

# MORVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft minutes of meeting held at Lochaline Village Hall on Monday 5th August 2019 at 7.30pm

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**Present:** Martin Sampson (Chair), Alasdair Firth (Secretary), Sally Semple (Treasurer), PC Kevin Swift and 3 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr Andrew Baxter, Iain Thornber, Community Cllr

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Approval to be carried forward to next meeting as this one is not quorate.

**3. Matters Arising.**

**Appointment of Minutes Secretary.** Ongoing.

**Co-options to MCC.** Two members of the public attended the meeting and expressed interest in becoming community councillors, a third had expressed an interest by word of mouth. There are two places available for co-option until the council wraps up in October/November for new elections. It was proposed that the two members attending be co-opted for until the council disbands for the elections.

**MCC representatives on MCDC.** MS had spoken to MCDC chair and Dot Fergusson. He is of the opinion that the nomination stands, and as such the nominated councillors are directors of MCDC until the new MCC appoint directors following the elections in November.

**Finance.** The AGM approved the accounts submitted by SS. Our gratitude to Teresa, our past treasurer were expressed.

**Proposed Joint Community Strategy Plan for MCT, MCDC, MCC.** MS explained that Dot Fergusson had passed on the details of the Fort Augustus and Ballachulish communities that had been through the process. Both had used outside consultants to carry out community consultations, and had reported to a steering group. Both bodies had expressed the importance that everyone in the community has the opportunity to have their say. A meeting is to be set up with MCDC, MCT, and MCC in the near future as an initial step.

**Roads.** There is still concern about the speed of traffic through the village. KS offered to see again if there was anything he could do to help with speed advisory signs. The council in general supported the extension of the speed limit to the Kiel road ends on the B849 and at the main entrance on the A884.

**4. Finance:** under Matters Arising

**5. Daill Mhor:** SS updated the meeting as to the latest thinking on Daill Mhor.

- It is to be open for respite and day care only.
- It will take people from across Lochaber.
- 5 beds at the moment, a 6<sup>th</sup> in September.
- No plans for long term admittance.
- Currently exploring working with Highland Hospice.
- Looking to set up a constituted organisation to represent the people of the area.
- There are plans for an open day in October.

**6. Highland Councillor Report:** As apologies

**7. Police Report.** KS briefed the meeting that drunk driving is still an issue across Lochaber.

While he and Angie can still take calls, he encouraged the public to report issues through the 101 number.

A couple of issues were raised ref a potentially abandoned car at the Wishing Stone, and also a burned out tent at the same location.

KS advised reporting it to 101 and reporting the refuse to the Highland Council via their web site.

**8. Planning Items:** AF updated the meeting on the council's comments ref the application to install a smart meter mast near the telephone exchange (19/02073/TPNO). MCC objected to the application in June. MCC received information that the application has been decided "no prior approval required" on 30<sup>th</sup> July. AF will write to planning to question this decision.

There was also a renewal application for the construction a house at Rowan Bank. The council raised no objections.

**9. Correspondence.** A letter was received from a concerned Lochaline resident via the MCDC, referring to the overgrown state of the village surroundings, and seeking that something should be done about it.

After discussion it was decided to hold a "drop in session" before the next meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, so that the council could collate information for both the village surroundings and also the paths etc over the wider area, before contacting the land owners. Sally volunteered to run the meeting starting at 3.00pm.

**10. MCDC.** As above

**11. Items from Councillors:** Killundine estate: potential community purchase. Consultants have completed the initial appraisal and concluded that "the community ownership of Killundine estate is a viable option that could generate significant economic, environmental and social benefits for the Morvern community for at least the next generation". More detailed plans are to be worked up as the bid is developed. Further consultation to take place October- November.

Kate Forbes MSP surgeries in Lochaline & Drimnin on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Morvern Community Woodlands hold their AGM on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.

**12. Items from members of the public:** One member of the public highlighted the fragility of healthcare provision in rural areas and explained that the council should be actively looking forward to ensure that provision for Morvern residents is resilient. The council was grateful for raising this and agreed to make it a regular agenda item, and would welcome comment and positive contribution from all, in order to map a way forward.

**13. AOB.**

**14. Date of Next Meeting. 7.00pm on 2nd September, Lochaline Village Hall.**