

## **Minutes of Morvern Community Development Company**

### **Board Meeting held in public**

**Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017, Lochaline Primary Community Room, 7.30pm**

**MCDC/MCTC Directors:** Clare Holohan, Mike Foulis, John Hodgson, Susan Taylor, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Development Officer)

**Members of the public:** Alasdair Firth

**Apologies:** Jenni Hodgson, Jane Stuart-Smith, Angus Robertson, Sarah Jones, Lesley Jones.

### **Agenda:**

1. Minutes of last board meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017
2. Matters arising
3. Projects update
  - Marina
  - Community Business Hub
  - Housing
  - Hydro
  - Doctors Wood
4. AOB – Dail Mhor, Village Hall and Hazelwood carparks
5. Next public meeting – AGM, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Lochaline Primary School, 7.30pm

1. **Minutes** – John proposed Clare seconded.

2. **Matters arising**

None

3. **Projects Update**

**Marina** – the marina is doing well. July visitors were up but August figures are expected to be down, due to the weather. There were some drone pictures taken of the marina, thank you to Lochaline Quartz Sand and to Iain Crookes. There is a Harbour Users meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August, Chris French will attend.

**Community Business Hub** – funding bid to Big Lottery unsuccessful. Community informed through electronic newsletter. Lilia looking at other options for funding. In the meantime, MGGW committee has been contacted to see if benches purchased for the Knock Field could be used at the site of the Old Scout Hut, no response yet. MCDC plan to tidy up the site and landscape a little bit. Grass trim has been done a few days ago as part of MCC village grass cutting contract, MCDC pay their share of the costs for this. Looking at ways of saving on capital costs and architect is preparing a report. SSE have been in touch with the view of upgrading the

transformer on site to be able to charge the new ferry. MCDC are in talks with SSE with the view of undergrounding the cable which will also reduce our costs significantly.

**Housing** – Morvern is currently not considered a priority area for affordable housing as on the Highland Council list there are not many people registered for housing in Morvern. This means that it will be very difficult to access affordable housing grant from the Scottish Government. Locally we know that there is a demand for housing especially with businesses expanding. MCDC plan to carry out another needs assessment and will respond to the Highland Council housing strategy consultation. MCDC will survey local businesses for housing needs and will approach local estate for information too. Lilia is exploring a possibility of all 8 plots to be sold as self – build plots with Rural Housing Burden attached, waiting for a response from the Scottish Government.

**Hydro** – having a delay applying for planning due to CARES financial model. Need to raise about £2.5mln equity if both schemes were to go ahead. A lot of work is being done behind the scenes to make the schemes viable.

**Doctors Wood** – received valuation. BSW and Iggesund have been contacted to price the wood extraction and replanting.

#### **4. AOB –**

**Dail Mhor** – Email received from Sunart Community Council asking for support in giving more information about with regard to temporary closure of Dail Mhor. MCDC to write a letter of support.

**Village Hall and Hazelwood carparks** – it was agreed to purchase 20 tonnes of Type 1 to spread on both carparks with the remainder for allotments.

**Glensanda public consultation** – Lilia attended. Spoke about continuation of funds for MCT for community benefit, discussed a possibility of a road from Morvern to Glensanda in order that local people could be employed at the quarry and discussed bringing rock from Glensanda to be used for affordable housing development.

**Electric car** – this was discussed and agreed that we should look into getting one for the community. Together with the allotments project, this could be another step towards a Carbon Neutral Morvern.

**Campervan site** – MCDC is looking at an idea for a campervan site in the village, possible location between the surgery and the garden centre or on the shore side between Morvern Memorial cottage and the hotel. This is just a simple site with water and power.

**Morvern Landscape** – consultation questionnaire is being worked out.

**CAOLAS** – grant received to do outreach work for 3 years. Kate Forbes will be in the area to discuss MPAs in communities next week.