

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF**  
**BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
held on  
Thursday 5 JANUARY 2023  
at **BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL**

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**PRESENT** : Tony Allen; Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Graeme Bruce; Ian Hynd; Marion Milne; Stephen Jenkinson; Hugh Watt; Emma Galloway

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** : Cathie and Charles Michie

**APOLOGIES** : Ken Shade; Brian Conway; Phil Thomas; Jack Kerr; Jim Polasik; Neil Gardiner; David Brewster; Dominic Simmons

**AGENDA** : Approved

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

**4. MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING** : Approved

**5. FINANCE** : £6,487.33p; £8.41 petty cash = £6,495.74

**6. POLICE** -

- There is still a problem with no police presence at our meetings therefore Balerno community doesn't know what crimes have been committed in our area.
- Richard commented that there had been concern regarding the disappearance of a local young man and that BCC wasn't able to notify the public. No information or update had been provided by the police. It would have been useful if BCC had been able to place a notice in our Notice Board.
- Stephen Jenkinson said that all Community Councils have "Police Update" on their agendas and that this item is always "empty" in the Minutes.
- Graeme Bruce noted that, while the data is available, it isn't broken down into specific areas. The data is sitting there but isn't being released.

**7. CURRENT ISSUES** :

- **COCKDURNO FARM - AFFORESTATION CONSULTATION** : Richard had written in agreement
- **PROPOSAL FOR A LOCAL PLACE PLAN** : Richard will email all BCC members re the Community Council's involvement in a Local Place Plan.
- **MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS TREE - 3 DECEMBER** : Tree will be taken down on Saturday. Richard will contact Paul Maxwell.

- **RESILIENCE** : CEC's WARM AND WELCOMING INITIATIVE
- CEC has indicated that some of their buildings will be available as warm spaces for those who can't afford to heat their homes.
- Stephen Jenkinson is expecting a briefing indicating what uptake there has been.
- There followed a general discussion around whether we should continue and expand this locally, considering the current warm weather.
- Should BCC be encouraging other local groups who have premises to be involved in the scheme? BCC has no premises to offer.
- Balerno and Currie Libraries are part of this scheme.
- Balerno Food now supports 34 families in the Water of Leith Valley.
- **GREEN BRIDGE** : Contractor proposing that the bridge will be in place this month.
- **ROADS AND PAVEMENTS** : **SNOW AND ICE TREATMENT** :
- Tony pointed out the lack of pavement treatment during the recent snow and ice.
- Main pedestrian routes to the main road and to bus stops are not being cleared of ice and snow - this is a danger to pedestrians.
- Tony gave as an example the cul-de-sacs leading to the green space between Currie and Balerno which is used by those walking to school, to the bus stops, etc.. This route should be made a PRIORITY ROUTE to be cleared and gritted by the council.
- **RAIN AND FLOODING** : Many comments and complaints about potholes, blocked drains and manhole covers.
- It is important to report potholes - take a photograph, report the location and report on CEC's website.
- **MAIN STREET SIGNAGE** : Dominic not at the meeting therefore nothing to report.
- **HARLAW ROAD LAND RECLAMATION** : Cathie and Charlie Michie attended the meeting to give a short presentation regarding Harlaw Road Land Reclamation.
- They wished to request support for their bid for funding to clear a stretch of land of waste.
- The land comprises a path which goes from Harlaw Road to the Pentland Hills. The land belongs to the Roseberry Estate.
- Currently much of the land is strewn with large pieces of concrete with rusted metal which is extremely dangerous and hazardous as well as broken glass and other fly tipped rubbish.
- A machine is required to remove all the rubbish.
- **PLANNING** : **DUTCH BARN /3 STAND ALONE CHALETS**
- What action does BCC want to take?
- KEN SHADE was opposed to the plan. Ian Hynd was in favour.
- Would these chalets set a precedent for the future?

- It was felt that they were not unacceptable however we would need to proceed with caution.
- Richard will circulate a draft reply to all BCC members.
- **CITY PLAN 2030** : This has now gone to the Scottish Government.
- **20 MPH SPEED LIMITS** :
- Extensive discussion regarding speed limits in and around Balerno.
- Hugh has made his own submission.

8. **MARCHBANK PARK - SALE OF LAND** : Richard has spoken to Joanna Cherry, our MP.

**AOCB** : Tony asked if any of the councillors was aware of a large amount of tyres which has been dumped on Harlaw Road? It was also pointed out that there was a large amount of fly tipping on the A70, about half a mile west of the derestriction sign.

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**NEXT MEETING :**

**THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2023**

**@ 7.00 p.m.**

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