

DRAFT MINUTES OF MORVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MONDAY 6 March 2017 at 7.30pm, DRIMNIN VILLAGE HALL

morvern.cc@btinternet.com

Present : Jim Bolton (Chair), Teresa Bolton (Secretary), Martin Sampson, (Treasurer), Davy Shaw, Susan Taylor, Councillor Andrew Baxter, PC Kevin Swift, Lesley Smart (mins) and 12 members of the public

Apologies : None

1. Minutes of the Last Meetings

Minutes of the last meetings held 5 December 2016 and 6 February 2017. December meeting minutes could not be agreed at February's meeting as there was not a quorum.) The minutes were accepted as a true account of the meeting. Proposed Teresa Bolton, Seconded Martin Sampson.

2. Matters Arising

- Phone boxes – John Hodgson was unable to attend. The Drimnin Community are keen to take this project forward and were encouraged to do so with the suggestion that an application be submitted to SSE fund for purchase of defibrillator.
- **BT**- No update. Long discussion took place; unlikely this will be resolved in the short term.
- **Roads** –Torr-Na-Faire middle road still in a poor state of repair Jim will contact Iain Bruce Low again.
- **Bus Shelter Achabeg**-This matter was raised at a previous CC at the time no objections raised. The shelter has been erected. 3 written objections have been submitted to Highland Council including one from the Achabeg Community Company. The CC were not consulted by them before submitting these complaints. Achabeg Community and the residents of the “affordable” homes (*who have not been invited to be part of this group*) are invited to attend the next CC meeting.
- **Ardtornish Estate Long Term Forest Plan**- Whilst the community is in favour of woodland expansion this project will be funded by a substantial amount of Scottish Government money which is not means tested. It appears the decision has been made. Kate Forbes MSP has been contacted regarding this matter. Ms Forbes will attend a meeting in Lochaline and all members of the community are encouraged to attend.
- **Drimnin Bus Service** – Highland Council have assured MCC that buses will still run from Drimnin when the new contracts come into force although times may be slightly different. The contract for the school pick ups in Drimnin are being re-advertised and should be decided within the next few weeks.

3. Finance

- Bank accounts balance same as last month namely - £11020.60-General account CGF- £4930.22 to be transferred to MCT once monies have cleared from the Christmas lunch.

4. Police Report

- **No Crime to report** – There have been instances of a number of groups targeting the Highlands recently. Although not specific to the peninsula, PC Swift asks that if members of the public see anything suspicious to contact the police and if possible take down registration numbers.
- **Sheep and cattle on the road** - PC Campbell has had a word with Ardtornish estate, as they are duty bound to keep livestock off the road. However reports of black cows wandering the road at night is causing grave concern along with the flock of sheep wondering around Lochaline Village. PC Swift will ask PC Campbell for an update on this matter and take further action if necessary.

5. Planning

- SSE – replace single electricity pole with double pole structure on land NE of Middar View – no comments.
- Replacement house at Druim na Cracaig – no comments.

6. Correspondence

- SSE -Applications ongoing perhaps apply for money for Drimnin phone box defibrillator
- Registration to resuscitation Campaign- letter tabled.

7. MCDC

- **Hydro meeting** -2 schemes proposed 1 at Barr 1 at Achaforse. Both schemes are at the point of decision. The **question asked by the CC is who will own this land?**
- **February Meeting** - focused on Housing and Scout Hall development. The proposal is that the Scout Hall be used as office space and meeting rooms. The CC raised concern at this proposal as there is both office space and meeting facilities in the Village Hall and a Community Room in the School. It would appear that no firm requests for such units have been received or any work on whether this is viable financially. A long discussion took place regarding community consultation.
- **Doctors Wood** – MCDC has submitted an interest in the wood.
- **AGM** – Why is this not held in the Village Hall where there is more room?
- **Living Landscape** – CC would encourage all to attend this meeting. A long discussion took place around woodland conservation and improvement and potential community benefits. Would this project be community led? Is charitable money going to rich landowners? Will there be a cull of deer? The conclusion was that this project will need clear objectives.
- **Meetings** – seem to be too long which may put people off attending.

- **Reporting to community** - the need for more communication, openness and transparency. This was discussed at length. It is hoped that the project officer will attend all CC meetings in future.
- **BT** - the Development Company have been tasked to take this forward.

8. Highland Councillors Report

- **Andrew Baxter**- was happy to report that there will be no fare increase on Corran Ferry this year.
- **Road Repairs**- 1 million pounds extra added to Highland Council roads budget. Members of the public and CC brought to Andrew's attention that the road repairs on the Drimnin Road and around Lochaline have been unsuccessful as they are already breaking up badly and need addressed with the upmost urgency. Similarly the road at Uillean is in a very poor state.
- **Lochaber Smelter**- Good news this week that the smelter may create up to 700 jobs. The CC were assured that any community benefit would be kept in Lochaber and not be diverted to Inverness.
- **BT** – Still no meeting with BT. Openreach seem to be the problem according to BT. Jim is going to invite our MSP to take this forward.

9. Items from Councillors

- **Caravan on Calmac Ground**- Jim in correspondence with CMAL
- **Scottish Fire and Rescue**- see email
- **De tha Dol-meeting** -6.30 Sunart Centre to discuss way forward and support new editor once appointed
- **Boardwalk**- Due to water treatment plant works this has been removed from the woods. This is a popular walk for many locals & Teresa will contact the Water Company to ensure this is put back in place once work is complete.
- **Riverbank**- riverbank is in poor state or repair near Acharn. Teresa will write to Ardtornish.
- **Drimnin distillery** – Davy Shaw asked what the signs would say. The signs will discourage traffic. Visitors to the distillery will be encouraged to book in advance. Road verges will be reinstated and ruts improved.

10. Items from the Public

- The state of the Drimnin Road is getting worse cars are failing MOTs because patching did not work/has not been finished. Andrew Baxter will take this up with Iain Bruce Low.

11. Any Other Business

None

Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday 3, April, Lochaline Village Hall 7.30

AGM Monday 8 May 2017 Lochaline Village Hall 7.30