

Morvern Community Council Notes October 5th 2020 held by ZOOM

Email: Morverncc@gmail.com

Present: Councillors: Martin Sampson, Annie Tordoff, Alasdair Firth, Angus Robertson (chair), Morven Gemmill.

RSPB representatives: Duncan Orr-Ewing (D OE), Andy Robinson, Izzy Baker, Lizzie Richards (NatureScot).

Peter Lawson (chair Morvern deer management group), John Jones (Sunart CC), Dean Martin (Sunart CC) Neil Roberts.

Apologies: Kenny McLaughlin, Andrew Baxter, PC Angie Campbell.

1. AR welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Minutes (agreed by email circulation). Noted that Martin Sampson was present at the last meeting which was not minuted. Also that Peter Lawson had attended a previous meeting representing MDMG. Matters arising:
 - Full update on the new broadband system provided by BT via Openreach to MCC.
 - Upgrade Project fully planned
 - Licences and frequencies all approved by Ofcom
 - Steelworks planned and built and in place at 2 out of the 3 required locations. Steelwork for the 3rd location (Oban) now in Motherwell ready to be taken to site
 - Power racks are installed at Torosay and Morvern with additional racks (resilience) in Motherwell to be taken to site with the dishes for installation
 - A shipment of required indoor/outdoor units have been delivered to Adastral park today and will be checked and programmed for each site in preparation for shipment to site along with the dishes
 - All 4 Dishes have been received and delivered to Motherwell now. We are now pushing for an installation date
 - A live system is looking more like the end of October
 - Succession planning for Dr Taylor - there will be a meeting with the community - date to be arranged. Action AT
3. RSPB - Proposal for management of Glencripesdale nature reserve (joint discussion with Sunart Community Council). D OE led the discussion about the plans for disposal of the land. Following due process, Nature Scotland (NS) would welcome interest by any community group or other body who wishes to own or manage the land. RSPB is simultaneously developing a proposal to own and manage the land. If RSPB were unsuccessful, options for NS also include selling the land on the open market. RSPB approach to public access was discussed and will be compliant with Scottish Outdoor access code. The core path through the site would continue to be in situ and would be promoted as part of RSPB's range of reserves with challenging access across Scotland. The RSPB sister site of Glenborrodale would promote the site locally as well. Employment - RSPB confirmed they are committed to generating local employment. If RSPB's Morvern LIFE bid is successful then 8 jobs are planned, if not successful the purchase of the reserve will lead to an increase in employment in the area from the current 1 warden at their Glenborrodale reserve to two positions; a reserve manager and warden shared between the Glenborrodale and Glencripesdale reserves. PL from

Morvern Deer Management Group asked about RSPB's plans for deer management and their attitude towards fencing to allow two different estate culling policies to live side by side. D OR committed to good deer management and collaboration with the local deer management group and neighbouring landowners, particularly with regard to culling policy and fencing requirements. All agreed this would require further discussion. Sunart CC asked about the timeframe for disposal of the site. Lizzie Richards (NS) stated that, if a community wished to purchase the property, they would have something like 6 months to complete the process. There was some confusion about when the six-month period starts. Lizzie Richards (NS) agreed to write to the communities confirming the position. RSPB confirmed that they could be interested in managing the land if it were owned by the community/other body. Another proposed option supported by RSPB was to have community reps on a local reserve management committee John Jones and Angus Robertson (community council reps) agreed that further discussion, to agree a joint policy between 2 community councils, will be arranged.

4. Planning applications

- a. 00008866 - GreenSea Solutions Ltd - Marine Farm - Loch Sunart, Lochaber - Consultation (eastern shore of Oronsay). AF discussed the consultation process (disrupted due to COVID) and has discussed with CAOLAS. Noted that MCC and CAOLAS have not seen a survey which would be helpful to know what is on the seabed in that area, particularly in relation to positioning of moorings. AR has spoken to the developer and been assured that a full restoration agreement is in place if the venture was unsuccessful. Important to have confirmation that a bond or alternative security is in place for this. Discussion held about wider marine impact and future business development and use of bonds. AR proposed that MCC offer to facilitate a separate 'Q&A' meeting with the developer, Caolas and any other interested parties - AR to contact Annabel Lawrence to arrange (questions to be compiled beforehand).
- b. Ref Number [20/03414/FUL](#) Application Type Full Application Validation Date 08/09/2020 Grid Reference 156731 753449. Description of Works Erection of house. Location of Works Land 110M NW Of The Cottage. Drimnin, Hardstanding has been there for some time - MCC has not received any comments and had no objections to the application.

Meeting noted that planning applications alerts can be done by a new system - all agreed that it would be good to sign up to the new system.

5. Police update

Covid - With the positive cases increasing across the country please continue to adhere to the guidelines that are currently in place. These are being reviewed on a daily basis and are subject to change locally. Should you be going abroad please make sure you are aware of any restrictions you may face upon returning to this country depending where you have been on holiday.

Halloween - due to covid the local children may not be able to do the usual guising. We have sent a poster to all the primary schools along with some Halloween items as part of a competition for the children to design face masks. We will be handing out some treats and choosing winners in due course.

PC Joan MacIver - Joan is now in post and has been enjoying her new role, she has been around most places introducing herself to folk and I know you will all make her feel welcome.

If you have anything for us please do not hesitate to get in touch with Joan or Angie

6. MCDC Update- process of sharing of minutes/actions discussed. MG/AF will suggest to MCDC that their minutes are approved rapidly after the meeting electronically and meetings are scheduled within the week before MCC meeting which would allow reps to bring recent minutes to MCC or alternatively MCC moves their meeting to dovetail with MCDC. MCC will also suggest to MCDC that they publish monthly updates in DtD or have a joint MORVERN component with MCC to share the cost of publishing in DtD. AR to make an application to the HC contingency fund for costs of publishing.
7. Resilience Update -
 - a. Need more volunteers for the phone line if anyone can please spare a couple of hours each week it would be great. Very few calls have been received.
 - b. Resilience funds will be retained until the end of March. MCC resilience group have funded tables in primary school and contributed to AHS outside tables to enable safe distancing for school children. Sanitisers have been replenished (thanks to George) and more sanitiser has been ordered.
 - c. Test and Trace Information from NHS Highland received via Kate Forbes office -

“Testing for COVID in Fort William is available to book **VIA NHS INFORM** for people with symptoms through the mobile unit which is run by Scottish Ambulance Service and currently visits the town on Tuesdays and Fridays, 11am – 3pm.

The availability of mobile units in future weeks may vary depending on potential outbreaks and the need for tests across NHS Highland and Scotland as a whole. In addition, there is the COVID Assessment Centre where people can be tested following clinical referral. There are no plans for a permanent drive through testing facility in Fort William, but we keep testing arrangements and locations under regular review.”

Killlindine update -

- difficulty in becoming a charity due to slow, OSCR (covid related) turnaround.
 - There are several TV and paper publicising opportunities likely to happen w/c 5th October
 - Ballot will be taking place mid-October
 - There has been interest in green/carbon investors but this may not comply with Scottish Land Fund criteria
8. Community Plan- AR has undertaken to apply to a particular identified fund for the work. Expression of interest agreed by MCDC and MCT. Agreed to advertise work following submission to the fund
 9. Village tidy- EOI prepared by MG and needs maps inserting into the document. MG, AR and KM to meet next week to finalise. Ardtornish have kindly offered to help with this.
 10. Holiday lets consultation published on facebook and all are encouraged to respond
 11. Litter at the old post office yard discussed. Current position of the recycling bins is temporary. MG to pursue a permanent site.
 12. Crown estate funding discussed, following MCC letter. Councillors noted their disappointment that Highland Council have not followed Scottish Government advice in distributing the funds but also wanted to thank Andrew Baxter for pursuing the matter.