**Glencorse Community Centre AGM**

**Tuesday 12 September 2023**

**Minutes**

Martin Reekie (MR), Chair of the Board, welcomed those attending and introduced the other members of the Board - Iain Anderson (IA), Charley Thornborrow (CT)and Mike Goldsmith (MG), as well as Kate Williamson (KW), the centre manager and Mary Millan (MM) a garden/café volunteer who had agreed to take minutes.

There were eleven others in attendance.

MR reported the following:-

Lighting

Electricity bills continue to be high and MR has been considering the use of remote control devices although lack of Wi-Fi/signal is an issue. MR suggested use of a timer switch which would cut out after a set time at the end of floodlit Lets and would reduce power usage. MR to explore any other options. Let users to be encouraged not to use lights when weather is bright/clear especially in summer. When the present indoor low wattage light bulbs reach the end of life they will be replaced by LED bulbs.

Co-operative Partnerships

The centre currently operates in partnership with Brae Café, Penicuik and District Men’s Shed, Green Team and Beeslack Annexe.

The welcoming café, run by a trio of enterprising businesswomen, is busy. There are a good variety of hall lets with classes, workshops and events taking place.

Community garden

Xica (Garden Co-ordinator) oversees the work in the garden. Funding applications have been successful and allocated for the creation of a children’s sensory space, a pond area and a small wildflower meadow. Fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants continue to be grown and some of the fresh produce goes to Penicuik Storehouse, some is available on the Market Stall in the centre along with details of how to donate, and the community can pick what they need at a time when it suits and make a donation by way of scanning the QR code or paying at the café. Additional QR code signage to make payment options more obvious to the community to be placed in and around centre. (KW) The importance of not having garden produce wastage was discussed. Garden volunteers continue to be sought and do not need to have garden experience but is a very good opportunity for positive health and wellbeing.

Bellway Housing - Dalmore Grange

Building and construction work has begun and will continue for some time. MG has been in negotiations with Bellway and has secured the sum of £28,800 over 18 months from them for rental of a small area of land for their Sales Office. When the site is completed, there may be an option to negotiate with the council for a small number of additional parking spaces for the centre. David Russell (DR) from the Men’s Shed is currently investigating the re-marking of current parking spaces and considering additional parking bays if appropriate.

Penicuik and District Men’s Shed

The Men’s Shed is a Global Organisation – a charity which encourages men to meet together, socialise, chat and support one another, thereby providing opportunities to encourage and promote positive mental health. Penicuik and District Men’s Shed originally met in Penicuik Town Hall, then the Scout Hall, then the YMCA. Unfortunately, financial issues relating to that building meant they had to look for a new home. Glencorse Community Centre welcomed them, recognising the positive value on men’s health. In response to resident unhappiness about the look of the containers and seeming inaction on site, DR explained that the Men’s Shed had dismantled the old nursery, removing all the old debris. Council planning permission was granted (after 4 months) to install the containers on the old nursery site. Patience is key as they wait now for Building Control to progress the moving of the containers on to their new site. Once in position, they will be timber-clad which will make them aesthetically and environmentally more pleasing. A workshop can then be created. One of the containers will be designated as a Men’s Shed workshop space and the other unit will be available for community use. The ground will always belong to the centre. Whilst it may not appear that much is happening on site, a great deal of work is being carried out ‘behind the scenes’ to take this project forward as speedily as possible.

Finance

The position of Treasurer is currently vacant and in the absence of a treasurer, MR and KW have been working on the centre’s finance. KW has been using an accountancy package and was asked to give an update on the centre’s financial position. [See attached report].

From the floor, the question of an agenda and finance figures not being available to those present generated much discussion. In the interest of the environment, paper copies of detailed accounts had not been produced as they mount to several pages. They are available for anyone to see by logging on to Companies House and searching for Glencorse Community Centre. For the next AGM an agenda will be displayed. Before that meeting a copy of the minutes of this AGM will be placed on both the website and the notice board for any interested party to read. (KW)

MR expressed his thanks to KW for her work.

Election of Board Members

Martin Reekie Nominated by Charley Thornborrow

Seconded by Mike Goldsmith

Charley Thornborrow Nominated by Meghan Wilson

Seconded by Kate Williamson

Mike Goldsmith Nominated by Charley Thornborrow

Seconded by Martin Reekie

Iain Anderson Nominated by Mike Goldsmith

Seconded by Lynn McFadyen

There were no further nominations.

AOCB

MM told the assembled group that she had volunteered in several places and having volunteered at the centre since the beginning of the year, kept coming back as she felt it had so much potential. In her opinion, the running of the café by 3 young entrepreneurs was to be commended and supported and had positively freed up Kate, Xica and others to concentrate on the business of the centre.

From the floor, the feeling of “the old community being pushed away” was aired. Suggestions as to how local people could be made aware of the work and what goes on in the centre were made by others present, although none of these ideas appeared to be seen by locals present as solutions to how these tensions might be resolved. Like many areas in Midlothian, the size of Auchendinny will continue to grow in population and demand for services. Meanwhile, Glencorse Community Centre continues to serve the whole Parish of Glencorse. The Board awaits constructive dialogue from the local community.

There being no further business, MR closed the meeting.

Mary Millan

21 September 2023