

## DRAFT MINUTES OF MORVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 6 JUNE 2016 7.30pm in DRIMNIN VILLAGE HALL

**Present** : Susan Taylor (Vice Chair), Teresa Bolton, Cameron Bolton, David Shaw, Lesley Smart (minutes) and 17 members of the public.

**Apologies** : Jim Bolton (Chair), Jenni Hodgson (Treasurer), PC Angie Campbell and Kevin Swift (Police Scotland) Andrew Baxter and Thomas Maclennan, (Highland Councillors)

1. Susan Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the meeting, 2nd May 2016 were circulated. There being no questions or comments from those present, these were proposed as an accurate record by David Shaw and seconded by Cameron Bolton

### 2. **Matters Arising**

- **Grass cutting**, interested party from Mull. Areas to be included were discussed; fine detail still to be considered.
- **BT**, Ongoing internet problems. Report from Andrew Baxter, he has had a meeting with Brendan Dick, Director BT Scotland. Mr Dick indicated that engineers were undertaking a specific piece of work to make the local network more robust during the winter months when storm damage has meant extended periods without service. Although he still wanted individual examples, he agreed to investigate problems with specific exchanges. To date no update.
- **Wall at the village hall**, No one has inspected the wall opposite the village hall or the steps to the club, it is hoped this will happen this coming week.
- **Highland Council Roads Maintenance, Andrew Baxter reported** "Mark Smith, our roads engineer has confirmed the following in relation to road repairs in the community council area.  
A884 hot patching due to start on 20th June for 2 weeks.  
Further hot patching works being prioritised in the area to follow.  
Temporary patching will be carried out next week prior to the availability of the full squad and plant resources.  
B849 Drimnin Road resurfacing operation being arranged for late August / early September. This is for the final 500 metres of the road."
- **Village Clean Up**, This went well. Thanks to Nevis Landscape for their donations of equipment.
- **Skip** Jim Bolton paid for the hire at a cost of £372 per skip, he will be reimbursed as soon as the bank account problem is resolved. The skip was filled very quickly and only 2 people offered to make a donation, one of which was a pensioner. It was agreed this is difficult to police. It was suggested that perhaps someone with a trailer could come forward and run as a business similar to Kilchoan, where this works well. However not sure if this would be feasible for Morvern.
- **Participatory Budget Fund Lochaber**, email from Andrew Baxter "annoyance at the way the trial participatory budget had penalised the peninsula in favour of Lochaber High School. I accept and agree this was the case. To avoid this happening in the next round, councillors have allocated a £5000 participatory budget for those areas

within the Ardnamurchan High School Associated School Group. That is, Ardgour, Acharacle, Morvern, Sunart and West Ardnamurchan". The scheme will also allocate funds to other Community groups throughout the year; more information and application forms will be circulated in the near future.

- **Distillery Jobs**, recruitment will take place late Autumn.
- **Phone Box Drimnin**, the British Heart foundation may be able to help with funding to purchase a defibrillator, they may match fund. The Sandpiper trust may also be able to assist. Dr Taylor will find out more details for the Drimnin community to pursue.
- There are still vacancies for co-opted members to join the C.C.

### 3. Finance

Still no resolution regarding the paperwork to amend signatories to the Bank Accounts submitted to the Bank of Scotland which have been incorrectly completed. The Treasurer is still in contact with the bank.

Balance of General Account - £10,178-85

Balance of Common Good Fund - £5,627-6

### 4. Police Report

- Police are keen to talk with an Irish Person selling tools from 4 X4, if anyone is approached please take the registration number and report to the police.
- Please be aware of the Airgun Amnesty – see posters displayed locally

### 5. Planning Items

- Plans for an extension and garage to Funnary Cottage, no objections.
- MCDC plans tabled for Scout Hut site and Forestry site for all to peruse

### 6. Report on Meeting with Ardtornish Estate

Meeting held on 16 May with Director of Ardtornish Estate, Angus Robertson, Susan Taylor and Jenny Hodgson (MCC) Peter Boylan and Robert Laurie (MCT)

1. The question was discussed "How do you work out community wellbeing."
2. **Achabeg** 5 affordable plots are to be released to the Housing Trust for Development, It is unclear as to how this will work.
3. **Ardtornish Community Fund**, This fund will be managed by Ardtornish estate. To date there is no local information on this fund. Jim Bolton has written to the estate asking how this will be run. Who will control this? What is the criteria for application? Is there a process for an equitable and transparent distribution for this money? How much money is in the fund? In the past, monies from the hydro schemes went to Morvern Community Trust. It was unanimously agreed that the MCC should write again to Ardtornish, this time to Tony McInnes, CEO.
4. Ardtornish has fixed the pot holes on the road to the net station. It is hoped work to repair the track on the village side of the Loch will happen in the near

future. The Net station is still leased by Scottish sea Farms, Loch Arienas lease is up in 2017, water tests are ongoing.

5. The fence at the church will be repaired.
6. Ferry traffic is down by 15% since the introduction of RET.

The meeting will be repeated next year.

## 7. MCDC

- **Speed Signs on Village Brae**, The development officer has passed this to the school who are in process of putting together a safer routes to school plan, and have had a visit from the Highland Road Safety Team.
- **Planning**, as per matters arising.

## 8. Items from Councillors

- I. **Drimnin Village**. David Shaw was asked to bring several points to the Councils attention, the numbers of lorries travelling at speed to works at the new distillery is causing serious concern. The owner of the Estate was able to assure the council that the concrete floor was being laid, it was hoped this would be completed in a week. He added that when the distillery is up and running there should be only one lorry running on the road per week.
- II. **Wood Lorries**, from Carnacallich, closed the road for an hour. Would it be possible for the lorry and the tractor driver to keep each other informed?
- III. **High Level Road** some residents are concerned they are not being informed about ongoing developments. Any correspondence should be directed to Derek Lewis
- IV. **Road Blocked**, the Drimnin road was closed for some time due to a head on collision. Is it possible to divert traffic over the forestry road? It was agreed that the Council would put pressure on Highland council to allow this to happen.
- V. **Speed Limit**, Can a sign be placed at Drimnin Post office? Speed strips were placed to access this requirement in the past, however it was agreed this was ineffective as the strips had been placed in the wrong location. The Council will liaise with the police regarding this matter of concern.
- VI. **Lay-bys**, this is an issue of great concern to residents, unfortunately the Council have no information on when cutting would commence – Chair to contact HC Roads Dept.
- VII. **Rob Capell** has stated that he would like to join the Community Council, the proviso being that the day would need to be changed as he is unable to attend on Mondays due to Fire Practice. It was agreed it was not possible at this time. Monday is a good day for Highland Councillors to attend. it was agreed to review this in a year.

## 9. Items from the Public

- I. **BT**, An Intermittent fault was widely reported in the Drimnin village .The problem occurs when attempting to dial out, there is a constant engaged tone. One resident has reported this matter to BT with no resolve. She is keeping a log of her failed attempts.

- II. Reports also that the quality of calls is very poor.
- III. One resident reported that an engineer from Manchester who was commissioned to repair a fault reported that there was an extremely corroded box in the exchange, however, this was not something he was authorised to repair. It was agreed these matters would be added to the ongoing dialogue with Brendan Dick, Director BT Scotland. Residents were asked to keep a log of their problems and submit to the Chairman.

**Morvern Forest Link Road** Derek Lewis presented a document explaining his plans for a 9K forestry road, he explained that he was extremely optimistic that the funding for this project would be in place within the next few days. The road will commence within Mungosdail and Carnacallich Forest, passing through Killundine and into Forestry Commissions Fiunary Forest, emerging at the road to Lochaline pier on the A884 north of Lochaline. Participants are Drimnin Estate (Mungosdail Forest), Killundine Estate, Carnacallich Forest and Auchnasaul with further involvement of FSC. The road will be completed and operational by the end of February 2017, the total cost of which is £1269, 000.

A long question and answer session then took place, one of the outcomes is that the road will improve access for walkers and cyclists. There will no longer be any timber traffic on the main road. The wood chips for the woodchip system at the new distillery will be taken from the forest and will never reach the main road.

The road would also provide an emergency access to Drimnin.

**Morvern Forest Development Steering Group**, have had a meeting with the Forestry Commission, the outcome will be reported at the next Community Council meeting.

**Next meeting Monday 4 July, 2016 at 7.30pm in Lochaline Village Hall**