

Morvern Community Council

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

7:00 PM

Lochaline Village Hall

Meeting Minutes

Present: Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Miles Welsh (MW), Rob Capell (RC), Rebecca Jones (RJ), Rowan Willis (RW)

Apologies: Jenni Hodgson (JH), Tom Frazer (TF), Douglas Taylor (DT),

Minutes by: Rebecca Jones (RJ)

Quorate: Yes

1. Welcome & apologies

2. AOB requests: Cattlegrids, will be covered under Roads

3. Minutes of last meeting were approved:

- a. Maintenance of land in Kirk Brae (HL)
Highland council haven't responded as yet.
ACTION – HL will chase them
- b. Clearing of shrubland in Lochaline
Ardtornish update
George has made a great start on the vegetation management. Ardtornish wants highlight that there is more to do. The cut material at High Street would be fine now to stack and burn, but that George will be tackling the bramble once he has the tool ready for the job. If Tom wishes to tackle that cut material first it will help George tackle the bramble. Henry Dobson is happy for people to get in contact with him directly with any queries or comments on how the work is progressing.
- c. Roads (RC)
RC stated that the new cattle grid has as yet not been fixed,
ACTION– HL will contact Ardtornish regarding the cattlegrid
- d. Corran Ferry (TF)
No further updates, see regular updates on facebook from the Highland Council.
- e. Village Verge Maintenance and invitation to MCT
MCT has been sent a formal invitation for them to attend an MCC meeting or to set up their own public meeting in response to the request at last months announcement. At this point there has been no reply regarding this request from MCT.

HL has been in contact with MCDC to see if they can help resolve the deficit of approx. £5000 needed to carry out the verge cutting. MCDC is looking into this, however with the focus on the new build it is not clear if the budget can be stretched.

For background MCC received the 2025 funding from MCT in December 2025. In December 2025 MCC were told we could only expect 50% to be covered by MCT, MCC send in their grant application in January 2026 after having conducted a tender exercise. In February MCT was informed they could get approx. 35% of the total cost from MCT, with such a reduction MCC requested a meeting with MCT and MCDC to see what was possible. This did not resolve the issue. At the MCC meeting in February HL updated the community council, since then options such as using volunteers, getting support from local business reducing the area for maintenance and the frequency of cuts were explored, none of these options seemed feasible with such a short notice.

HL stated that it is with regret but without funding then the likely outcome is that the verge maintenance will not take place in 2026. Member of the public enquired why MCT would not support the MCC for this, HL explained that at this point we have been informed that they do not see themselves able to fund it. MCC have asked several times in the past for a longer term plan to address this project as the current yearly application for funding is not sustainable.

ACTION – HL will make a public announcement regarding the future of the verge cutting in the village when she has a final answer from MCDC.

f. Local Place Plan

HL working with PAS to have the final changes as per Highland Councils feedback completed.

g. Invitation of local councillors to May meeting

Meeting invitation for May has been declined by local councillors as they have other commitments in Inverness they have requested online meeting. The community council will try this at the May meeting, though it is not possible to run hybrid meetings as it will stretch the community councillors even further.

ACTION - Invites will be made for the June meeting (HL)

h. Surgery Cover

Doctor's surgery has staffing issues; they are currently two doctors down due to sickness. West Highland medical group is doing their best to cover the whole peninsula and trying to fill in staffing problems with locums, however they are finding it very difficult to attract locums. The community council will stay in contact for updates.

h. Community support for Nursery Fees for 2-year-olds

A member of the community has suggested that the community council should explore the possibility with MCT and MCDC to provide financial support for Nursery fees for 2 year olds. The community council have over the last 2 years been involved in a number of talks with a variety of agencies to see what options for childcare is available. Currently a solution has not been found as current legislation makes it very difficult and expensive for small communities to provide

childcare. We have escalated those issues to our local MSP Kate Forbes. HL suggests parents contact James Rottger to work on local solutions and that they should approach MCT directly to explore options.

4. Resilience – HL

Group is working on putting a plan together.

5. Planning applications – DT

No further updates to applications.

6. MCDC Update – HL

Ground for housing project is currently being cleared of trees. Construction to commence in April 2026.

7. Treasurer's Report – JH

Village Hall charges: £11.25

February 2026 bank charges: £4.25

Current balance: £8270.27

8. AOB

Miles Welsh (MW) is resigning from the Community Council, he does not have capacity to continue, we all wish to express our thanks for all his work and support for the MCC. Currently the community council consists of Henriette Laidlaw (Chair) Jenni Hodgson (Treasurer), Rob Capell, Tom Frazer, Douglas Taylor and two youth councilors Rebecca Jones and Rowan Willis.

The chair (HL) is urging anyone to join the community council, new members will be appreciated this year, the chair wants to make it known that though she is happy to continue as a member of the council, she is not able to continue chairing it effectively beyond this session due to personal commitments.