



Minutes of meeting held at Balerno High School Thursday 7 September 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Brian Conway, Emma Galloway, Richard Henderson (Chair), Marion Milne, Ken Shade, Hugh Watt, Tony Allen & Cllr Neil Gardiner.

1. RH welcomed those present to BCC's September meeting. **Apologies for Absence** were noted from: David Brewster, Kathleen Fiddes, Ian Hind, Jack Kerr, Martin Petty, Dominic Simmons, Jim Polasik & Phil Thomas.

2. Approve agenda: The Agenda was approved *nem con*.

3. Declarations of Interest: BCC members who are Directors of Balerno Pathways Limited declare their interest of the company, but have no personal financial interest.

4. Draft minutes of 3 August 2023: The Minutes of the August meeting were approved *nem con*.

5. Finance: HW reported that BCC has funds totaling £7046.68 including a petty cash amount of £8.41. This includes the CEC Grant for 2023/24 of £634.94.

6. Police issues – Potential disposal of Police Station (consultation): RH outlined the recent letter from Police Scotland in which they indicated their preference for disposing of Balerno Police Station, which has been closed to the public for several years. The recent community survey carried out by Balerno Village Trust indicated strong support for the retention of the building. The headline statistics from the survey are shown below:

85% of those responding either strongly disagreed or disagreed that the Police Station should be sold on the open market.

97% agreed or strongly agreed that the police Station should be Retained/redeveloped for Community Benefit.

47% agreed or strongly agreed that it should be kept and re=opened as a police station.

After further discussion it was agreed that RH would finalise his proposed response paper to Police Scotland and circulate this over the coming weekend before submission by 14th September. This formal response from BCC will firmly emphasise that the Police Station be retained and developed with community partners, where possible. It will also include a request for BCC members to visit the Police Station building.

7. Governance

- a. **AGM arrangements** - November 2023 RH conformed the arrangements for the 2023 BCC Annual General Meeting, which will include the Annual Report and Annual Accounts.
- b. **CEC's CC Scheme and Boundary review** – No changes to report.

8. Current issues

- a. **Christmas Tree & Main Street Lights:** Last year's tree cost £140.00 which was paid direct by BCC. This year's cost is not yet known but assuming an increase of no more than £20.00 it was agreed that we meet the cost again. It was agreed that the Christmas Tree lights be switched on at 6.45pm on Thursday 7th December. The Dean Park Primary School Choir, from P3 & P4 will sing Christmas Carols and they may take up a collection, if they wish. The Balerno & District Schools Pipe Band will also attend. Refreshments will also be available at the Community Centre.
- b. **Planning** – Nothing to report.
- c. **Proposal for a Local Place Plan** – The plan should also include the Police Station building and relevant question posed in the recent on-line survey.



- d. **Twenty Minute Neighbourhood and SW Communities Corridor** – Nothing to report.
 - e. **Resilience** – This was initiated in 2022 by CEC, however there is nothing to report at the present time. However, it is likely that this could be discussed at a future meeting of Balerno Community Groups.
 - f. **Environment - Pathways**
 - **Green Bridge – inc. report from Balerno Pathways:** RH reported that the Wardell Armstrong consultancy is awaiting data from Balerno Pathways concerning the new bridge. If this is forthcoming in the short term then the delay may be cleared up fairly quickly. BPL may need to exert more pressure on Wardell Armstrong to satisfy the CEC bridge engineers, in order that CEC will agree to adopt the new Green Bridge.
 - **Roads and pavements – Hannahfield Bends** – correspondence with Director of Place: RH will respond to his letter.
 - **Signage - Main Street sign 22/04037/ADV** – This is the long-awaited interpretation sign to be installed outside the Community Centre. Discussion ensued around the possibility of sub-contracting this work to Balerno Pathways Ltd in order to mitigate the VAT element of the cost.
9. **Complaint to CEC re sale of Open Space land** – No action or report.
10. **Portfolio Reports**
- a. **Communications** – nothing to report.
 - b. **Planning Report** – nothing to report.
 - c. **Pentland Hills Regional Park** – nothing to report.
 - a. **Culture and Sport Health** – nothing to report.
 - a. **Communities, Neighbourhood, Education, Children etc** JK had previously reported that more path across Marchbank Park were breaking up due to weeds. H has raised this already with Cllr. NG.
 - b. **Transport & Environment** – see 7.5 above: Cllr. NG reported on the possibility of bus service 63 being rerouted north of the Gyle Centre Shopping Centre. Other new routes could also be tendered for. A discussion followed concerning the former X44 service which ran between Balerno and Edinburgh Centre. Could it be reinstated?
 - a. **Pentlands Neighbourhood Partnership** – nothing to report.
11. **Communications** – nothing to report.
12. **Councillors & Office Bearers Reports** – nothing to report.
13. **AOCB** – nothing to report.
14. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 5th October