

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

**held in public**

**Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**Lochaline Village Hall, 7.30pm**

**Directors:** Lesley Jones, Jane Stuart – Smith, Jenni Hodgson, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Dev Officer).

**Members of the public:** Robert Laurie, Gill Foulis, Mike Foulis

**Apologies:** Angus Robertson, Clare Holohan, John Hodgson

1. Minutes of last Board meeting 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015
2. Matters arising
3. Fuel pumps
4. Hydro
5. Housing
6. AOB
7. Next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> August Lochaline Village Hall

Lesley Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Minutes** – Jane proposed, Jennie seconded.
2. **Matters arising** – Jane sent fuel accounts letter to Jim Bolton as requested, no response received.

Community planning workshop took place in March, results forwarded to the Highland Council.

3. **Fuel Pumps** – BT were supposed to come on 7<sup>th</sup> May to install a pole for putting a new telephone line and broadband to petrol pumps in order to facilitate installation of new payment system. BT have not turned up and no explanation was given. New installation date given on 14<sup>th</sup> May (today) and no sign of BT again and no explanation. Lilia escalated this as complaint to BT Chief Executive who are now dealing with this. Once BT pole is in and card services provide MCDC with merchant number (imminent) Tokheim will be able to install their equipment. MCDC also purchased a tyre inflation machine, to be installed at the same time. Electrician is on standby to do all necessary electrical installations. Fuel tanks will also be cleaned out. MCDC will ensure minimal disruption while equipment installation is taking place, will inform the community of installation date by placing notices and on [www.morvern.org](http://www.morvern.org) Fuel will not be available while installation takes place.
4. **Morvern Hydro Project** – MCDC have applied to Forestry Commission Scotland for their NFLS scheme to lease land for construction of two potential hydro schemes in Morvern. NFLS panel member came to meet MCDC Directors and ask relevant questions about the application. MCDC are working on tender documentation for full feasibility for both schemes, Allt achadh Forsa and Barr. Grid connection is still a challenge for Barr river.

Sallachan hydro – operational, site clean and tidy now. The community invested in the scheme and the first payment of over £600.00 will be paid shortly.

5. **Housing** – MCDC continue to work on affordable and sheltered housing projects in Morvern. Housing survey has been carried out, thank to everyone who took part. The winner of £100.00 prize is Phillip Henderson. Housing survey identified an immediate need for affordable and sheltered housing in the area, the survey also looked into housing need in the next 5-10 years.

MCDC are looking at three pockets of land in Lochaline – Forestry Commission land adjacent to Dailrianich, Rowan Bank Steadings and the area of the Old Scout Hut including part of Willie Lamont's garden. MCDC instructed District Valuer to value all three pockets of land. MCDC applied for NFLS scheme for the land adjacent to Dailrainich. MCDC engaged services of an architect to assess various options available on the land. The Directors met with the architect at the end of April to look at first draft thoughts and ideas. The architect has applied for pre – planning advice for three sites. The land adjacent to Dailrianich is undermined and the architect is seeking planners' advice on this too – if any housing to be built on this land, foundations might have to be reinforced and there is a possible issue with mortgaging undermined properties. Jane and Lilia attended MCC meeting last week where the above information had been delivered to the meeting. MCC are supportive of MCDC working on housing development in Lochaline. A member of the public at MCC meeting raised a concern that it is not MCDC's role to develop sheltered housing, this is a role for Highland Council and other public agencies. If sheltered housing is developed in Lochaline, various agencies will be involved – Highland Council, Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust, Lochaber Housing, NHS, Age Concern etc. The project is in the early stages of development. MCDC will hold a public meeting once draft plans are ready.

## 6. AOB

*Oil Club* – Lilia to look if oil club could be set up in Morvern. The idea was discussed a few years ago but there was no one to administer.

*Ardtornish meeting* – Lesley attended. The Estate are eager to support the community and local businesses in future projects. A research in social developments in Morvern has been suggested. Offered support with Corran Ferry campaign. Offered pockets of land to develop various things. Estate are interested in the Doctors' Wood (belongs to Forestry Commission) in order to maintain views from Ardtornish.

*Hazelwood* – fencing repairs will be carried out by the end of May. MCDC will look after H&S side of Hazelwood while MCC included grass cutting at Hazlewood as part of village grass cutting contract.

*Tracy Volpe* – resigned as MCDC director due to pressures of work. Letter of thanks has been sent out. Tracy has been very helpful during her time on the board, with a fresh approach and an eye for detail. MCDC are always looking for volunteer directors to join the board.