

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
Thursday 3 November 2022
at **BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL**

PRESENT : Tony Allen; Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Phil Thomas; Graeme Bruce; Ian Hynd; Ken Shade; Marion Milne; Fiona Glasgow; Stephen Jenkinson; Dominic Simmons; Hugh Watt

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC : Paul Cockburn, C&B News;

APOLOGIES : Emma Galloway; Jack Kerr; Jim Polasik; Martin Petty; Neil Gardiner

AGENDA : Approved

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

4. MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING : Approved

6. FINANCE : £6,649.30p; £8.41 petty cash

7. POLICE -

- No police present therefore no report.
- Phil suggested that, as the police are under severe pressure, they are probably unable to attend our meetings.
- Since all incidents and information are detailed and computerised, we should ask if we can be provided with a list of the crime figures in our area.
- We have no idea what the crime statistics are in Balerno - have they worsened or improved? Graeme will look into this.
- Tony will write to Police Scotland to ask if they can provide us with the data on a regular basis.
- Fiona offered to call into a local police station to ask for our local statistics.

8. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **PROPOSAL FOR A COMMUNITY PLAN**
- Richard attended a South West Communities Corridor meeting on Monday at HW to discuss how to secure a safe path from Dean Park Primary School, via HW to WHEC - a "Safe Pedestrian Route"
- The CEC representative who attended the meeting is involved with the 20 Minute Neighbourhood Scheme.
- "Local Place Plan" - how a community sees its community in the future in general

and what Balerno will look like, in particular.

- BCC supports pursuing a Local Place Plan to include BVT and other local organisations.
- CEC would have to take account of this plan if we drew one up.
- There may be funds available - details to follow from Neil.

MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS TREE - 3 DECEMBER

- Richard will contact Caring Christmas Trees to purchase a 10' tree to be situated at the foot of Main Street.
- Switch on to be on 1 December; it is to be hoped that the school Pipe Band will be able to attend; Marion will contact DPPS re the school choir attending
- Gordon MacDonald has agreed to switch on the lights at approximately 6.45. This will be followed by a BCC meal at the Grey Horse.
- **RESILIENCE** :
- Stephen Jenkinson had attended a council meeting regarding resilience plans.
- Libraries and community centres will be used.
- CEC website will be opened and should be up and running fairly shortly for communities to register their available facilities. Stephen will keep us updated.
- **COMMUNITY GROUPS MEETING** - proposed for 8 November, 10.30-12.30, in the Community Centre. All local community groups, including schools, are invited to attend.
- **GREEN BRIDGE** : Phil gave an update :
- Contractors were on site today; retaining walls should be completed by next week; bridge almost ready to be installed then the contractors will come in and prepare the paths.
- **SIGNAGE** : Planning consent has been received for the sign on the community centre. Ian has this in hand.
- **63 BUS** : There were general comments about the reliability of the No 63 bus and the lack of passengers and also about the reliability of the No 44 bus.
- **HARLAW AND THRIEPMUIR CAR PARKS** : Can we have a schedule from CEC when the work on these two car parks is likely to be completed

9. MARCHBANK PARK - SALE OF LAND : Richard received a call from Joanna Cherry's office asking if we want Joanna's office to look into this?

10. PORTFOLIO REPORTS :

- **PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK** : In his absence Neil asked by email "should the council (CEC) apply for National Park status?"

14. COMMUNICATIONS :

- BCC Facebook page needs a bit more activity - but what can we do about it?
- BCC requested an update from Councillors Bruce and Stephen for our next meeting on the proposed sale of land adjoining 4 Dean Park Avenue.

15. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS :

GRAEME reported the following :

- CEC says that they will not do anything about imposing a time limit on parking in the Scotmid car park.
- CEC looking at imposing a 20 mph speed limit next year on Cockburn Crescent.

FIONA reported the case of a local family who had bought a new house in Balerno which has been built to sub standards; the family is having difficulty with the builders who don't seem to want to take responsibility; Fiona voiced her concerns about the level of building standards in local new build properties.

NEXT MEETING :

THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2022