

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
Thursday 3 October 2019
In **BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL**

As Returning Officer for the Balerno Community Council, Graeme Bruce opened the meeting by welcoming all. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

PRESENT : Emma Galloway; Graeme Bruce; Jim Polasik; Hugh Watt; Ian Hynd; Phil Thomas; Kathleen Fiddes; David Brewster; Richard Henderson; Brian Conway; Dominic Simmons; Tony Allen; PC Colin Spence; Steven Greenhill, Senior Project Manager, Scottish Water; Alan Montgomery, Colin MacKechnie, Stan David, MacKenzies

APOLOGIES : Marion Milne, Jack Kerr, William Wallace, Ken Shade, Martin Petty

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS :

CHAIR : Richard Henderson, proposed by Kathleen Fiddes, seconded by Brian Conway

VICE CHAIR : Ian Hynd, proposed by Hugh Watt, seconded by David Brewster

SECRETARY : Tony Allen, proposed by Jim Polasik, seconded by Richard Henderson

TREASURER : Hugh Watt, proposed by Jim Polasik, seconded by Tony Allan

MINUTES SECRETARY (not an official Office Bearer post) : Kathleen Fiddes

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING : Approved

AGENDA : Approved. Scottish Water will give an update presentation at 7.30.

POLICE REPORT :

- No reported housebreakings in September.
- Road Safety Initiatives : Serious road traffic accident on A70 at Glenbrook Road. Driver charged with dangerous driving resulting in serious injury.
- No hate crimes
- Assault - staff member at Harmeny School by pupil/resident - charged
- 01/09/19 - Theft of pedal cycle, Bavelaw Road
- 13/9/19 - Attempted theft from motor vehicle, Bavelaw Road
- 19/09/19 - Theft of tools from Youth Vision, Harlaw Road
- 11/09/19 - Vandalism to car, Lovedale Road
- 20/09/19 - Vandalism to car, Lanark Road West
- Phil Thomas reported that he has to call the police every other week to report approximately £200 worth of damage at the Rugby Club.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME : No members of the public present

SCOTTISH WATER : Steven Greenhill introduced the representatives from MacKenzie, the main contractor who would discuss the issues and challenges and try to answer some of the complaints which have been received.

- We were assured that work would continue during the school half term break.
 - Work would commence on the 300m stretch on LRW to Somerville Road and will be carried out in 100m phases. The pipe will be laid under the pavement but temporary traffic lights will still be in place.
 - Work will start again on LRW on Friday or Saturday; SW will come back to Bridge Road at a later date to complete this section.
 - The reason no work had been carried out at the top of Bridge Road over the last two weeks is that SW uncovered two unknown Scottish Power cables and a Scottish Gas duct. The gas duct has now been removed.
 - Scottish Power originally said that they would come back in 8-10 weeks to remove the cables. However SW told SP that this delay was not acceptable.
 - The last three phases of 170m each have been completed on time; now catching up on previous delays.
 - Will have to go back to the Bridge section - the pipe will go under the bridge.
 - So far 39 uncharted utilities have been uncovered on the current section.
 - There have been many complaints about the lack of proper management of the temporary traffic lights. i.e. build up of traffic in both directions, particularly at peak times, with no-one manually operating the lights to relieve the queues.
 - Stan David of MacKenzie informed us of some of the reasons the lights weren't working effectively or were "stuck on red" - drivers "jumping the lights"; parents letting children out of the car and holding up the traffic when the lights changed to green; drivers using their mobile phones at the lights can affect the operation of the lights.
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- **COMMUNITY BENEFIT** : Steven Greenhill explained what community benefits Scottish Water and MacKenzie can provide :-
 - ensuring employment, equality and diversity especially for young people in the form of apprenticeships
 - using local businesses and contractors
 - MacKenzie sponsor Currie Chieftains.

PROJECTS :

GREEN BRIDGE :

- Anonymous donation of £500 received towards the bridge. -A separate account has been set up.
- Should we set up a "Just Giving" account?
- We need to find a contractor and inform CEC what our intentions are.
- Amey is now off site.

PATHWAYS WORKING GROUP :

- Richard had a meeting with the National Trust Area Manager who was enthusiastic about the NT facilitating a path through the NT property. He was also interested in opening up the Georgian Wing.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS :

- CALA will be contributing £500 which will pay for two trees.
- Balerno Inn will have trees and decorations.
- Graeme Bruce to chase CEC regarding the installation of an electrical socket in the new light at the top of Main Street.
- Christmas Lights switch on - 5 December.

PORTFOLIOS :

- **PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE** : Hugh Watt, Richard Henderson, Ian Hynd. Ken Shade has asked if he can still be on the committee.
- **TRANSPORT + ENVIRONMENT** : Jack Kerr will continue in this post.
- Constitution, Standing Orders,, etc... - all agreed and adopted

PORTFOLIO REPORTS :

PLANNING :

- Enclosure of part of Marchbank Park - why is CEC selling off open space?
- Who owns the land? CEC says that it manages it.

PENTLAND HILLS REGIONAL PARK :

- Officers are trying to arrange a date for a meeting.
- The water supply is not strong enough to cater for a cafe at Harlaw House. BVT has withdrawn from the cafe project.

BALERNO BUSINESS FORUM : Brochure nearing completion.

TREASURER :

- Bank Balance : £3,536.38
- Petty Cash : £8.28
- £500 pending - payment from CALA for christmas lights

AOCB :

HUGH WATT reported the following :-

- Some of the new lights on Johnsburn Road and Cockburn Crescent are still not working.
- Hugh complained about cars parking on the grass verges by Johnsburn Cottage on Johnsburn Road. We were shown a photograph.

MAIN STREET : too many cars parking on Main Street and driving up and down. It's either a pedestrian street or it isn't.

PHIL THOMAS reported the following :-

- The area behind Bavelaw Green is covered in brambles. Scottish Water has dumped some of its rubbish there. It was suggested that SW should reinstate and improve this area to improve the visual aspect.
- MALLENY BRIDGE :-
- There is no weight limit on the bridge - there is a constant worry about the weight of vehicles crossing the bridge as this is the sole access to the Rugby Club.
- CEC engineers say that, since it is a stone bridge, there is no weight limit on it. They will investigate.
- CEC doesn't own the bridge but owns the upkeep.

RICHARD HENDERSON reported that the upper car park is a disgrace. He had taken a photograph which we were shown and which he would send to Graeme Bruce for his action.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER @ 7.00 p.m.