

**Morvern Community Council (MCC) meeting held on Tuesday 13th May 2025 at 7pm,
Lochaline Village Hall**

Present MCC representatives: Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Clara Montgomery (CM), Rob Capell (RC), Douglas Taylor (DT), Jenni Hodgson (JH), Miles Welsh (MW)

Apologies from: Helen Jones, Terra Grier

Meeting is quorate

Members of the public: 4 + Cllr Andrew Baxter (AB), Sam Firth (Morvern Community Woodlands), Annabel Lawrence (CAOLAS), Henry Dobson (land manager Ardtornish).

1. Welcome, apologies. Declarations of interest: CM is Ardtornish employee and trustee of (MCW).
2. AOB requests: new cattle grid on A884 (see point 8g), snorkel trail at Hotel beach.
3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising: brief meeting in April, minutes were approved online.
4. West Pier update from Iggesund: postponed, due to no Iggesund representative present.
5. Mailing list for residents: HL will bring this up again at next MCDC meeting (perhaps look into developing the Live Life Morvern mailing list to inform residents of local activities?).
6. Woodland Crofts letter of support: MCW are starting Community Asset Transfer application, followed by Scottish Land Fund application and are asking MCC for letter of support for the woodland crofts. Local Place Plan showed support for the woodlands crofts and all in agreement. **Action: HL** to draft a letter. **Action: Sam Firth** to ask Alasdair for a map of the proposed crofts to go with minutes.
7. Surgery survey feedback: Generally, people were positive about the changes. Only 1 negative reply, expressing concerns around the use of telephone consultations and continuation of care. Surgery has given some statistics, comparing GP availability/use in 2021 and 2024. Surgery is used more now and people appreciate having different doctors to choose from.
8. Local composting ideas and survey: CLAM is looking into acquiring a hot composter (suitable for all food waste, incl. meat) for community use, hosted at the allotments. HL has spoken to Lesley Hawkins at Lochaber Environment Group (LEG) who recommended starting with a survey to find out what interest there is in the community. (LEG also has small wooden compost bins available for those who don't want to take their food waste elsewhere). MCDC are willing to support a composting initiative in the area and all present are happy for MCDC to take this forward.
9. Roads: some potholes have been filled.
 - a. Potholes Haul Road intersection: no improvements.
 - b. Passing place signs: some new signs have been put up, but not on every passing place.
 - c. Low road to Ardtornish obstructions: been solved. No further complaints received.

- d. Dropped pavement Torr Na Faire: no improvements
 - e. Drimnin Road: AB reports that Highland Council (HC) has budget for road repairs and Drimnin is on the list. Request: can HC consult with community before they work on the Drimnin Road, so the community can indicate which areas have priority? AB will speak to department at HC and pass on this request.
 - f. Kirk Brae road surface now also in need of repair.
 - g. New cattle grid on A884 is looking too narrow. MW measured it 3.3m across, nearest one to us is 3.475m. Henry Dobson (land manager Ardtornish) reports that this is still getting ironed out and that gate has a way to let extra-large machinery through.
10. Village tidying:
- a. Verge cutting contract has been awarded. We have asked verge cutters not to cut the cuckoo-flowers in certain places for the moment. Proposal to get some signs made, asking residents to “keep this area to protect flowers/butterflies, between xx and xx time”.
 - b. Consultation with local residents re shrubbery: Ardtornish will sort out the overgrown area by Kyle. **Action: HL** and Suzanne Pender to go speak to residents near Hazelwoods personally.
11. Care homes – Dail Mhor update: Urram is still committed to idea of getting the building open and used as community hub. Working with HC on this. Expression of interest for Community Asset Transfer going in.
12. Two planning applications: forestry road and MCDC housing project (consultation on 27th May): 14 houses plus infrastructure, to be realised in 2 phases (8 plus infrastructure at first, followed by another 6).
13. MCDC update: land at the marina is now in community ownership. Harbour has had an open day, showing the sauna and new covered area. MCDC now bi-monthly meetings so no further news this month.
14. Treasurer’s Report: xmas tree is now paid for. **Action: JH** to move bank account to Co-op, because of charges. General fund has £1325 balance and common good fund £8984.05 (incl. £6K received from MCT for grass cutting last year). **Action: HL** to write to MP re “community account” charging community groups for having the account. **Action: JH** to get accounts to accountant for AGM next month.
15. No other correspondence.
16. AOB:
- a. Lochaline Hotel beach is part of Scottish Wildlife Trust’s Snorkel Trails (<https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/snorkel-trails>), but access is currently difficult so SWT have contacted CAOLAS to let them know they are considering taking it off the list. Discussion was had regarding improving pedestrian access and promoting the beach and snorkel trail. **Action: Henry** (Ardtornish) to look at improving access to beach. **Action: HL** to speak to mine re filling in dip in path. **Action: Annabel** (CAOLAS) to communicate to

SWT that we are planning a sign promoting the trail. (Perhaps they could provide one?). We also need to speak to Iggesund regarding the state of beach, which impacts on the safety of the Snorkel Trail. Annabel Lawrence expresses disappointment that Iggesund didn't attend today's meeting.

- b. CAOLAS have put 14 temperature loggers at Hotel beach, as part of Atlantic Basin climate change data project (www.coastalwarming.com).

Meeting closed at 20.10.

Next meeting is 10th June, incl. AGM