Kerr, Balerno Children's Gala

1. APOLOGIES : Dominic Simmons; Jim Polasik; David Brewster;

2. AGENDA : Approved

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

4. MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING : Approved

5. PRESENTATIONS :

- **BALERNO CHILDREN'S GALA** : **Yvonne Kerr** attended to explain about the PEL - Public Entertainment Licence. This was charged by CEC to the Gala Committee for a licence to operate inflatables at the Gala events.
- CEC had said that part of the cost was for an inspector to attend the Gala event. However no inspector attended. Other Gala committees had experience the same - no inspector turned up at their events for which they had paid a licence fee.
- CEC has agreed to refund 2/3 of the licence fee. Balerno Children's Gala Committee has agreed that the refund money will be used for community purposes in Balerno.
- The issue of the licence fees and no inspector attending the events will be raised at Council. A report will go to the Communities Committee.
- Stephen suggested a deputation be sent to the Communities Committee, preferably in person and possibly a joint deputation with other Gala Committees.

- **EDINBURGH AIRPORT** : **Aaron McKeen**, Sustainability Containment at Edinburgh Airport, attended to give a brief outline of various community activities.
- A Community Fund of £140,000 is available to distribute to community projects. Applications will be considered in August, November and early in 2024.
- Desire to get out and connect with local communities. A Newsletter will be published in the next few months.
- Among the consultations coming up will be Noise Action Plan and Air Space Changes - flight paths throughout the UK are all changing.

6. FINANCE : £6,403.33; £8.41 Petty Cash; TOTAL = £6,411.74

7. POLICE - No police in attendance

- **REPORT OF VANDALISM** : There was a report of vandalism to a fence at a property in Marchbank Park.
- **DISPOSAL OF BALERNO POLICE STATION** :
- Balerno Police Station was closed in 2015; since then it has been used by a police group. In 2013 BCC objected to the planned closure.
- Concern was expressed about what happens next with the police station building. This is a public asset which should be available to the community, particularly in view of its location in the centre of Balerno.
- Consultation closes mid-September. BCC needs to formulate a response of which the residents of Balerno should be made aware.
- It was suggested that the building could be used as a medical centre in which case we would need to approach Lothian Health Board/NHS Scotland fairly quickly. This is the only opportunity we are ever going to get to have a medical centre in Balerno. This asset must not be allowed to slip.
- Stephen sits on NHS Lothian Health Board as a council representative.
- NHS Estates Team needs to be made aware in order to engage with the process, as well as CEC.
- The following action should be taken :-
- Prepare a draft consultation response
- Advertise the process in September's C+B Newsletter
- Approach the Community Land Fund
- Approach Lothian Health Board and CEC
- Get Gordon Mac Donald involved
- It was agreed that a small group should be formed to take this forward and to ensure that we retain this asset within and for Balerno. The group would comprise Ken Shade, Ian Hynd, Hugh Watt, Emma Galloway.

8.GOVERNANCE : AGM arrangements - AGM will be held on Thursday 2 November 2023.

9. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL PLACE PLAN** : Nothing to report
- **20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND SW COMMUNITIES' CORRIDOR** : Nothing to report
- **CEC FEE CHARGING FOR HIRE OF ROOM FOR BCC MEETINGS** :
 - Room hire now needs to be booked through Edinburgh Leisure and not directly through High School office as in the past.
 - Rules have been changed without us being informed.
 - Graeme will make enquiries regarding BCC being charged for our room let through Edinburgh Leisure and will get back to us with their response.
- **RESILIENCE** :
 - Stephen confirmed that the resilience arrangements in place last winter will be the similar for this winter. Facilities will predominantly be in libraries and community centres.
- **ENVIRONMENT** :
 - **GREEN BRIDGE** : Phil reported the following :
 - Progress went well; there is now an administrative problem.
 - All that needs to be completed to allow the opening of the bridge is the installation of two ramps, the larger of which requires funding.
 - CEC is being very slow in dealing with the issue of the ramp and its funding which is £10,000-£12,000.
 - Neil will take this up with the relevant personnel involved and try to understand the reason for the delay and what needs to be done to resolve the issue.
 - **SIGNAGE** : Drawings with contractors awaiting quotes.
 - **ROADS AND PAVEMENTS** : Hannahfield Bends : CEC's Director of Place has replied to Richard that it will not be possible to provide a footpath. No funds!
 - **HARLAW CAR PARK** : Brief discussion around payment, parking on the access road by those who don't want to pay or who can't find a parking space.

10.COMPLAINT TO CEC RE SALE OF OPEN SPACE LAND : nothing to report

11. PORTFOLIO REPORTS :

- Jack had written to the Parks Manager regarding weeds in Marchbank but had not yet received a reply.

12. COMMUNICATIONS : Nothing to report

13 COUNCILLORS :

- Graeme has requested that an anti-skid surface be laid on the sharp bend on the A70/LRW at Ravelrig Hill

NEXT MEETING :

THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

@ 7.00 p.m.

IN

BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL