MINUTES OF MEETING OF

BALERNO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

held on

Thursday 4 January 2024

in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE

The meeting began with a Tribute to Marion Milne, who died suddenly just before Christmas. She died of a brain haemorrhage at a very young age. She has been involved in decorating the Balerno Community Council christmas tree the week before she died and had attended the Main Street lights switch on.

Marion was a very active and highly respected member of the communities of Balerno and Currie.

- Marion joined Balerno Community Council in 2008 on a co-opted basis, representing Balerno High School as a member of the parent council.
- Marion worked as an Administrator at Nether Currie Primary School. She had helped organise the school christmas show which went ahead, as Marion would have wanted.
- Marion was an Elder at Balerno Parish Church and was also a Session Clerk.
- Marion was involved with Pentland Gymnastics and also with Community for Food.

Marion's funeral will be held on Monday 22 January at 1.30 p.m. in Balerno Parish Church – please wear bright clothes.

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PRESENT : Tony Allen**;** Kathleen Fiddes; Richard Henderson; Phil Thomas; Graeme Bruce; Ian Hynd; Dominic Simmons; Brian Conway; Jim Polasik; Ian Hynd; Martin Petty; Emma Galloway; Paul Cockburn, Editor, C&B News

APOLOGIES : Neil Gardiner; Jack Kerr; Hugh Watt; David Brewster

2. AGENDA *:* Approved

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

4. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING : Approved

5. FINANCE : No finance report

6. POLICE ISSUES : NATIONAL CONSULTATION OF POLICE STATION CLOSURES

- Richard had prepared a response to the consultation which was due to be submitted by early January.
- BCC members were happy for Richard send his response.
- We are to lose our current commander for South West Edinburgh.

7.GOVERNANCE :

- Stephen Jenkinson reported that there are no updates – nothing has been decided yet.
- Community Council elections will be held in May. It would be good if we could have some new and some young members. It was suggested that we could approach Balerno High School inviting the Head Girl and Boy if they would consider being members of BCC.
- It was agreed that we should invite Edinburgh Leisure to come and speak to us regardinbg BHS lettings, community involvemement and use of the community facilities.
- Should a meeting be called in the spring to discuss a Local Plan, inviting all local organisations? Do we want to take this forward as a community initiative? Do we think there is any value in considering using the police station as a community facility?
- Given the uncertainty of the future of the Police Station, it was agreed that we should register a NOTE OF INTEREST with Police Scotland of our interest in Balerno Police Station. Ian Hynd was asked if he would do this.

8. CURRENT ISSUES :

- **1. CHRISTMAS TREE AND MAIN STREET LIGHTS**
- Thanks to all involved. Tree and lights to be disconnected and taken down next week
- **5. RESILIENCE** : The same venues will be used as last year.
- **6.GREEN BRIDGE :**
- CEC still being obstructive
- Graeme received an update on 18 December – a reivsed “acceptance inspection” has been submitted by the designer.
- Balerno Pathways to meet to discuss the way forward then to convene a meeting with CEC and councillors.
- **SIGNAGE :**

- Interpretation sign to be located immediately outside Balerno Community Centre.
- Tony had contacted both the Head of Estates at CEC and the Group Property Manager at Scotmid Co-operative to clarify the ownership of the small strip of garden ground in front of the Balerno Community Centre building.
- Ownership/title has been transferred from CEC Estates to Scotmid some years ago.
- **RESURFACING OF LRW FROM BRIDGE ROAD WEST TO RAVELRIG HILL BEND :**
- Resurfacing work is due to start, weather permitting, on Monday 15 January. The road will be closed from 7.30 p.m. - 6.30 a.m. weekdays to allow the work to be carried out. Diversions will be in place during these hours.

11. COMMUNICATIONS : This was Dominic's last BCC meeting. On behalf of BCC, Richard thanked Dominic for his valuable contributions to BCC, particularly for his hard work on the signage and for running and updating our website. We wished him well on his travels to Australia.

12.COUNCILLORS : Nothing to report

13. AOCB : Jim informed the council that a local resident – Fern McGregor – voluntarily spreads salt in Harlaw Road, Harlaw Gait and Bavelaw Road. Recently she has been clearing up leaves and has been hedge trimming. It was agreed that we should acknowledge Fern's work and express our thanks and gratitude to her for doing this.

NEXT MEETING :

THURSDAY 1 FEBRUARY

@ 7.00 p.m.

in BALERNO COMMUNITY CENTRE

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