

DRAFT MINUTES MORVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER LOCHALINE VILLAGE HALL

Persons Present - Jim Bolton, Martin Sampson, Susan Taylor, Alasdair Firth, Teresa Bolton, David Campbell and 2 members of the public.

Apologies - Lesley Smart, Andrew Baxter Highland Councillor, Angie Campbell/Kevin Swift Police.

1. Introduction

- **David Campbell, Achnasaul, was co-opted onto the Council** – nominated by Teresa, seconded by Alasdair. Teresa will notify Dot Ferguson, HC.
- Prior to the start of the meeting, Jim congratulated Burach for its success at this year's Royal National Mòd, winning the Sheriff MacMaster Campbell competition and all the Morvern youngsters who competed including Rachel and Verity who won their competitions and Flori who was placed second.

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** – agreed as true record. Proposed by Susan, seconded by Alasdair.

3. Matters Arising

- **Phone Boxes** – no update from John Hodgson on village one. If no further forward next month, perhaps we should consider selling it. Morvern Heritage are waiting until spring to utilise the Larach Beag box but may re-paint it before then.
- **Forest boardwalk** – dates proposed for site visit, waiting for Kirsty Mann to respond.
- **Riverbank at Acharn** – Ardtornish have started remedial work to bank & cattle to be moved to winter ground
- **Drimnin Skip** – been & gone – about half full.
- **Drimnin Timber Road** –
 - Teresa summarised the results of the public's view on the use of the B849 for bulk transport of timber – of the 55 responses 94% do not think the road should be used by this traffic.
 - A number of comments were also made, namely the road is unsuited to any heavy vehicles; weight limit should be re-visited; sea transport is the best option; landowners/grant money should be used to upgrade B849; all heavy traffic should use alternative road; HC approve residential development but don't maintain/provide a road fit for purpose.
 - Due to a breakdown in communication the MCC did not attend the last meeting between landowners, HC and other interested parties. David gave a brief summary from that meeting which he attended which focused on alternatives to the B849. Frank MacCulloch, independent engineer, has put together three or four options which will be put to the Drimnin Community at a meeting scheduled for 27 November.
 - Jim stated that as it affected all Morvern residents the meeting should be opened up to everyone & he offered to chair the meeting. David welcomed this and agreed to pass this on to those organising the meeting. He explained that no grant applications would succeed without public support.

- David stated that upgrading the current road has been looked at but the costs are not encouraging. Questions also over Killundine and if it's for sale.
- Request for any maps/documents to be made available prior to the meeting.
- **Noticeboards** – no update
- **30mph speed restrictions B849 at Drimnin** – road signs up & restriction in force.
- **Oban Times Phone Directory** – Oban Times are looking into Morvern's omission but are dependent on BT for the information.
- **Letter of thanks** received from CLAM for MCC donation.
- **Meeting re Dal Mhor** on Thursday 9 November – Susan and Teresa will attend.
- Good response to request from MCC on **location of defibrillators** in Morvern – Teresa compiling information.

4. Finance

- Current balance of £10,390-07.
- Payments this month for authorisation - £400-00 Ally Nudds – 2 grass cuts; Bowmans for Drimnin skip hire £354-00 – both approved
- Remaining balance £9,636-07
- Application submitted to Morvern Community Trust for Pensioners' Christmas Lunch

5. Over 60s Lunch

- One quote received for food – accepted.
- Susan arranging drink and sundries; request to Ardtornish for loan of crockery & glasses
- Decided to ask community for volunteers to waitress etc – a number of offers have been received
- Stewart and Rory Malcolm have agreed to provide musical entertainment – excellent
- Notices to go up this week asking for those wishing to attend to notify Susan or Lesley at the surgery

6. Highland Councillor Report – No report received

7. Police Report

- **Remedial work at Ardtornish** – see matters arising
- **Winter safety checks** will be starting alongside festive drink driving campaign; last week another driver was reported for being over the prescribed limit.
- Positive lines of enquiry have been established in connection with **recent thefts** but remind everyone to be vigilant, do not leave high value equipment lying around and ensure all such equipment is marked.

8. Planning Items

Alterations to form a new window, 14 Torr Na Faire – no comments.

9. Correspondence

- EE Pre Consultation letter and documents for masts and new site infrastructure. Favoured location in Salen, Acharacle – one in Rahoy was initially considered but discounted due to topography.
- Dal Mhor Meeting 9 November 2017
- Bus Users Group Minutes
- Stakeholder Report from Edinburgh Napier on Information Practices of Community Councils
- Marine Harvest – information and planning documents for changes in Loch Sunart – although we cover Glencripesdale, really affects Sunart CC more than us
- Fibre Broadband Rollout – nothing new
- Research Workshop for CCs in Elgin 28 November
- Recruitment of JPs – poster to be put up

All above documents available from Teresa.

10. MCDC

- Jim will send a formal resignation letter. Teresa to send a formal letter to Lilia stating Susan and Alasdair will be the MCC reps but Martin would also like to be considered as third rep.
- Noted that the most recent MCDC minutes on the Morvern website are from April 2017 – will mention to Lilia.
- Last meeting discussed next phase of Achabeg housing – discussions with HSCHT re rent to buy. Length of leases on these properties raised – not sure.
- Broadband – MCC have asked MCDC to take this on so it is disappointing nothing appears to have been done to date – clearly falls within their remit. Possibility of superfast broadband here within six months – we will see.
- AGM due in January 2018 when a refresh of directors is likely.

11. Items from Councillors

- **Drimnin Broadband Project – Update from David**
 - Mast site on Mull has been identified which will extend coverage from Drimnin as far as Achabeg (phase 2). Could tentitively reach as far as Lochaline (if BT fails to deliver) but this dependent on finding local volunteers to move it forward and money for project.
 - For Drimnin, the Tobermory mast will bounce signal to Drimnin Estate, back to Mull opposite Achnasaul & then sends signal to all as far as Rhemore.
 - Two out of three planning applications have been approved, third should be sorted by end of 2017.
 - Funding from Scottish Sea Farms, Morvern Trust and individuals. None from Community Broadband Scotland – complicated reasons. Have just enough for first phase.
 - Hope to be up and running by February 2018, and properly working by April.
 - Two options – fast 6-10mbs - £27-50/month and superfast £50-00/month – both no limits – with the expectation prices will fall in the future. Hoping to have enough bandwidth to ensure good service even if everyone using it at same time – bandwidth bought from BT either direct or via a third party.

- Drimnin project wholly wireless so cheaper than boxes.
 - Main costs – bandwidth, payment to company managing network (fault fixing etc), insurance, admin costs, replacement of equipment. Hopeful of surplus to cover this within four years.
 - Susan reiterated importance of broadband not just for individuals and businesses but also for future of healthcare and education in remote areas – MCDC need to become more involved.
 - David to forward summary to MCDC via Teresa.
- **Dr's Wood** – Alasdair told meeting figures for timber extraction are not promising. Hydro possibility not been factored in. Need more information on this. Alasdair to pursue with MCDC.
 - Susan asked for note on Facebook when MCC minutes are available on Morvern webpage – OK. Also willing to hold a copy at the surgery for those without computer access.
 - **Peninsula CC Meetings** – Jim stated these used to be regular events and were particularly useful for issues which had implications across the peninsula. Fell into abeyance once they became more of a talking shop for HC. Agreed Jim will write to the other CCs on this.
 - **Deer Management Group** – Alasdair reported on their AGM.
 - In future intend to concentrate on public benefits in Deer Management Plan – habitat impact, recording all existing and planned deer fencing, deer collision monitoring etc.
 - Helicopter count of deer in area in January 2018
 - Ardtornish reduction cull in 2018/19
 - Sporting Rates re-introduced in April 2017 – some estates appealing against this – large amounts of money involved. (Deer farms not included as not sporting estates.)
 - Future meetings will remain open to the public.

12. Items from the Public

Nothing raised.

13. Any Other Business

Nil

Date of next meeting – Monday, 4 December at 7.30pm in Drimnin Hall.