

Morvern Community Council

Minutes of the AGM held on Monday November 2nd, 2020 at 7pm by Zoom

Councillors Present: Alasdair Firth (AF), Kenny McLaughlin (KM), Annie Tordoff (AT), Angus Robertson (AR) (chair), Martin Sampson (MS). Apologies: Morven Gemmell (MG)

Members of the public: Peter Lawson, Sally Semple, Nick Tordoff, Miles Welsh.

1) Record of Community Council membership present, apologies received and any declarations of interests.

AR welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that we are quorate. No declarations of interest noted.

2) Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL

This being the first AGM of the present Council there were no previous AGM minutes to approve. However, three councillors from the previous council were present so we discussed that AGM and approved their minute in so far as we could.

3) Chairperson's Annual Report (and questions from the floor).

AR outlined that the current council was formed under the supervision of Highland Council member Andrew Baxter and held its first meeting on the 2nd December 2019. Morven Gemmell was elected to the chair, Annie Tordoff appointed temporarily as secretary and Angus Robertson took the role of treasurer. AR noted that in the light of COVID MCC quickly formed the resilience group who have met as required and been effective at providing community support as needed. The Council has worked closely with MCDG, who secured and managed Scottish Government resilience funding through HIE. A joint report outlining our past and future spending was produced for HIE. AR expressed thanks to everyone for their contributions. MCC have made progress with BT through improved contact with them and await the new promised infrastructure to improve broadband to the area. The community plan is under development. AR noted that we have been slower at tidying up the village due to COVID and thanked volunteers who have helped to keep the village tidy. In June MG resigned from her role as chair and AR was elected to replace her in this position. KM is in the process of taking over the treasurer's role. AR noted the result, announced on Friday 30th October, of the community ballot on Morvern Community Woodland (MCW)'s proposed purchase of Killundine Estate which recorded 103 in favour and 143 against with over 70% turnout. AF had made available MCW's full process and background of the project to MCC councillors and this was on the agenda for the ordinary meeting to follow the AGM. AR noted that such a significant result risked creating tension within the community and MCC had an important role to play in helping the community to build bridges and move forward. In the end local democracy has been the clear winner here and that is exactly as it should be. AR, on behalf of the council, acknowledged the massive voluntary effort by so many MCW members and project supporters who would be disappointed by the result. He particularly thanked MCW for their determination to organise, follow through, and accept the results of the community ballot in extremely difficult circumstances and while under significant pressure to carry on without a community ballot. This is a clear sign that the community had demonstrated considerable strengths in this process and, while there may be some healing to be done, we should all be proud of this.

- 4) **Treasurer's submission of the Financial Statement duly independently examined and certified correct (and questions from the floor).**

The independently certified financial statement for the year to 31st March 2020 was presented to the meeting. The treasurer provided some detail on the value of the opening and closing bank balances for each of our two bank accounts to those present who had not seen the report. The council agreed to pay the independent examiners fee for the year and to thank her for her efforts

- 5) **Formal adoption of the Financial Statement (should be proposed and seconded) and signed by Office bearers.**

Accounts proposed by Kenny McLaughlin and seconded by Annie Tordoff. AR signed the accounts in preparation for forwarding to Highland Council.

- 6) **Demit of current office bearers and election of office bearers. (The Community Council may, at any time, vote to make changes to their office bearers.)**

The Council agreed that the current office bearers should remain in post for the time being.

AF felt that as chair of MCW it would be in the best interests of MCC for him to resign. AR thanked AF for all his hard work and his resignation was accepted. MS stated that he wished to resign as a councillor. Discussion was held around staying on for a limited period and MS agreed to resign from the council at the end of tonight's meetings thus making this meeting quorate. AR thanked Martin for all his work and his resignation was accepted.

MCC representation on MCDC board. MCC can nominate up to 2 x MCC councillors to the board of MCDC at their AGM. AF has resigned from MCDC and MCC. Councillors agreed that MG and KM will be our nominations as MCC directors on the board of MCDC for the coming year. AT will write to MCDC accordingly.

MCC agreed to take advice from Highland Council and then advertise and seek expressions of interest from members of the community for co-options to the council and also youth membership.

- 7) **Chairperson to declare provisional date of next annual general meeting and close meeting. 5th July 2021 7pm.**

Above minutes were approved at our AGM on the 14th June 2021

Signed:



Angus Robertson (Chair)