

Morvern Community Council meeting 12th August 2025, Drimnin Village Hall 7pm

Present: Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Rob Capell (RC), Jenni Hodgson (JH), Miles Welsh (MW), Douglas Taylor (DT), Becky Jones (BJ)

Apologies: Nick & Hilary, Clara Montgomery, Minty, Bibby

Quorate: yes

Members of public: 8

1. Welcome, no declarations of interest.

2. AOB request: skip

3. Matters arising

- a. West pier: owners of Pier attended last meeting Iggesund. We would like to appoint community member to their steering group to ensure community involvement in future use of the pier. HL also to speak to MCDC re lodging community interest in the pier if Pier does not get repaired/used.
- b. Beach access (at LA Hotel). Ardtornish are considering putting bollard down instead, to allow pedestrian access. Mine has also indicated they are happy to come and help fill in the flooded parts of path.
- c. Telephone box issue: still trying to find out who owns it. Door doesn't shut properly and need to ask heritage society re signage. Audio buttons working again now. (Charging battery 1 day/month) Attic volunteers have taken on some maintenance once a month (will create WhatsApp group).
- d. Corran ferry: HL has written to Highland Council suggesting carers should get priority on ferry in summer, as they have been delayed due to queues, leaving residents without essential care. Highland Council replied they were unable to allow this. **Action: HL** to contact other Community Councils on peninsula, suggesting that we send shared message and include Urram patient transport in this request. All agree for HL to do this.
- e. Japanese knotweed on Drimnin Road update. Highland Council have replied that they will make contractor aware that it's there. **Action: HL** to reply that it needs to be destroyed asap. There is also a lot of invasive skunk cabbage in Lochaline. Suggestion to do a community clean up to get rid of.

- f. Maintenance of land on Kirk Brae: council has moved a fence, leaving an area without maintenance. HL has contacted Highland Council, who are unclear about which department is responsible.
- g. Public toilets by ferry are closed due to pine marten nest in supply cupboard. Have communicated to Highland Council, suggesting solutions. All agree that not having public toilets is a public health hazard. **Action: HL** to write to Highland Council again to say we will close female loos only and make male toilets unisex until pine marten has left, as well as asking Council to confirm they are still going to clean, lock and insure the toilets. Suggestion for long term: **Action: HL** to speak to CalMac to see if they can provide better toilets, seeing as most users are CalMac customers.
- h. Pensioners Christmas lunch: Organising this will be taken on by MCC again. **Action: ST** to send action plan to HL. First Saturday in Dec: 6th Dec 2025. RC volunteers to be a waiter. BJ to be involved with organising it.
- i. Second Highland Convention on the impact of major energy infrastructure: MW attended. Main worry: infrastructure will be imposed on Highland communities without consultation or choice. Call for pause for all major applications until clear national energy policy is in place and an economic impact assessment undertaken. Morvern seen as ideal for windfarms. These were discussed as part of Local Place Plan but need separate consultation. **Action: MW/HL** to speak to MCDG re windfarm consultation.
- j. Recycling of waste: No additional bins delivered yet by Highland Council. New bins will be smaller grey bins for non-recyclable items and food waste. Green bin will take tins, cans, plastic. Blue bin for cardboard, paper. CLAM is also looking into food waste recycling options (e.g. hot composter). LEG has free compost bins available.
- k. Clearing of shrubland Lochaline
 - i. Ardtornish: have promised to start end of this month/early Sept.
 - ii. Hazelwoods: MCDG has woodland management plan now and expects to bring out call to tender for the work identified.

- iii. FLS: Are positive towards community buying the piece of land between Hazelwoods and Hotel and wasteland in front of allotment. **Action: HL** to take this to MCDC.
- I. Roads: still not heard anything back from Highland Council. They have started to add passing place signs. Potholes on Drimnin Rd are apparently top of waiting list, but no action from Highland Council yet. No improvements regarding dropped pavement Torr-na-Faire or state of road on Kirk Brae either.
- 4. Care homes – Dail Mhor update: Urram met with new chief officer for communities at NHS Highland. She will look at formally changing registration and re-establish it as resident support service, which is what we need to get the doors open. No dates yet, but positive reaction.
- 5. Planning applications: forestry roads and extension to cottage at Ardtornish.
- 6. MCDC update: amazing improvements at Marina, so go try out the new facilities, sauna, bar. Hopefully soon more news on the housing project.
- 7. Treasurer's report: Common good fund account now closed and money transferred into general current account, so only 1 set of bank charges. Currently £10466,22 in bank. Highland Council £448,67 annual grant received in July. £4,25 monthly bank charges. HL has sent email re charges to our MP, who suggested contacting the bank.
- 8. AOB: fence, skip
 - a. Community skip: would need 24/7 supervision to ensure no incorrect items go in. Decision made that we can't take that risk. (Council does do large item pick up)
 - b. Fence: Ardtornish deer fence to include greater area of woodland and will now cross the track up to bothy, but will include deer grid to keep access. **HL to attach map.**
 - c. Memorial bench: HL was approached by family who would like to instal bench on land owned by Ardtornish. Grassmen say bench there is feasible and will send quote. (Bench out of recycled plastic, so should last a long time and require little maintenance). Action: HL to ask MCW if they can take on responsibility for bench and ask Grassmen to check bench when they cut the grass.

Work party on 16th at the mine to get plinth finished for memorial bench for Colin Thwaites.

- d. LQS are going to pump water from Allt Achadh Forsa **Action: HL** to send message to LQS asking for community to be informed and get more details.

9. Other correspondence: no

10. Next meeting: 9th September 2025, 7pm Lochaline Village Hall