

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

held on

Thursday 5 OCTOBER 2023

at BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENT : Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Phil Thomas; Ken Shade; Hugh Watt; Neil Gardiner; Graeme Bruce; Emma Galloway

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC : Bruce Wilson

APOLOGIES : Tony Allen; David Brewster; Ian Hynd; Jack Kerr; Marion Milne; Martin Petty; Dominic Simmons; Stephen Jenkinson

2. AGENDA : Approved

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

4. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING : Approved

5. FINANCE : £7,038.27; £8.41 Petty Cash; TOTAL = £7046.68

It was suggested that we should approach BVT regarding holding our meetings in the Community Centre; how much this would cost; would we be able to hold our meetings on the first Thursday of the month every month. Emma will enquire.

6. POLICE ISSUES : PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF BALERNO POLICE STATION :

- AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY, GRAEME BRUCE MADE A DECLARATION OF INTEREST THAT HE COULD NOT TAKE PART IN THE SECTION OF THE MEETING RELATING TO THE DISPOSAL OF BALERNO POLICE STATION.
- BCC felt strongly that the police station should be retained as a community asset and NOT sold for commercial development.
- Richard will ask Sean Scott, Senior Police Officer, if BCC could have a site visit to view the building.
- Is a Community Buy Out an option? Richard will also ask Sean if we could have a meeting with him to discuss the possibility of a community buy out.
- Gordon MacDonald should be engaging with us. Richard will write to him.
- Joanna Cherry is very keen to be involved.

7. GOVERNANCE : AGM arrangements - AGM will be held on **Thursday 2 November 2023**
at 7.00 p.m.

8. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **1. CHRISTMAS TREES** : Graeme will contact Aaron McKeen at Edinburgh Airport.
- Richard has received a quote of £160 for a 10' tree which includes delivery and installation.
- It was agreed that we should go for a 12' tree.
- **2. PLANNING** : Neil reported that the City Plan is still going through the motions.
- **5. RESILIENCE** : no report from Stephen
- **7. GREEN BRIDGE** : Phil reported the following :
 - Balerno Pathways took on the project to instal a new bridge.
 - Carl Drummond at CEC helped to raise the money. He put Balerno Pathways in touch with Stephen Knox, who is responsible for bridges.
 - Stephen visited the site on one occasion.
 - The bridge is now installed and complete at one side. A ramp needs to be installed at the other side.
 - According to his relevant documents, Stephen Knox at CEC now seems to be distancing himself from the procedures which had been followed.
 - There followed a lengthy discussion about how to resolve this problem.
 - Neil suggested that Phil facilitates our engineer speaking to Stephen Knox to find out the current situation. Failing this, Neil sugested setting up a meeting with Stephen Knox, Andrew Kerr, Phil, Neil and Graeme.
 - Ken asked if he could have a copy of the detailed plans of the bridge.
- **8. HANNAHFIELD BENDS** : There should be consultation with the residents regarding the council's proposals.
- **9. SIGNAGE** : It was agreed that we should order one sign only for the time being, for the Main Street site.
- There is sufficient funding for this, given the grant from Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership.
- The question of permissions is dependent on ownership issues which appear, at best, confused. However, BVT should be formally approached in light of their tenancy of the Community Centre. CEC should also be approached in light of their interest in Main Street generally.
- The scheme should not be dropped for a variety of reasons, not least of which is that, if we opted not to proceed, then PNP funding would require to be returned.

- Phil asked that the spelling of CURRIE CHIEFTAINS is correct.

11. COMMUNICATIONS : Nothing to report

12. COUNCILLORS : Nothing to report

NEXT MEETING :

***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
followed by
BCC BUSINESS MEETING***

ON

THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2023

@ 7.00 p.m.

IN

BALERNO HIGH SCHOOL