

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

held on

Thursday 7 March 2024

in **BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT : Tony Allen; Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Phil Thomas; Graeme Bruce; Ian Hynd; Brian Conway; Jim Polasik; Ian Hynd; Ken Shade; Hugh Watt; Neil Gardiner; Emma Galloway;

APOLOGIES : Martin Petty; Stephen Jenkinson; Paul Cockburn; David Brewster

2. AGENDA : Approved

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST : Richard Henderson, Tony Allan, Phil Thomas, Emma Galloway, Ian Hynd - all Balerno Pathways

4. PRESENTATION BY TARMAC RE RAVELRIG QUARRY PLANNING APPLICATION:

- Steven Cowan, Head of Strategy, Planning and Geology gave a presentation regarding Tarmac's current planning application for an extension to their quarrying activities. This included a series of slides outlining the areas of current activities and the proposed area to be extended.
- There is a long history of quarrying in the area. There has been a quarry at Hannahfield since 1824.
- During excavations near Hannahfield Quarry a Round House was found dating back about 2,500 years.
- Fixed plant was installed in 1986. This quarry is the second most efficient in the UK.
- Tarmac bought the land in 1986 from Lord Morton.
- The land down to the A70 is leased from Simon Thompson.
- The proximity of the quarry to Edinburgh is important - most journeys to get to market are about 5 miles. This is very short in comparison to other quarries' journey times to market.
- There will be no entry and exit points on to the A70.
- It is to be hoped that planning permission will be granted allowing quarrying activities to continue for 20-25 years.
- Hours of work at the quarry are 7.00 am - 7.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Most lorries have left the site by 4.00 pm.

- There are four years left on the current planning consent. If planning permission to the extension is not granted then the quarry will close down.
- Mr Cowan offered to arrange a site visit to the proposed extension area for BCC members.
- **BLASTING** : Mr Cowan gave the following explanations to some of our queries regarding the effects of blasting experienced by some residents :
 - Ground vibration is caused by a wave travelling through the ground.
 - Air pressure can cause windows to rattle, as can low clouds.

5. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING : Approved

6. FINANCE : £6,878.27 in bank; £8.41 petty cash; Balance - £6,886.68

7. POLICE ISSUES : nothing to report

8. GOVERNANCE : Draft response re CEC's CC Scheme and Boundary Review was approved.

9. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **GREEN BRIDGE** : It is the firm desire of BCC that this issue will be resolved as soon as possible.

12. COUNCILLORS : Nothing to report

13. AOCB : Nothing to report

NEXT MEETING :

THURSDAY 4 APRIL

@ 7.00 p.m.

in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE
