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## **Morvern Community Council (MCC) meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

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### **September 2024 at 7pm, Lochaline Village Hall**

Present MCC representatives: Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Miles Welsh (MW), Helen Jones (HJ), Terra Grier (TG), Douglas Taylor (DT)

Members of the public x 24, + Sarah Fanet, councillor

Apologies from: Jenni Hodgson, Indi Boulton, Clara Montgomery

#### **6pm Meeting to discuss Scottish Sea Farms sunken vessel at Fiunary this summer**

**1. Welcome and apologies:** introductions by HL. Apologies from Peter Guthrie.

**2. Update on current situation from Scottish Sea Farms (SSF).**

*Present:*

Paul Turnstall, pollution and salvage officer; Innes Weir (IW), Scottish Seafarms; Anne Anderson (AA), Head of sustainability and development SSF; Lucy Smith SEPA.

AA gave overview of events from moment the vessel went down on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024. She explained which agencies and experts had been involved (SEPA, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, specialist divers from Jifmar Group, environmental services specialists Briggs Marine) and how they had monitored the situation and resolved the occasional small spills.

**3. Questions:**

- *Communication with the community/CAOLAS:*

SSF will reflect on actions and process. Incident protocol from Coastguard was used, but that didn't include informing the relevant local community council. (Feedback to Coastguard: to include this as part of their guidelines?). SSF will be looking at their own communications list as well. Lochaline Facebook page could also have been used.

Key priority for SSF at the time: how do we minimise the harm and retrieve the vessel? AA acknowledged that SSF should have informed the community sooner. SSF will inform us of all their lessons learned once their internal investigations have been completed. Both MCC and SSF indicate they would welcome regular contact anyway. IW asked to be included in MCC communications.

*- Potential impact of incident on local individuals/businesses.*

Is there a route for compensation? Anyone who has been impacted should get in touch with SSF, who are keen to understand how people have been impacted. SSF monitoring indicates the area should be safe for farming. (Own stock is fit for consumption and will be harvested)

Presentation of an issue is important; i.e. avoid sensationalism. Information was given to press, but not always used.

*- What is the exact volume of diesel/oil lost?*

Around 200 litres. Briggs have recovered it in clear cubes, so could accurately work out how much diesel was recovered and subtract it from what they knew how much they had in the tanks.

*- How can we know that the natural environment is safe now and how will SSF be monitoring the long-term impact?*

AA keen to go into dialogue with CAOLAS regarding monitoring and understanding what would be appropriate.

*- Looking forward, is this an opportunity to look at more sustainability in the industry (e.g. electric vessel)?*

SSF are looking at Fiunary as a long-term investment and want to get to net-zero. AA happy to come back and give info.

HL thanks AA, IW and PT for coming. Any community members who believe they have been impacted, can contact AA at SSF.

### **7pm Community Council meeting**

#### **1. Welcome**

**2. AOB requests:** Minutes are not on website yet. => Action: MCC will take this up with MCDC, who have access to website

### 3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

#### *a. Village maintenance/nature*

MCC received petition from members of community re restricted view, uncontrolled growth of scrubs and trees. HL has brought map, so people present can indicate which areas they feel need to be improved: Forestry, Ardtornish and some MCDC land involved. Question is: what do people want done and how will this impact on biodiversity? Seems to be mostly about brambles, scrub, trees that need to be cropped. Hazelwoods main issue; MCDC are currently tendering for a management plan for Hazelwoods. Representatives from Ardtornish and MCDC are present. Ardtornish happy for people to trim, as long as they tidy it up. => Action: HL will also speak to Forestry. FLS are coming on the 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 3-6pm for consultation, so members of community can speak to them. Existing contract with Grassmen is mostly verges and clearing paths, not tree surgeons.

#### *b. Local Place Plan*

Steering group has created new timeline: aiming to submit in middle November, as discussed with Highland Council. Reason: taking longer to thoroughly process all the information gathered. New consultation coming soon, so residents, businesses, clubs, organisations can comment on it.

#### *c. School update*

Communication from AHS Music Teacher that pupils are struggling to afford music lessons. Can MCC help? (E.g. Ardgour CC contributes towards their lessons). => Action:

HL to contact music teacher and speak to Ardgour CC.

=> Action: MCC to speak to MCT regarding possibly funding music lessons (Gymnastics supported by Hydro fund).

Suggestion: apply to Highland Council Discretionary fund to buy instruments.

#### *d. Phone box: no update*

#### *e. Street lights:*

no update. Waiting for Highland Council to get back to CM.

*f. Public transport costs and logistics:*

no update

*g. Forestry: consultation on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept.*

Draft plan is up on website for people to look at. HL to speak to them regarding 3a.

*h. Roads:*

Success: bridge by school is fixed and HC have put barriers by wall and will repair that too.

Have filled in some potholes on road into LA. => Action: HL to highlight the potholes in the road between Kiel-Sruthan again.

Still to be addressed:

- missing/broken passing place signs between LA and Drimnin.
- dropped pavements at Upper Torr na Faire

HL has meeting with Highland Council re speed limits and extending 20mph limit to Kiel.

Chain across low mine road is temporary, because bollards were vandalised. Currently looking at stronger bollards. GP Surgery requests that Ardtornish keeps them informed of any access issues in future. Ardtornish agree to remove the chain to allow mobility scooters/bikes access whilst they wait for the new bollards.

*i. Fouling*

Beach hotel and Wishing Stone. Beach: Ardtornish have locked the gate to stop campervans. => Action: HL will send communication out to inform people. => Action: CM to ask HC if we could have a bin there?

Need to communicate with Iggesund re access to the West Pier.

**4. Communication to Highland Council:** no update

**5. Youth update:**

HJ / TG trying to get a bus between LA and Strontian on Saturdays to link with bus that goes to Fort William (like Tues/Thurs). => Action: HJ/TG to speak to all LA teens after assembly at AHS to find out how many would use it. => Action: HJ/TG to put poll on FB page, to see how many adults would also like to use it.

## 6. Lochaber Redesign Project (new Belford/Dail Mhor).

Currently advertising for staff.

## 7. Housing

SSF are in talks with MCDC re 2 houses on Morvern Crescent.

## 8. Planning applications

(Sarah Fanet not taking part in conversation)

2 planning applications: New bin store at pontoons & Alterations to property: Carnacaillich  
MCC has sent letter to HC to support the housing project.

Second letter going out to Arianna Burgess. => Action: HL to send one to Kate Forbes as well

## 9. MCDC Update:

no update, as meeting not taken place yet.

## 10. Treasurer's Report:

Common Good Fund - no transactions - £7550.96 in the bank.

General Fund - b/f 1548.63

Aug: Ardtornish Est paid MCC 678.06 in error, which was repaid

Sep: A Delnooz £48.00 c/f 1500.63

TOTAL FUNDS £9051.59

## 11. Other correspondence:

- a) Decision: Poppy wreath for Remembrance Day is approved. => Action: HL to inform MCDC
- b) MCT grant: need to reapply for full 6K for Grassmen
- c) Corran ferry: recent meeting with Kate Forbes and all Community Councils. Still unsure if there is funding for 1 ferry or not. Maid is back.
- d) Surgery update: 1 year since new contract for surgery has been in place, so want to ask community about their experience with surgery: a comment box will be in the

Hub until 7<sup>th</sup> October. MCC will go through comments and put questions to surgery. Surgery also to put together statistics of this year. Joint statement will be put out to community.

**Date of next meeting:**

8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (Lochaline Village Hall)