

Minutes of Morvern Community Development Company

Board Meeting held in public

Thursday, 12th November 2015, Lochaline Village Hall

Directors: Lesley Jones, Clare Holohan, John Hodgson, Angus Robertson, Malcolm Burge, Jenni Hodgson, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Development Officer)

Members of the public: Alistair Sinclair, Kay Nuttal, Kirsty MacIntyre

Apologies: Jane Stuart-Smith, Mike Foulis, Sam Firth

Agenda:

1. Minutes of last board meeting 8th October 2015
2. Matters arising
3. Marina Expansion – progress and funding
4. Housing – progress, Scout Hut brief for architect including sheltered accommodation
5. Hydro – progress
6. Fuel pumps – progress
7. AOB – MCW proposals, Nicki Jones letter, MCT - 3G signal, LEADER
8. Next meeting– 10th December 2015, Lochaline Harbour

1. **Minutes** – change to MCC ceasing to function date. Clare proposed, John seconded.
2. **Matters arising** – most on current agenda.

Sailing Club meeting took place on 8th November. Over 20 people attended and feedback on Facebook who were unable to attend but still interested. EGM scheduled for 3rd December at the Village Hall.

RSPB – MCDC keen in principle, it is a huge project if it comes through (£10mln). Angus wondered if the community could realise this by themselves as a standalone community project. RSPB interested in office space for project officer in Morvern.

3. **Marina Expansion** –

Lilia applied for funds for marina expansion to various funders, including local Morvern Community Trust. Rejection letter received from MCT. A discussion took place about the letter received and reasons given for rejection. Lilia to draft a letter to MCT, to be approved by the Board, to ask for clarification. Members of the public also expressed dissatisfaction with the Trust.

MCDC applied to Marine Scotland license and asked for lease area increase from Crown Estate, waiting on outcome.

Alistair pointed out that the area MCDC want for swinging moorings is belonging to WHAM. Alistair will provide Lilia with a map, Lilia to check.

No other funding confirmed yet.

4. **Housing** – MCDC applied to MCT for funding which was granted, £5,850.00 after MCT carried out a community consultation during MCDC drop in event on housing

and community building on 28th October 2015. Thank you to the Trust. With this funding granted, MCDC have 100% funding to purchase the land, apply for planning permission and meet legal costs.

Report after community drop in session has been distributed during the meeting, the remainder of hard copies will be available from the shop tomorrow and on www.morvern.org

Architects sent through amended plans for affordable/sheltered housing development and community building. The board had a discussion and agreed on the design for forestry site for affordable housing.

It felt that the “sheltered” housing idea and community building was still work in progress. Lilia to draft a brief for architect, to be approved by the board, to include for sheltered housing, tea rooms and multi use office/workshop space for the Old Scout Hut area. Lilia has been looking at office rent charges (Tobermory and Craignure) and will be looking at lease charges for tea rooms (Acharacle). Lilia made enquiries with local people who might want to run tea rooms as a business. Positive feedback received. More work needs to be done on business case. Lilia also made enquiries with some local businesses who expressed a need in office space, positive feedback in general, all depends on how well businesses are doing and expanding on the ability to pay office rent.

Term “sheltered” housing was discussed and it felt that the term was not very suitable. Angus to check with Willie Lamont what his understanding of the term is as Willie stated that he was only prepared to sell the small amount of his garden if the use was for sheltered housing.

A possibility of relocating community minibus garage was discussed, as Morvern Community Transport Association expressed an interest in moving the garage to somewhere more appropriate.

Jenni and Malcolm will be lead directors on this project.

5. **Morvern Hydro Project** – MCDC appointed Hydroplan to carry out full feasibility and project management on the two schemes Barr and Allt achadh Forsa. There are two issues that both can be show stoppers – grid connection to Barr and Scottish Water with Allt achadh Forsa. This is the first job for Hydroplan to do. There will be an announcement on FITs in December.
6. **Fuel Pumps** – working better now with new equipment. All Star hopefully will be accepted in January. Thank you to the shop for facilitating cash and All Star payments for the time being. Lilia to organise lights timer to be changed to 5pm – 7am due to it getting dark earlier.

7. AOB

Morvern Community Woodlands – MCDC received proposals from MCW with regard to Achnacha woods and forest maintenance, including Hazelwood. It was decided to postpone discussion on this until next board meeting where Sam Firth would be able to explain things clearer after MCW board have agreed on various points during their meeting on 27th November.

Letter received from **Nicki Jones** asking MCDC to look into improving the road between shore facilities and Ardtornish. Good idea, this is a core path. Lilia to write to Ardtornish.

MCT 3G signal application – letter received rejecting funding for £30 per annum for additional electricity charges each for three organisations to make their premises available for Vodafone to install equipment to provide 3G signal to the village. Reason – commercial venture and unknown length of time. Lilia to draft a letter to MCT, to be approved by the Board, asking for clarification to the decision. In the meantime, MCDC will pay for three organisations to allow for this service to the community to happen, until such a time that a resolution is found with the Trust.

MCDC invited MCT to its AGM and also invited MCT trustee to join the Board. No one from MCT attended the AGM. A verbal response received from MCT with regard to joining the board but nothing in writing to date.

MCTC – Jane Stuart – Smith has been elected on the board.

LEADER – Lilia applied and has been successful in securing a seat on Lochaber LEADER Group that will be responsible for distributing LEADER funding. This is an unpaid position, expenses will be covered. The Board congratulated Lilia.

CLAM – thank you letter has been received for contribution towards fireworks.