

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

held on

Thursday 6 JUNE 2024

in **BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT : Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Phil Thomas; Ian Hynd; Emma Galloway; Paul Cockburn; Graeme Bruce; Brian Conway; Jim Polasik; Jack Kerr; Martin Petty; Neil Gardiner; Yvonne Kerr - Balerno Children's Gala

APOLOGIES : Tony Allen; Hugh Watt; Ken Shade

2. AGENDA : Approved

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

- **BALERNO PATHWAYS** : Richard Henderson, Phil Thomas, Emma Galloway, Ian Hynd
- **CURRIE RUGBY CLUB** : Phil Thomas
- **BALERNO VILLAGE TRUST** : Emma Galloway
- **ST MUNGO CHURCH** : Emma Galloway

4. MINUTES OF MAY MEETING : Approved

5. FINANCE : £6,708.07 in bank; £8.41 petty cash; Balance - £6,711.48

6. POLICE ISSUES : No police in attendance. The subject of the Balerno Map, situated at the Police Station, was discussed. We need to ensure that whoever buys the Police Station communicates with us regarding the retention of the map.

- Jim asked if we are likely to receive a monthly report as well as a monthly visit from the police. Since the Scottish Government decided many years ago that information could only be given out for each Ward area, we have not received regular monthly reports on police activity in our area. It would be useful to have regular police presence and updates at our meetings. Should we write to the police asking if they could attend our meetings more regularly?

7. GOVERNANCE : Are Community Council elections likely to be held this year? Possibly later in the year.

8. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **GENERAL ELECTION** : No hustings to be held for the general election.
- **BALERNO GALA** : Yvonne Kerr, Vice Chair, Balerno Children's Gala attended to provide an update on May's Gala.
- The rain was so bad that a couple of events had to be cancelled because of the weather.

- Gala Day itself was very good and well attended. The weather was OK.
- The Gala Committee had to pay £600 for the Occupational Agreement process.
- There had been disagreements between the Gala Committee and some rugby club members on the Friday night before Gala Saturday.
- Yvonne asked who actually owns and manages the rugby club during the rugby season? And who owns the rugby club out of season?
- Phil Thomas replied that the rugby club leases the pitches on a 12 month basis from the City of Edinburgh Council.
- It was agreed that the Gala Committee and the Rugby Club would be very happy to work together in the future to avoid any misunderstandings.
- **EDINBURGH LEISURE** : “From a user standpoint, it is not a user friendly system”.
- **PLANNING** : A meeting is to be held on Tuesday 11 June at 4.00 pm in the Break Out Cafe at the Rugby Club to discuss the implications of the proposals for a wind farm pylon in West Lothian.
- Neil reported that the **CITY PLAN** is going to committee on 19 June.
- **GREEN BRIDGE** : Progressing and moving forward.
- Four main areas of CEC's concerns, principally paperwork, are being addressed.
- It is to be hoped that the desired responses will be available by the end of this month.
- **SIGNAGE** : Ian had spoken to the signmakers who confirmed that last year's costings will be adhered to. Confirmation in writing is required.
- It is hoped that the work could commence in two weeks.
- It was agreed that this should go ahead without any further delay.
- **BUS SERVICES** : A new bus service, number 32, operated by Lothian Buses, will run hourly from Balerno to Cramond via HW.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS :

- Neil, who is the Convenor of PHRP, reported that, for the first time in two years, a meeting is to be held this month.
- Neil is trying to apply for National Park status for the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

NEXT MEETING :

**THURSDAY 1 AUGUST
@ 7.00 p.m.**

in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE