

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

held on

Thursday 2 May 2024

in **BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT : Tony Allen; Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Phil Thomas; Ian Hynd; Hugh Watt; Emma Galloway; Paul Cockburn; Stephen Jenkinson; Graeme Bruce; Ken Shade; Brian Conway; Eric Adair and Allie Clegg, St Mungo's Church

APOLOGIES : Martin Petty; Jim Polasik; Ken Shade; David Brewster; Jack Kerr

2. AGENDA : Approved

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

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

4. MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING : Approved

5. FINANCE : £6,802.27 in bank; £8.41 petty cash; Balance - £6,810.68

6. POLICE ISSUES : No police in attendance

7. GOVERNANCE : The sale of Balerno Police Station was discussed. As an employee of Police Scotland, Graeme declared an interest in this subject and vacated the meeting.

- Ken expressed his view that if issues to be discussed related to BVT, all BCC members should know who, on BVT, are BCC members.
- BCC should have been kept informed regarding what BVT is doing.
- Community Transfer relates to the Police Station and not to the Green Bridge.
- “There should be a conversation between BCC and all organisations in Balerno.”

Graeme Bruce rejoined the meeting.

8. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **EDINBURGH LEISURE** is currently up for review. There is a new Chief Executive.
- Graeme used to be on the board of Edinburgh Leisure.
- Stephen reported that Edinburgh Leisure Annual Performance Review is coming to committee next week for scrutiny.
- **GREEN BRIDGE :**
- Phil reported that he had received a response from CEC saying that they happy to adopt the bridge in its entirety - “bridges should be designed to motorway standards”
- What CEC is looking for shouldn't be too difficulty to achieve
- Galvanisation is the greatest issue.
- The discussion has now been handed over to colleagues in CEC.
- Stephen reported that he had had a meeting with the Senior Council Office covering the bridge. He will discuss the meeting separately with members of Balerno Pathways.
- Stephen suggested arranging a meeting with Balerno Pathways and CEC and “keep engaging with Stephen Knox” to discuss the way forward.

- **ST MUNGO'S CHURCH PLANS TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH**
- Ollie Clegg, Project Director and Eric Adair, Trustee gave a presentation on the church's proposals to build a new church on the field opposite Balerno High School. The field and the house on the land had been left to St Mungo's approximately 70 years ago by the then owner.
- The meeting was then opened up for Q&A.
- **Phil** asked how it was proposed that the current parking issues on Bridge Road would be solved ; ***Eric replied that they didn't know right now; there may possibly be 25 spaces on site; there will probably be no opportunity for off site parking; the church would hope to maintain the option of parking in BHS car park.***
- **Paul** asked if they had consider repurposing the existing house; ***Eric replied that there are many problems with the house - there is no double glazing and it leaks; they might consider selling the house or redevelop it.***
- **Ken** stated that he is a defender of the Green Belt and that he would oppose a church on the site, parking is already a huge problem, the field is currently used by RDA, and asked if they had looked elsewhere.

- **Hugh** mentioned that the churches in Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green are all under threat - had they considered using one of these churches?
- **Tony** asked if they knew who drives and who walks to church; of the congregation, 105 families are based in Balerno, 27-30 are based in Currie, 110 are from outside Balerno and Currie.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS : No decision has been made re car parking charges at Thriepmui. Car parking is free at the moment.

MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC, Keith Bryce, attended the meeting to hear an update on the Green Bridge and to express his and others' disappointment that the bridge is still not open to the public and to understand why.

Richard explained briefly the background to the bridge, CEC's involvement, funding, setting up of Balerno Pathways Limited and how and why we have arrived at the current situation.

NEXT MEETING :

THURSDAY 6 JUNE

@ 7.00 p.m.

in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE