

Morvern Community Council (MCC) meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7pm, via Zoom.

Present MCC representatives: Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Miles Welsh (MW), Terra Grier (TG), Helen Jones (HJ), Clara Montgomery (CM), Jenni Hodgson (JH)

Apologies from: Douglas Taylor

Meeting is quorate

Members of the public: 4

No declarations of interest.

1. Welcome

2. AOB requests – forestry

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Proposed by JH, seconded by HL

- a. Some access and updating of the MCC page on the website is now possible: able to add minutes and accounts. Would be good to be able to add other items, e.g. agenda, info about MCC, zoom dates/links in future. **Action: HL** will raise this with MCDC. **Action: JH** to forward accounts to MW, who will have them put onto the MCC page.
- b. Local Place Plan - consultation process now live, with a range of engagement meetings scheduled for the next two weeks. Posted on FB and around the village. We encourage everyone to give their feedback and you can choose which elements you want to focus on. **Action HJ/TG:** encourage young people to come and give their opinions. Results will go to Highland Council (HC) early 2025.
- c. School update: -
Childcare update: last week HL met with HC and spoke about the community running a pilot using the school/nursery facility to also provide childcare. We do have the facilities. Would there be sufficient demand locally? **Action: HL** to put a note on FB to see if there is any interest in this in LA.
- d. Street lights – HC are happy to mask the rear of streetlights to limit shining in homes, but we need to show evidence that it is wanted. CM has not yet found out how much evidence is needed (i.e. just people involved or others in the village as well?) **Action: HL** to find someone to cover door-to-door in Torr na Faire. **Morven** to do the main road/St Kilda. **CM** to do Kirk Brae.
- e. Public transport costs and logistics: CM not written letter yet. Ongoing.
- f. Roads, potholes, missing passing place signs, dropped pavement Torr Na Faire. No response back from HC yet. **Action: HL** to remind them again.
- g. Fouling/Wishing Stone bin proposal – HC/FLS think a bin would encourage fly-tipping and worse fouling. **Action: CM** to contact HC and propose a 1-year pilot scheme with a bin to see if it solves the problem. **Action: CM** to ask HC if we can have a sign: “Please take your rubbish home”.

h. Care Homes – Dail Mhor update meeting with MSP postponed until December. Dail Mhor staff recruitment deadline extended to 29th November, so the next update will be at the January 2025 meeting. Some local interest, but please encourage people to apply. Mary Lindsay and JH are happy to talk about the jobs.

Save Moss Park petition now closed after intervention by NHS Highland.

i. GP Surgery survey now closed - results being processed in consultation with surgery manager Theresa Bolton and to be announced at January 2025 MCC meeting. **Action: HL** to schedule a meeting with TB.

j. Local recycling initiative. CLAM is interested in local compost generation using a fast composter (e.g. 'Rocket' composter, like on Ardtornish), with the compost produced to be available for locals to use. Unit probably on CLAM allotments site. HL has contacted Rocket for more info, but they first need to know how much interest there would be in the village. All agree that it is okay to do short online survey to gauge community interest. **Action: HL** to create a mini-survey.

k. Request for additional council members to be co-opted. Plea to all: please encourage others to join MCC.

l. Morvern Deer Management Group meeting. CM attended. Main issue discussed is wildlife mink eradication project in Morvern, night shooting and access/deer gates have been left open on hillsides, causing deer damage to nature regeneration projects. Reminder to all to please close deer gates again if they were closed when you approached.

m. Clearing of shrubs around village: Ardtornish not come back yet about this with a plan to consult the community. Talks ongoing with FLS **Action: CM** to contact William. **HL** to contact FLS.

n. Gates to the beach: several people have communicated to MCC about fact that gates were locked, which had been done at MCC's request to stop fouling. If the community feels differently please communicate your ideas to MCC.

4. **Youth's update** re bus linking up to Saturday bus to FW.

HL has spoken to Morvern on the Move, who are willing to consider this. Still waiting to hear how much an on-demand service would cost. Passengers would need to sign up by Thursday if they want a bus. Not clear if young people use their Young Scots card on this service. Suggestion: Could we use the Urram car? (For driver and 4 people. Easier to get volunteer drivers, as no special driving licence needed).

Action: HL to speak to Tracy Cameron from Urram Transport and discuss a pilot from January 2025.

Need to find someone who is willing to organise this, i.e. requests coming in and getting volunteer drivers. **Action: HL** to put out a request for an organiser after she's spoken to Tracy.

5. **Lochaber Redesign Project** (new Belford/Dail Mhor) see also above – Not a lot to report. All the discussion was surrounding Moss Park. JH can make the minutes available to anyone who requests.
6. **Housing:** Still no planning permission for MCDC housing. MCDC had a meeting with Brendan O’Hara, who was shocked that we still didn’t have it. We can use a letter that was written to MSP Arianne Burgess, adapt it and send it to Brendan O’Hara. Planning had been requested in August 2023, additional info submitted in spring 2024, but still waiting. HC questioned the need for housing in Morvern! **Action: HL** will send a letter to Brendan and speak to MCDC to ask if there’s anything we can do to help.
7. **Planning applications** – Nothing of relevance in the last three submissions.
8. **MCDC Update** –AGM was held last week and a new Board has been formed, with Susan Taylor joining as new director, JSS and SF standing down, KL had been co-opted but now elected. Nothing else to report.
9. **Treasurer’s Report** – JH: Common Good Fund has paid for the grass cutting for the year: £6785, which leaves £765,96 in CGF. Put an application into MCT for £6K to cover some of that. Current account: paid Village Hall, £1769 pounds in current account. Bank of Scotland has notified that they are moving away from treasurer’s accounts, which means both our accounts are going to attract a monthly charge plus transaction charge. Suggestion: changing to Co-op? Ethical bank and helpful. Alternative: merging two accounts so we limit the charges. **Action: JH** to get info from Co-op about options. **Action: JH** to give HL a copy of the bank letter. **Action: HL** to write to elected councillor and M(S)P re this.
10. Other correspondence –
 - a. Highland Local Transport Strategy (LTS): Draft proposals will be published next week -details of how to give feedback will be announced. Might be significant for us. **Action: MW** to look at whether we should respond individually or as MCC.
 - b. Assistance for fuel costs may be available via Allenergy’s Fuel Poverty initiative ... includes oil and LPG fuels. Tel : 01631 565183, Email : enquiries@alienergy.org.uk Not just for people on benefits. All agree that this information should be added to the MCC webpage. **Action: MW** to add to MCC page and LA FB page, with a bit of information about their credentials, to let people know this is a genuine company.

AOB:

11. **Forestry:** Minty has emailed Forestry to enquire about their excavations at the quarry site above Savary. She has asked them to inform the community of their plans and when any blasting will happen. Minty will inform MCC when she has an answer.
12. **Live Life Morvern review:** MCC/MCTC/MCT have started to revisit the original milestones to assess how we are doing. Aim: to share progress and make people feel that items from documents are being realised.
13. **Newsletter:** Feedback re quarterly MCDC newsletter has been very positive. Suggestion: Should there be a more regular Morvern newsletter to people so people don’t have to rely on Facebook? Created by all organisations together, not just MCC. All in agreement. Practical considerations: mailing list needed

for people who would like a paper copy, consider the cost involved (use notice board instead of paper copies?) and who will compile it? **Action: HL** to discuss with MCDC & new Operations Manager.

14. **Morvern Cookbook2:** community members have brought up the idea of creating another Morvern cookbook to raise funds for local initiatives. Might be a good time to do something like that again?

Date of next meeting:

December 10th 2024 (Lochaline Village Hall) **Action: HL** to buy some mulled wine and mince pies.

Upcoming Meeting dates: All agree that MCC meetings will be every second Tuesday of the month, with no meetings taking place in May and July 2025. AGM 10th June 2025. January and November will be via Zoom again. August in Drimnin Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

2025 meeting dates

Jan 14 (zoom)

Feb 11

March 11

April 8

June 10 AGM

August 12 (Drimnin)

Sep 9

Oct 14

Nov 11 zoom

Dec 9