

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

### **Board Meeting held in public**

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Lochaline Village Hall, 7.30pm**

**MCDC/MCTC Directors:** Jane Stuart – Smith, Susan Taylor, Angus Robertson, Lesley Jones, Sarah Jones, Alasdair Firth, Jennie Robertson, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Development Officer)

**Apologies:** Nick Tordoff, Peter Boylan.

**Members of the public:** Llewellyn, Gillian Llewellyn, John Hodgson, Jennie Hodgson.

#### **Agenda:**

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Appointment of MCTC board
4. Projects
5. AOB
6. Next meeting

1. **Minutes** – Jane proposed, Susan seconded.

#### **2. Matters arising**

Jenni Hodgson (as previous MCDC chair) spoke to Peter Boylan with regard to a letter and meeting to be organised in response to MCT's letter to MCC to identify community priorities for funding. This will now have to be delayed until the new MCC is in place.

3. The new MCDC board elected the MCTC board. Jane Stuart – Smith stood down as MCTC director. Angus and Lesley were happy to remain and Susan joined.

Angus Robertson – Jane proposed, Jennie seconded  
Lesley Jones – Sarah proposed, Jennie seconded  
Susan – Jane proposed, Sarah seconded

#### **4. Projects Update**

With new directors joining the board it was agreed that projects will be split between individual members of the board, to be agreed at a later stage.

**Community Business Hub** – have 100% of funding but awaiting offer from the largest funder, delays as this offer is being done by solicitors involving various parties. In the meantime, hope to tender for enabling works and remove the transformer shortly, awaiting a new quotation from SSE for this.

**Housing** – still looking for grant funding for this project, cannot proceed without 100% funding in place. MCT applied for and Craig Sellar Trust also looking at options.

**Morvern Eco Wheels** – the car club is going well, several people became members and are hiring the car. MCDC received a parking ticket; this was during the time when the

car was hired out. As the car was being charged at the time, the person is disputing the charge with the relevant authorities.

It was discussed whether to leave Corran ferry tickets in the car for people to use. Susan was considering using the electric car for picking people up for Christmas dinners. There has also been an offer to take people to Dal Mhor for regular haircuts.

**Hydro** – a sub – group was set up consisting of Angus, Sarah, Nick and Lilia. This group meets on a regular basis to work on the project and report to the rest of the board at regular intervals or as often as required for major decisions. MCDC still have some money left in CARES loan. There is an opportunity to borrow another £100K from CARES under a different scheme to carry on with schemes detailed development. SEPA and planning submitted. The Highland Council redacted a lot of information from various supporting documentation and surveys on the planning portal. Lilia to make a note on [www.morvern.org](http://www.morvern.org) under the Hydro project about this and offer to send full documentation to those interested. Still quite a lot of work to be done on this project, wayleaves for grid connection to be agreed and finalised with land owners; the group also started looking at various options for financing the scheme including community share offer.

An email received from Iain Thornber asking about benefits of the scheme to the community. Jane and subgroup to respond. The next phase of this project is – up to financial close and the construction. A lot of work to be done to reach the financial close and the timescales are very tight. We have a quote from Glen Hydro for the next stage of work.

**Lochaline Harbour** – Rhian Evans joined the team after Fiona left. The board thanked Fiona for all her hard work for the harbour for the last 5 years.

**Lochaline Filling Station** – a discussion took during the AGM about a “rainy day” fund for petrol pumps. MCDC have been putting half of the petrol pumps rent into a savings account. This account has just over £12K in it. A discussion took place on whether the full amount of rent should be put in the savings account and how much money the company should have in the savings account in case of pumps breakdown. Although no firm decisions have been made on this, an amount of £25-30K felt quite comfortable. The board will continue discussions on this.

## 5. AOB –

**MCDC Risk Register** – Jane and Lilia need to carry on with work on this

**Caravan Park idea** – John Hodgson has been leading on this while on MCDC board. John had a meeting with Ardtornish who seem positive about the idea. John will carry on with this as member of MCDC and report to the board with progress.

**Mine museum** – the feasibility is complete. The next stage of the project needs to be developed. MCDC are supportive of the project and would like to see it realised. There is a question however about MCDC’s capacity to take this on with current major capital projects on the go.

**Development Officer funding** – HIE looking at funding a further 2 years of this, Angus and Lilia to meet and provide HIE with necessary information for this.

**MIT EDP** – MCDC’s development officer has been successful in securing a place on an executing entrepreneurship development programme in Boston, USA. HIE are funding 70% of the costs and MCDC are to find the remainder. This is a great opportunity for the development officer, the company and the community who would be the ultimate benefactors from this programme. Jane will look into applying to MCT and Ardtornish Hydro Fund and MCDC will be contributing out of their own funds too.

**Achnaha Wood** – Alasdair updated the board on this. MCW now have a draft management plan. The plan is to put up a small shed, improve drainage and paths.

**Killundine** – Alasdair updated the board on this. MCW registered an interest in Killundine with the Scottish Ministers. The confirmation of validity of this request is expected by 26.12.2018 Looks like the estate will be on the market in the new year. A subgroup has been formed to work on this project and are looking into a feasibility study.

**CAOLAS** - Alasdair updated the board on this. The group are looking for funding for a community engagement coordinator for 2 years.

DRAFT