

**Minutes of Meeting of**  
**BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**held on**  
**Thursday 4 April 2019**  
**at Balerno High School**

**Present:** D. Brewster, B. Conway, E. Galloway, R. Henderson (Chair), I. Hynd, J. Polasik, H. Watt, T. Allen.

**Ex Officio:** Cllr. G. Bruce, Cllr. N. Gardiner, Cllr. R. Henderson, G. Lindhurst MSP, PC A. Murdoch, S. Simpson, S. Greenhill & A. Warner (both Scottish Water).

**Apologies for Absence:** K. Fiddes, K. Shade, J. Kerr, M. Milne, D. Simmons. A. Groenewald.

1. **Formal business & Approval of Agenda**

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and proposed that the agenda be adjusted to allow the Police Report to be taken first followed by an update from Scottish Water. This was agreed.

**Police Report:** PC Ali Murdoch gave a verbal report for March 2019 and covered the following items:

- Theft HB to shed in Harlaw Road – dirt bike and helmets stolen.
- Male seen acting suspiciously at Gifford Crescent – possibly in area to commit theft/break in
- Attempt HB – Malleny Arm – footprints on fire exit door that opens outwards
- Attempt HB – Marchbank Place – rear door opened, unknown if left unlocked
- 28/02/19 – Reports of vehicle accident in Cockburn Crescent, multiple Road Traffic offences detected and report submitted to Procurator Fiscal.
- In March – 6 x shopliftings from Scotmid, Main Street with 3 of these being solved
- Construction material stolen from Malleny Arms.
- Vandalism incident to vacant property on Dean Park Place.
- Vandalism to Currie Rugby Club stand – advertising boards damaged and broken bottles found. Crime prevention advice given including security lights on inside of stand and relocation of cctv cameras to deter persons attending stand.

**Scottish Water (SW):** Messrs Greenhill & Warner provided an update on SW's forthcoming project to replace a section of water main pipe in Bridge Road (BR) and the section of Lanark Road West (LRW) leading to Bridge Road at the main traffic signals. They outlined two options which have been examined closely, namely to replace existing pipework in the road, as above, or to avoid much of the road route and divert their new pipe through National Trust for Scotland and Currie Rugby Club properties before crossing the Water of Leith and connecting into existing pipework close to the junction of Somerville Drive (leading to the new CALA development) and LRW.

Balerno Community Council had suggested an alternative route to avoid the BR/LRW junction by utilising the initial section of the Water of Leith Walkway (WoLW) from Balerno High School (BHS) to the zig-zag steps, at the eastern end of the big retaining wall, leading to the main road at the new pedestrian crossing close to Somerville Drive.

SW has investigated the BCC proposed route and noted a number of potential difficulties, e.g. a live gas main pipe and a new fibre cable duct which are both in the ground of the WoLW and would cause SW to be pushed off the path. This in turn could make for more difficulties in completing this proposed alternative route notwithstanding the location of the zig-zag steps, also, where there are other services already present. In summary SW advised that the route is difficult but not impossible. Although 40 days of work avoidance on the main roads could be possible, it would bring about 20 days of additional traffic management on LRW and BR, with a likely risk of over-run and therefore no gain in project time. SW therefore maintains that the main road route is the most practical. SW advised that they briefly considered a route through the grounds of BHS but this was found to be impractical.

The SW project start date is 20 May but they will avoid both Balerno Gala weekends and will discuss any other crucial dates with Gala organisers. On the 6 May SW will send out post cards to all Balerno households to advise of the imminent work with essential information also being included in the C & B News. Contract completion is expected by the first week of November.

**Minutes of 4 April meeting for approval** and matters arising: The minutes of the April meeting were agreed *nem con*.

**Balerno Community Group meetings:** as tabled in Annex 2 Agenda paper.

2. **Public Questions:** None.
3. Specific Issues: (2) **Health & Wellbeing:** as tabled in Annex 3 paper. Kay Latimer has outlined why she has raised this matter and how it might be addressed in the Water of Leith valley area. Other community groups, including Balerno Church of Scotland and St. Mungo's, have been contacted for their input also. Does BCC have a role? An informal discussion on this topic followed RH noted that old people can feel isolated and dementia is already supported by C & B News. Cllr. Gardiner informed the council of a newly formed Men's Shed in the Currie area. Perhaps BCC needs to look at what Health & Wellbeing is needed in Balerno and Currie and create a *needs* list for consideration at the May meeting.
4. **Community Plan:** a revised version is now ready for an early printing, probably limited to 100 copies initially.

**Signage and Paths** project: RH advised that new *Balerno - Gateway to the Pentlands* signage has been produced and awaits installation. There was a short discussion as to how to progress acceptance of *Fairtrade Village* signs, which at the present time appears to be illegal, although other towns with the greater Lothians area seem to have circumvented the problem.

**SUSTRans signage grant scheme:** IH informed the meeting that their budget has been reduced.

5. **Police and Fire:** taken under item 1.

**Planning:** RH provided an outline of the latest proposal from Wallace Land for a *Riccarton Village*. This is intended to link into the new CEC City Plan 2030, which itself awaits the detail of SESplan2. In the interim it is likely that previously refused planning application will resurface, e.g. Cockburn Crescent, Glenbrook Road and Goodtrees. The type of housing, impact on local education etc will become important

issues to consider. However, in practical terms, a delay in production of SESplan2 could adversely impact upon planning control in Balerno. Therefore it is important to avoid this situation if possible. Cllr. Henderson added that BCC's Community Plan is our starting point.

**SESplan Supplementary Guidance:** RH advised that there was a proposal to include Balerno in the Water of Leith Green Valley. He will write to CEC to request this inclusion. The Planning and Environmental Appeals Division (**DPEA**) has upheld the CEC decision to refuse consent for a planning proposal at 1 Cockburnhill Road.

**Balerno Business Forum:** JP gave brief report on behalf of the BBF, outlining issues and actions required. He suggested that a meeting should be arranged, possibly a breakfast style meeting to be held locally.

**Pentland Hills Regional Park:** Cllr. Gardiner advised that the CEC official responsible for the park has left his post. A draft action plan is expected by 31 May.

**Culture & Sport:** A catchment area review is now underway.

**Transport & Environment:** RH noted completion of **resurfacing works** on four local, rural roads. However the council remains concerned about the inadequacy of roadside drainage on the S-bends on the Mansfield Road downhill from the Scottish SPCA rehoming centre.

**Bus Services:** A short discussion took place concerning the Lothian Buses service 44 and the apparent permanency of the anti-clockwise route around the Bells estate area of Balerno. This is known to be detrimental to residents wishing to return home directly to the Mansfield Road area, directly.

**BVT update:** RH noted that BVT is now 10 years old and that their AGM and Review will take place in the near future.

6. **Upcoming events:** The next Farmers Market is on 13 April.
7. **Correspondence:** Nothing to report.
8. **Councillors Reports:** All items have been raised during the course of the meeting
9. **Office Bearers' reports:** HW advised that he had total funds available of: £2617.72.
10. **AOCB:** none.