

DRAFT MINUTES OF MORVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MONDAY 3 APRIL 2017 at 7.30pm, LOCHALINE VILLAGE HALL

morvern.cc@btinternet.com

Present : Jim Bolton (Chair), Teresa Bolton (Secretary) Cameron Bolton, Martin Sampson, (Treasurer) Davy Shaw, Susan Taylor, Lesley Smart (mins) Nick Tordoff , Achabeg Community Company
20 members of the public

Apologies : None

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held 6 March 2017.

- Amendment requested by Martin Sampson regarding Ardtornish Estate Long Term Plan. Add “public opinion welcome, consultation is still ongoing”.
- Add “Cameron Bolton” in persons present.

The minutes were then accepted as a true account of the meeting.

Proposed: - Susan Taylor, Seconded: - David Shaw.

2. Matters Arising

- **Phone boxes** – John Hodgson still on holiday. The Drimnin Community encouraged to take their project forward.
- **BT**- No update
- **Roads** – No response from Iain Bruce Low, several areas of concern are noted .Torr-Na-Faire, Drimnin road, outside the Village shop and where the forest link roads join near Struan. Crash barriers have been replaced at Uillan and Laudale.
- **Bus Shelter Achabeg**

A number of people living in the new Achabeg development were in attendance at the meeting, and their spokesman Mr Tordoff addressed those present about the minutes of the last meeting :

- a) Objections were raised about the wording of the minutes, particularly the use of the term “residents” ie in parenthesis. This had upset some, and for this the Chairman offered apologies, as there was no intent to offend. It was pointed out that there was sometimes a perception that not all of those at Achabeg were permanent residents. Also, it was important to note that those on the electoral role could vote in any elections to represent Morvern, and indeed sit on the Community Council. The Chairman stressed that the Community Council worked for all Morvern residents, and hoped that those at Achabeg considered themselves part of the Community of Morvern.
- b) The Chairman asked about the Achabeg Community Company, following a number of queries from the Morvern Community. Mr Tordoff explained that this Company had been established by homeowners on the development to look after and maintain areas of common use such as roads etc. Those living in the Housing Association properties in Achabeg were not members of this Company, but would be invited to attend meetings. It was understood that the new buildings proposed adjacent to

the Drimnin Road were to be additional Housing Association properties, and as above, the occupants of those houses would not be members, but invited to attend meetings.

c) A lengthy discussion took place on the subject of the bus shelter, now in situ on the edge of the development. There had been much confusion over this issue, and it was pointed out that although the MCC were informed by Highland Council that the Achabeg Community Company had complained, this was not the case, rather the complaints were from individuals. Mr Tordoff pointed out that it was anyone's right to write to Highland Council direct. The Chair pointed out that as the proposal to erect, and the location of the shelter, had been raised and minuted at previous Community Council meetings, and no-one had contacted the Community Council, there were no objections. It was also pointed out that Community Council minutes were published every month in De Tha Dol, and also posted on the area's website. The correspondence from HC had been a surprise, and whilst, of course, everyone has the right to correspond direct with HC it would have been helpful, following past protocol, if the Community Council had been consulted first, or at least kept in the loop. It was not feasible to send copies of minutes to all in the Community, but the CC would look to leaving a copy of the minutes in the local Post Office to increase availability. Nick Tordoff explained the reasoning behind the complaint - that the shelter is not on public land but on land owned at present by Ardtornish Estate, (however ownership due to be transferred to the Achabeg Community Company). This land is used as an emergency slip for vehicles in bad weather. Residents also object to the aesthetics of the bus shelter. The south side of the road is not deemed suitable for safety reasons & no other suggestions for re-locating it were forthcoming. This matter is now in the hands of Highland Council.

d) Councillors explained the new community at Achabeg is moving fast and we need to work together. No malice was intended by previous comments, and apologies were again offered by the chairman. He encouraged residents of Achabeg to attend the Community Council meetings, held on the first Monday of every month, and asked that in future the Community Company communicates with the Community Council if any problems arise.

- **Ardtornish Estate Long Term Forest Plan**- consultation still on going
- **Drimnin Bus Service**- No correspondence from David Summers
- **Caravan on Calmac Ground**- Chairman in correspondence with SEAMAL
- **De tha Dol-meeting** – A new editor has been appointed, the CC wish Sheila Larkin every success in her new post.
- **Boardwalk**- Kirsty Mann, Forestry has replied regarding this. Basically the Forestry policy is not to maintain paths such as these for financial reasons but if the community provide the materials & future upkeep, they will build a replacement boardwalk. A long discussion took place & many felt that the FC do very little in terms of paths etc in Morvern compared to other areas & they should pay for this. It was agreed a small number should meet Kirsty Mann & walk round the various parts of Morvern & report back to the next CC meeting to discuss the way forward.
- **Riverbank**- Hugh Raven was shown photos of the river near Acharn which is in a poor state from cattle. He accepted this was not ideal and intends to keep Ardtornish cattle away from the riverbank next winter and undertake remedial work to the bank and fences.

3. Finance

- The Common Good Fund now transferred to Morvern Community Trust- £4930.22. No provisos were set as it was agreed that the trust fairly distributes the monies.
- Money paid out Lochaline Village Hall rent £28.50
- De Tha Dol? adverts £ 45.00
- General account now stands at £10946.50
- Kirsty Macintyre has agreed to audit the books before the AGM on the 8 May

4. Police Report

Police encourage anyone to report cattle on the road or sheep on the wrong side of a fence, by dialling 101, via the Facebook page or in person.

5. Planning

- Robin Smart, revised application amending site of access road to new build at Savary. No comment
- Lesley Jones, Old Fire Station, part demolition and new build of 3 apartments with 3 parking bays. No comment
- Glencripisdale temporary floating pier. No Comment
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6. Village Maintenance

- Grass cutting. A note of interest from 2 parties, a notice to invite tenders will be posted, requirement will be for 6 cuts over the growing period
- Ivan Woolley has offered to do a skip run with his trailer as a volunteer. Costs to be covered include fuel, wear and tear and tipping charges which will total about £150 per trip which is considerably less than the hire of a skip. If successful, he can do this up to 4 times a year, depending on demand. He will also be present at the collection point to load the rubbish which will ensure the space is maximised. It was agreed that users should make a donation for this service. It is noted this is a very kind gesture by Ivan & the Chair formally thanked him. Adverts will be placed with date and time of collection – Teresa to action.
- Village clean-up -.there were not many volunteers last year, however it was agreed this was a worthwhile exercise. A date will be set to tie in with the green bin collection and Teresa will organise equipment.

7. Correspondence

- Napier University Community Council Survey – Teresa and Susan have completed this.
- Screen Machine Survey now posted on Lochaline Facebook Page.
- MCT request for final write up and photographs from the over 60's Christmas lunch – Teresa to action.
- Living Landscape Steering Group - MDCDC intend to form a new steering group to take this project forward. Alistair Firth has agreed to act as a liaison officer; Rhona Sampson will be chair. This will be added as a standing agenda item.
- Keep Scotland Beautiful, information tabled.

8. MCDC

- Monthly informative emails now being circulated. All residents of Morvern encouraged to become members, costing only £1.
- New Pontoon extensions, ready to start within the next few weeks.
- New Harbour master appointed.
- New Community Building now gone to planning, it is hoped there will be no cross over of use with any other community building. A sub group will be formed at the next meeting, 13 April at Lochaline Primary School.
- Hydro scheme see MCDC website.
- Dr's Wood - Valuation and feasibility study to be undertaken.
- Project officer unable to attend CC meetings but monthly updates
- Mr Malcolm Burge indicated that he wished to make a statement, and he was invited to address the meeting.

Mr Burge stated that he was upset with the minutes of the last Community Council meeting, and indicated that he had now resigned as a director of MCDC. He said that he was Chair of the Sailing Club which now apparently has over 100 members, and over £20,000 in the bank. He claimed that his resignation from MCDC was because of what he said was criticism of the Sailing Club, and criticism of MCDC by MCC, particularly in the area of fund raising. He also complained that MCC members, who were also directors of MCDC failed to attend MCDC meetings, and quoted what he said was part of MCDC constitution where directors could be removed if they do not attend meetings.

The MCC Chairman stated that he did recall one MCDC meeting he had attended and pointed out that at that meeting he had stated, as a personal opinion, that there appeared to be an assumption in some quarters that if MCDC or the Sailing Club needed funds, that Morvern Community Trust (MCT) would contribute. At this particular meeting he (Chairman) had pointed out that MCT was a valuable part of the Community, but that it did not have an unlimited amount of money. Therefore whilst anyone in the Community can of course apply to MCT, it should not be considered the only source of funding.

Regarding MCC Councillors not attending meetings, it was pointed out that there were only 4 "elected" Councillors, out of which in order to satisfy MCDC constitution, two had volunteered. Both, in recent months, had however a great many personal and work commitments that had prevented their attendance. The chair went on to say that if MCDC wish to remove the two CC members from their Board, they could do so but as Mr Burge was no longer a Director of MCDC it was not for him to make that decision.

The Chairman closed the discussion by stating that it was at the very least unreasonable to make personal attacks on Social Media and that if any person had a complaint, they should do this face to face.

9. Items from Councillors

- **Morvern Games And Gala Week** – will go ahead; Games Day on 15 July. Cameron asked that everyone give as much support to the Games Committee as possible
- **The Chairman** commended all the active groups in the village for what they do. He said it is gratifying what all of the Community Groups, and indeed individuals do. We are sometimes “at the end of the line” and sometimes, as an isolated Community, lose out. He further stated “The CC will support and encourage all groups and organisations in Morvern”.

10. Items from the Public

The road to Kinlochteacus is in poor repair. The bridge near the lost village is in a state of near collapse. CC will clarify who is liable for this. Chair to contact Iain Bruce Low.

11. Any Other Business

- It is believed the Oban/Craignure ferry is booked solid for the next 3 months; could cause traffic chaos on Lochaline ferry – to be aware.
- Kate Forbes MSP will be in Lochaline Village Hall on Wednesday 12 April at 7.30pm - all welcome.

Date and Time of Next Meeting - Monday 8 May, Lochaline Village Hall – monthly meeting followed by AGM - **ALL WELCOME.**