

## Morvern Community Council (MCC) meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm, Village Hall

Present MCC representatives: Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Jenni Hodgson, Miles Welsh (MW), Helen Jones (HJ), Douglas Taylor (DT)

Apologies from: Clara Montgomery, Terra Grier

Meeting is quorate

Members of the public: 2 + Cllr Andrew Baxter (AB)

No declarations of interest.

1. Welcome. No AOB requests.
2. Minutes of last meeting were approved by email.
3. Local Place Plan: has not been submitted yet, as Highland Council (HC) has made changes in how plan needs to be submitted. Planning Aid Scotland are currently adjusting the presentation to meet the new criteria.
4. Tourist Levy: HL has been working on the reply on behalf of MCC, based on feedback from last meeting. HL has also registered a complaint with HC regarding the inaccessibility of the feedback process, which could put people off giving feedback. HL will submit MCC's reply before the deadline.
5. Roads: HL has sent another email to HC regarding the state of our roads, but is wondering where HC log our correspondence as they continue to send no replies. Current issues include:
  - B849 (Drimnin Road) is in such bad state that it's a matter of time before someone has an accident (e.g. mobility scooter or cyclist), particularly between Hyggja Myl and Sruthan. New big potholes have appeared at Savary (near Saw Mill) and outside Rhemore.
  - Potholes at the turn off to Lochaline stores are making the road inaccessible to wheelchair users.
  - Top road Torr na Faire: potholes and dropped pavements.
  - Long standing issue of lack of passing place signs on the A884.
  - Speed limits through village (last observation: 38m/h in 20m/h zone, people rushing to catch ferry) and extending 20m/h zone to Kiel. Action: HL to contact police as well and ask what speed calming methods are available and possibility of extra monitoring when Craignure ferry is off, which causes additional traffic on Lochaline-Fishnish ferry.
  - Low road to Ardtornish is still not accessible to mobility scooters. **Action: HL** to write to Ardtornish.AB has forwarded our concerns to Kristen McCleod, Roads Operation Manager at HC, asking her to action these. HL would like a list of key contacts at HC, so we can send our concerns to the correct people.
6. Surgery update: HL has met with Teresa and is writing up a report of the outcomes, which will be shared with the community.
7. Village tidying:
  - a. Ardtornish: **Action: HL** to contact Ardtornish, as the trees between High Street and Kyle urgently need to be done before nesting (mid-March).
  - b. MCDC: Hazelwoods, MCDC has done initial plan and will be meeting between MCDC, MCC and NatureScot, to make sure it provides balance between nature conservation and residents' wishes. Operations manager is preparing a letter to the residents involved. As it will be nesting time shortly, the plan will not be acted on this year, but should be ready to be done in winter 2025.
  - c. FLS: Small areas by allotment, between old/new road and Morvern Crescent, and larger plot between Hazelwoods and hotel. FLS have agreed that they are happy for MCDC to take over the smaller areas and they are aware that MCDC might ask for a community buy out of the larger plot. MCDC's plan for Hazelwood will include the maintenance this larger plot as well, with FLS's approval. Hazelwood plan will also include the small area in front of mine trail (owned by Ardtornish), which HL will discuss with Ardtornish.
  - d. Land in front of Morvern Crescent is very overgrown, but ownership is unclear. **Action: MW** to create a basic map to indicate which piece of land it is. **Action: HL** to try and find out who owns it.
  - e. Meeting in April to be village tidy: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April. 10am meet up at Social Club. **Action: HL** to contact Liam McClann, Waste Services Manager South at HC regarding litter pickers, bins/bags,

high-vis vests and collection of the waste from in front of the public toilets the following Thursday. **Action: DT** to create advert for it. Prize for the one who picks the most litter.

8. Care Homes: No updates. Still looking for options to reopen Dail Mhor as a day centre. New area manager for Lochaber has met with Urram and other parties about this.
9. Planning applications: Nothing, except a few windows for a house in Drimnin.  
HL had email from resident re our response to the planning application from Ardtornish. HL has shared MCC's response with them: MCC are happy to see land being made available for housing, but concerned that the size of plots would be unaffordable for locals.  
No planning applications from SSF about Fiunary fish farm expansion. **Action: HL** to send a letter to Anna Anderson from SSF to find out about their progress.
10. MCDC Update: Not been successful in finding café manager, so for immediate future only opening on Saturdays, run by community volunteers, while MCDC try to fill the position. Housing project is moving forward and will soon be submitting for building warrant.
11. Treasurer's Report: general fund £1557,50, common good fund £2996,80. No correspondence from MCT regarding money needed for next year's verge cutting. **Action: HL** to chase MCT (with cc to JH).
12. Other correspondence: -
13. AOB: -

Meeting closed at 19.53

**Next meetings:**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> (incl. village tidy)**

**May 13**

**June 10**

**August 12 (Drimnin)**

**Sep 9**

**Oct 14**

**Nov 11 zoom**

**Dec 9**