

Annex 4 item 4 – Minutes

**Minutes of a meeting of Balerno Community Council
held at Balerno High School on Thursday 8 December 2022**

Present: B. Conway, R. Henderson, I. Hynd, J. Kerr, K. Shade, P. Thomas, H. Watt, T. Allen;
Councillors G. Bruce & F. Glasgow. Member of the Public: P.F. Cockburn (C&BN)

1.	Welcome & Apologies for absence: K. Fiddes, E. Galloway, M. Milne, M. Petty, D. Simmons, J. Polasik, Cllrs. N. Gardiner and S. Jenkinson.
2.	Approve agenda: The agenda was approved.
3.	Declarations of Interest: Received from – R. Henderson, I. Hynd, P. Thomas, H. Watt & T. Allen as members of Balerno Pathways Ltd.
4.	Minutes: Draft minutes of meeting of 3 November 2022 – Approved <i>nem con</i> .
5.	Annual General Meeting: held on 3 November. It was agreed to amend the AGM minutes to note that HW had indicated his declaration of interest as a Director of Balerno Pathways Ltd.
6.	Finance: HW reported that the Council held total funds of £6657.74, including petty cash amounting to £8.41.
7.	Police issues: There remains no change in the continuing lack of basic crime statistics, from Police Scotland, relating to the Balerno area. Meanwhile, Cllr. Glasgow is trying to arrange a meeting with a divisional officer to discuss the situation and express BCC's concern on this matter. Cllr Bruce hopes to be able to provide a link to a website concerning crime statistics for each Edinburgh Ward.
8.	<p>Current issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cockdurno Farm – Afforestation consultation: RH noted his appreciation of the detailed consultation document and its stated aim that main pathways through the woodlands would be maintained. There were no objections from anyone present. • Proposal for a Local Place Plan – update: RH's view is that BCC should become involved with a Local Place Plan for Balerno so as to enable local groups to comment on future development plans, e.g., to give a view on where potential development could take place and where it should not. He feels that we will need to co-ordinate this work with Currie and Juniper Green CCs on behalf of the Upper Water of Leith Valley. Also, there needs to be involvement with other local bodies in order to carry out the work and conversation between the three communities. This will also include the South West Communities Corridor and the 20 Minute Neighbourhood for this area also. A discussion followed. There was general agreement from those present. • SW Communities Corridor Meeting at Heriot-Watt - 31 Oct: Nothing further to report. • Main Street Christmas Tree – 3 Dec: The Christmas tree and lighting appears to have been well received. • Resilience – The local Warm & Welcoming places would appear to be both local Libraries, although this initiative has only just begun today. There is a website: https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/warmandwelcoming and it was agreed to contact the various organisations which might be able to assist CEC's Warm and Welcoming initiative in Balerno. • Environment – Pathways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage - Main Street sign 22/04037/ADV – application lodged 8 Sept – update: It was noted that BCC is in the process of seeking another quotation for the interpretation panel to be installed in Main Street. HW raised the matter of signage promised for the Bowling Club. It



	<p>was agreed that BCC should seek a quote for a suitable direction sign for both the Bowling Club and Balerno Tennis Club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Bridge – update: The current delivery date for the bridge is early in January 2023 but that is dependent on an acceptable Method Statement. The necessary path development/repair work will be further considered closer to the delivery date. The National Trust for Scotland will need to be appraised of the eventual delivery date. • Community Groups meeting – 8 November Community Centre: Minutes have been circulated. • Planning – incl Twenty Minute Neighbourhood – discussed above. • CEC consultations – 20mph limits: BCC will need to reexamine its previous submission from 2021. It was noted that CEC seem to be struggling to manage its weed control locally. There is evidence of weed growth breaking pavement surfaces.
9.	Complaint to CEC re sale of Open Space land. A brief discussion on this matter followed.
10.	Portfolio Reports
	<p>a. Police and Fire (see 7 above)</p> <p>b. Planning Report – Concern was expressed about possible development of holiday lodges at East Rigg.</p> <p>d. Pentland Hills Regional Park – No reports.</p> <p>e. Culture and Sport Health – RH invited members to submit their own nominations for portfolios that they would be willing to take on and report to BCC.</p> <p>f. Communities, Neighbourhood, Education, Children etc – nothing to report.</p>
11.	Communications
12.	Councillors & Office Bearers Reports: Cllr GB advised that the CEC committee has approved the installation of a full traffic signaled installation at the A71 Dalmahoy junction. Also, at Dalmahoy is a burst water main pipe which will require traffic restrictions and/or diversions on safety grounds. Balerno Library copier is out of action and awaits a new device. The Harlaw car park extension is on-going but no activity since many trees were felled. Cllr FG noted the work of the Alcohol Prevention Group.
14.	AOCB
15.	Date of next meeting – Thursday 5 January 2023

ANNEX Item 8

8.1 Cockdurno Farm – Afforestation consultation –

On 9 Dec 2022, at 16:47, Richard Henderson <richardmhenderson@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr Venter

That you for your note of 14 November to Balerno Community Council in connection with the Woodland Creation Consultation affecting Cockdurno Farm in Balerno.

The Community Council welcomes both the consultation and the proposals, which in our opinion will be of benefit to the local area.



The Council considers that the proposed shelter belt development is entirely consistent with the character of the area and will benefit existing uses of the land including in particular the availability and use of woodland paths. The development proposed will be of benefit to the environment in general.

The Council therefore welcomes what appears to it to be a responsible and laudable approach to land management in this area.

The Council would welcome being kept in touch with the development as it progresses.

Yours sincerely,

Richard M Henderson
Chair
Balerno Community Council

On 12 Dec 2022, at 12:01, Luke Venter <Luke.Venter@scottishwoodlands.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Richard,

Many thanks for your reply to our public consultation. I will enter your letter of support into our records, and let the woodland officer responsible know. I will be sure to keep the Council updated with any developments regarding the scheme.

Kind regards,

Luke

8.2 Proposal for a Local Place Plan – update

No developments

8.3 South West Communities Corridor – update

No developments

8.4 Main Street Christmas Tree

To be switched off and taken down post 5 Jan.

8.5 Resilience – CEC's Warm and Welcoming places

Following the 8 Dec meeting I wrote – see below - on behalf of the Council to Balerno Parish Church, St Mungo's Church, Balerno Scouts, Balerno Bowling Club, Balerno Village Trust as the principal groups and organisations with accommodation which might be available provision of warm places. Ironically Balerno was immediately after that plunged into a period of severe weather with temperatures down to -8C.

A follow up reminder was sent on 22 December.

Responses received include

- BVT responded immediately saying that the Trust hoped to discuss the matter at their meeting on 14 December. However, the Community Centre is currently being refitted – new windows in December – and so availability was unclear at present. Since then, however a burst pipe in the main hall which brought a section of the ceiling down meaning that there is no heating of electricity and it is unlikely there will be a rapid reopening of the premises. As an aside however BVT also reported that Community Food has taken on a further 7 families meaning they now



support 34 families in the valley, and the the level of general need in the community may be increasing.

- Balerno Scouts responded that weekday availability was limited given level of regular bookings. But that they would be happy to be part of a co-ordinated response.
- St Mungo's said at Farmers Market 10 Dec, that they had not yet been able to assess the position.
- The Parish Church of course runs the Mill Café (Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm) but they have not yet responded to the request.

There is no current traffic on Balerno Cares commenting on CEC's initiative.

The recommended next step would be to invite the various groups to an informal meeting to consider options

Copy e mail of 9 Dec

On 9 Dec 2022, at 16:58, Richard Henderson <richardmhenderson@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear all,

I am writing to you all following on the launch yesterday by Edinburgh Council of its Warm and Welcoming initiative,

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13614/edinburgh-opens-city-wide-network-of-warm-and-welcoming-spaces->

This initiative appears partly to be partly in response to the plight which many people across the community may experience with rising energy costs making heating their homes problematic. The aim of the initiative is apparently to develop a network of locations across the City which may be able to offer spaces in which people 'can feel safe, warm and at ease,'

At its regular monthly meeting on 8th December Balerno Community Council discussed what it might be able to do to assist initiatives such as Warm and Welcoming. apart from publishing the initiative on its Facebook page which has been done.

So far as the Community Council can make out there are only two listed locations in the Upper Water of Leith Valley between Gillespie Crossroads in Juniper Green and Balerno listed by CEC as Warm and Welcoming Spaces. Those are Currie and Balerno Libraries. We understand that Gibson Craig Halls may currently host facilities designed to meet the needs for a warm and welcoming place and there may be others of which we are not aware which are outside of the initiative, at least at this point.

The total population of the Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green area was about 16000 at the 2011 census. The Community Council assess the Balerno population in 2022 as around 8000 given recent housing development, and the Upper Water of Leith Valley to be in total possibly over 20000. Balerno does not feature on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation as a deprived community. That does not mean however that there is no deprivation within the Balerno area. It is however very difficult to discover statistics on 'need' in the area; we do not know the extent to which people in Balerno may be suffering because of fuel or food poverty. We are of course aware of the work done by for example Dean Park Primary School and the Community for Food initiative in directly supporting a number of families through provision of food assistance. We are also aware of the Food Bank collections at various points across the village.

The Community Council believes that in these circumstances it is fair to assume that there is an actual real need for food support and a probable need for support in provision of warm and welcoming places.

Edinburgh Council have asked groups and organisations to get in touch with them

- warm.welcoming@edinburgh.gov.uk - If you are an organisation and want to get involved in *Warm and Welcoming*.



Separately however the Community Council wonder whether there may be merit in local groups and organisations, who may be prepared to offer assistance, discussing the potential for a co-ordinated response. It might be for example that one organisation might make provision on one day and another on another day. The Community Council are therefore approaching those groups and organisations which may have facilities which they consider they might be able to make available to any extent to support the City Council's warm and welcoming initiative. The Community Council is accordingly approaching Balerno Parish Church. St Mungo's Church, Balerno Scouts. Balerno Bowling Club. Balerno Village Trust and Currie Rugby Club.

We quite appreciate that some organisations may already have their own initiatives already in place, and that for others it may not be feasible to offer assistance at this time.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Richard M Henderson
Chair
Balerno Community Council
Email:

8.6 Environment

Green Bridge – Balerno Pathways are awaiting information from bridge supplier re delivery and installation

Roads and Pavement -

Snow and ice treatment – Considerable volume of comment on Balerno Cares re ice risk and absence of gritting on period 12 to 17 dec.

Pre-Christmas cold snap led to a number of traffic accidents as well as pedestrian falls. We don't have any details of injuries.

CEC were not very quick off the mark and appeared to be unaware of the persistence of both snow and ice through to the general thaw on Sunday 18 December.

Potholes- the freeze has revealed a number of deep potholes around the village especially around the School Annexe area and up Johnsburn Road. Potholes problems have been exacerbated by flooding on 30th Dec.

Flooding – Bavelaw Road at entrance to Malleny is prone to flooding and was to all intents and purposes impassable for pedestrians and cyclists on the morning of 31 December. Balerno Cares comments on flooding on 30 December

Buses –

63 service - Continuing problems with 63 bus service have been reported on Balerno Cares 9 and 15 Dec.

44 service – No problems reported in December Balerno Cares.

Signage – no developments

Marchbank Park – Members invited to note installation of bench & picnic benches + planting of replacement trees within Marchbank Park and along surrounding streets. Not aware that there was any discussion by or even within CEC prior to the marking out of the locations. CEC might be asked if in future they could notify the Community Council of proposals.

8.7 Planning – The draft CityPlan2030 was agreed by CEC Planning Committee on 30 November and having been sent to DPEA on 8 December is now being checked administratively before being referred to a Reporter.

For Weekly lists see item 9 below.



8.8 20mph consultation – BCC decided at December meeting to support the proposed reduction in speed limits as proposed by the current CEC Consultation.

There is very considerable support on Balerno Cares for the initiative some in response to a reminder about the consultation, some arising from e.g., pet accidents and some from a general road safety perspective.

There is no adverse comment other than complaints about road conditions and priorities.

ANNEX item 10b PLANNING REPORT

10b – 1 Weekly lists

W/c – 5 December Applications

Listed Category: A Balerno Conservation Area	External Fabric Repairs slates roof coverings taken down and reviewed, existing harling to the elevations, windows are to be overhauled. gutters and downpipes. at Malleny House 4 Malleny Balerno EH14 7AF 22/05944/LBC	Gleeds. FAO: Hannah McMillan 163 West George Street Glasgow G2 2JJ	National Trust For Scotland., FAO: Stuart Maxwell Hermiston Quay 5 Cultins Road Edinburgh EH11 4DF	Delegated Decision	Registered on: 01/12/2022 <u>Site Notice posted on:</u> 09/12/2022 <u>Advertised on:</u> 09/12/2022 <u>Comments Due by</u> 30.12.2022	Local1 Team planning.local1@e dinburgh.gov.uk Community Council: Balerno Listed building and Con Area Consents
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Decisions

22/05096/CLP (Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed))	To replace a small existing garden shed with a non- permanent wooden structure. at 5 Clayhills Grove Balerno EH14 7NE	Mr Brian Gerardot., 5 Clayhills Grove Balerno EH14 7NE	Fast Track Decision	GRANTED	2 December 2022
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Community Council: Balerno

22/04223/TPO (Treework)	T1 Larch - remove deadwood. T2 Beech - reduce limbs overhanging Mansfield Road by approx 2m. T3 Beech - remove deadwood and reduce large limb over Mansfield Road by approx 3m. T4 2x Beech trees behind garage - reduce limbs overhanging and touching garage by approx 2m. at 200 Mansfield Road Balerno EH14 7JX	Mr Gareth Davies., 200 Mansfield Road Balerno Edinburgh EH14 7JX	Delegated Decision	GRANTED	30 November 2022
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Community Council: Balerno

22/04010/FUL (Planning Permission)	Erect 2x lodges. at 1 East Rigg Farm Balerno EH14 7JR	Mr Scanlan., East Rigg House East Rigg Farm Balerno EH14 7JR	Delegated Decision	WITHDRAWN	1 December 2022
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Community Council: Balerno

W/c – 12 December
Applications
Nil
Decisions
Nil



W/c – 19 December Applications

Listed Category: A Balerno Conservation Area	Proposed works include replacement of existing harling as significant areas have de-bonded. Stonework to north elevation to be indent / replacement repairs undertaken where necessary as existing stonework is eroding and friable. Existing slate to Main House and Georgian Wing roof to be removed, reviewed and reinstated. at Malleny House 4 Malleny Balerno EH14 7AF 22/06068/FUL	Gleeds. FAO: Hannah McMillan 163 West George Street Glasgow G2 2JJ	National Trust For Scotland., FAO: Stuart Maxwell Hermiston Quay 5 Cultins Road Edinburgh EH11 4DF	Delegated Decision	Registered on: 13/12/2022 <u>Site Notice posted on:</u> 23/12/2022 <u>Advertised on:</u> 23/12/2022 <u>Comments Due by</u> 13.01.2023	Local1 Team planning.local1@e dinburgh.gov.uk Community Council: Balerno Householder Developments
	Single storey, single room extension in back garden of existing house. at 100 Bavelaw Road Balerno EH14 7AE 22/06120/FUL	Liston Architects. FAO: David Liston 9 Gayfield Square Edinburgh EH1 3NT	Mr Maros, 100 Bavelaw Road Balerno EH14 7AE	Delegated Decision	Registered on: 05/12/2022 <u>Comments Due by</u> 04.01.2023	Householder Team planning.househol der@edinburgh.go v.uk Community Council: Balerno Householder Developments
	Erect 3x holiday huts and associated works at 1 East Rigg Farm Balerno EH14 7JR 22/06141/FUL	Pegasus Consultancy Ltd. FAO: David Howel Scott House 10 South St Andrew Street Edinburgh EH2 2AZ	Mr Mitch Scanlan., East Rigg House East Rigg Farm Balerno Edinburgh EH14 7JR	Delegated Decision	Registered on: 05/12/2022 <u>Advertised on:</u> 06/01/2023 <u>Comments Due by</u> 27.01.2023	Simon Wasser simon.wasser@ed inburgh.gov.uk Community Council: Balerno Other Developments - Local

Decisions

22/05735/TCO (Treework Within a Conservation Area)	Giant Redwood Sequoia immediately in front of gate lodge - reduction of crown. at 8 Bridge Road Balerno EH14 7AH	Mrs MacKinnon, 8 Bridge Road Balerno EH14 7AH	Delegated Decision	WITHDRAWN	15 December 2022
22/05238/FUL (Planning Permission)	Proposed rear contemporary two storey rear extension and new front dormer; including additional velux roof lights; new entrance gate and removal of existing conservatory. at 40 Johnsburn Road Balerno EH14 7BB	Mr McArdle, 40 Johnsburn Road Balerno EH14 7BB	Local Fast Track Decision	GRANTED	13 December 2022

Community Council: Balerno

Community Council: Balerno



W/c – 25 December
No lists before 4 January.

W/c - 2 January 2023
List to be published 4 January.