

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF
BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

held on

Thursday 7 NOVEMBER 2024

in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT : Tony Allen; Brian Conway; Kathleen Fiddes; Emma Galloway; Richard Henderson; Ian Hynd; Phil Thomas; Hugh Watt; Paul Cockburn; Graeme Bruce

APOLOGIES : Stephen Jenkinson; David Brewster; Neil Gardiner; Jack Kerr; Martin Petty; Ken Shade

2. AGENDA : Approved - It was agreed that the presentation from Dean Park Parent Council would be taken at this stage of the meeting.

EMMA ALLAN-BROWN and JULIA PATERSON of Dean Park Parent Council attended to inform BCC of their concerns for children's safety, crossing at the junction of Bridge Road and Bavelaw Road.

- This had been discussed at a Parent Council meeting. Among the suggestions put forward were a crossing, traffic calming measures and a reduction in the speed limit to 20 mph, particularly at Balerno High School.
- A School Travel Plan survey is currently being carried out. This particular junction is on the list being surveyed.
- An additional issue is parking at the Primary School.
- Stephen Jenkinson has been invited to attend the next ~DPPC meeting on 18 November.
- BCC would write a letter of support for DPPC on these issues.
- Paul Cockburn asked if DPPC had contacted Lothian Buses.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST :

- **BALERNO PATHWAYS** : Richard Henderson, Phil Thomas; Hugh Watt, Emma Galloway, Ian Hynd
- **CURRIE RUGBY CLUB** : Phil Thomas
- **PURCHASE OF POLICE STATION** : Ken Shade
- **BALERNO VILLAGE TRUST** : Emma Galloway
- **ST MUNGO CHURCH** : Emma Galloway

4. MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING : Approved

5. FINANCE : £3,540.80 in bank; £8.41 petty cash; Total : £3,549.21

6. POLICE ISSUES : No police in attendance

- Phil reported that there had been a break-in at the Rugby Club at 6.10 one morning through a ground floor level window. Nothing was taken and there was very little damage. This needs to be brought to the attention of Police Scotland and CEC.
- There have been reports that a convicted scammer and a partner are running businesses in Balerno. Are the police aware of this?

7. GOVERNANCE : Community Council elections are to be held in March 2025. It was suggested that a notice should be placed in the C&B News.

8. 1. COUNCILLORS AND OFFICE BEARERS :

GRAEME REPORTED THE FOLLOWING :

- Graeme had questioned the leader of CEC regarding the poor and inaccurate reporting of the Firework Control Zones. “Balerno Area” was reported in the press. This should have been reported as “the area surrounding the SSPCA Centre”. Cammy Day is to take this up with the BBC.
- A complaint was to be sent to Lothian Buses regarding the length of time it can take to get into town. Sometimes there is no driver at the changeover at Redhall and frequently there are many sets of roadworks.

8.2. BVT

- Police Scotland had said NO to a viewing of the police station.
- There will be an architect at the Farmers' Market to show what can be done with the police station
- Asset Transfer Request - Police Scotland deadline to get back to BVT is 25 December.

9. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **PLANNING** : Waiting for the Ravelrig Quarry Planning Application
- **CAPACITY** : In Absentia Ken Shade commented that “BCC should be doing things that BVT is doing.”
- **FUTURE LIBRARIES STRATEGY** : Richard had submitted a response suggesting the creation of hubs which communities can use.
- **CHRISTMAS TREE** : Lights Switch On will be on 5 December; the cost is £130.00 which includes installation.
- Stewards to assemble at 6.15.
- Pipe Band will come up Main Street; Dean Park Primary School choir will sing
- **TRANSPORT** :
- RBS Mobile Bank is back in service.
- Graeme is to suggest that traffic wardens are in attendance more regularly, particularly in Main Street.

- **GREEN BRIDGE** :
- Phil is still waiting for a response from CEC. Graeme will chase this.

- **BRIDGE ROAD/LANARK ROAD WEST JUNCTION ROADWORKS** : Richard will write to Paul Lawrence CEC Chief Executive, expressing our disappointment regarding the complete lack of communication and consultation with the community about the roadworks at this junction. These have caused lengthy traffic queues at the three-way temporary traffic lights. Many in the community had expressed their anger and frustration at what appeared to be unnecessary and unwanted work and the cost involved. Additionally it appeared that the alterations, in widening the pavement, will cause difficulty for buses and lorries turning left from Bridge Road into Lanark Road West.

NEXT MEETING :

THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 2025

@ 7.00 p.m.

in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE