

Morvern Community Council Meeting notes
Monday September 11th 2023 at 7pm

Present: Angus Robertson (chair), Janette Cameron, Henriette Laidlaw
Members of the public x 6
Apologies - Morven Gemmill

1. Welcome, Apologies, Declarations of Interest etc.
2. AOB requests
3. Community Council elections now live <https://www.highland.gov.uk>. Deadline for nominations 3rd October 12 midday. Sarah Fanet is hosting a meeting in Strontian. She has booked the Sunart Centre for 6pm on Monday 18 Sept. It will be open to the public. Current and past community councillors are invited to come and share their experience and answer questions potential candidates may have. Morven, Annie and Angus will be standing down so all are encouraged to apply.
4. Corran Ferry - no further update since last week. Survey for the future options will be distributed by CCs. Highland Council did not offer to do the ballot on our behalf and majority of CCs opted to deliver this locally. Project manager for Corran came to Lochaline last week but HC did not inform us he was coming. The next joint CC meeting is later this month.
5. Minutes of last meeting . Noted that members of the public have stated that elected members should be holding Highland Council officers to account. MCC fully agrees with this position.
Place based plan /housing - PAS training offered and booked for 25th September. LLM email list used with open invitation for those who wish to join and advertised on FB.Meeting booked with Highland small communities re changing designation of plots at Achabeag on 26th September.
6. School update - positive, well attended and successful meeting was held, facilitated by the Andrew Raven Trust, with ideas of what can be done to increase school roll , such as making a promotional video for people coming to work in the area, improving transport for young people (Calmac and bus timetables in Mull and reduced costs for young people) to raise numbers in school. Thanks to Andrew Raven Trust and Isla Robertson to organise it. Notes of the meeting will follow. ACTION Kevin Laurie offered to write to Calmac on our behalf for summer 2024. Winter 23/24 timetable already in place. AT to write to MSP.
7. Primary care update - meeting was held locally attended by NHS Highland reps to update on new practice arrangements. Jill Mitchell (NHS Highland) and Dr Iain Gartshore gave us a brief summary of what has happened with our local health care service since our last community meeting, followed by a report on next steps they are working on. They highlighted the change in GP recruitment feasibility. After the difficulties experienced and near impossibility of recruiting new GPs to single doctor practices, like ours, the team have found it much easier to recruit rural GPs to larger practices which come with better support of both admin and other health services. There are now 3 GPs serving the combined Acharacle and Morvern practices in 4 distinct locations. 4 GPs for Mallaig and 1 new one for Ballachulish, plus a good amount of interest in any other posts that come up.

The main areas for next steps include:

- 1) Merger of the two practices – IT and all computer systems including patient records etc to be merged in a couple of weeks time.

2) Provision of other services to the combined practice, including but not limited to: additional practice nurse services; specialist pharmacist available to the practice; better links to ambulance and other agencies; revived campaign to get the First responder system working properly in Morvern.

3) We discussed concerns about clinical/medical cover in LA dropping by nearly 50% from 4.5 to 2.5 days pw. Some acknowledgement of this but generally countered by not comparing like with like – New system GPs have far less admin responsibility and better support from other services, They hope – like nurses taking bloods etc . leaving them similar time for doing the real job of GPs in their 2.5 days than Susan had in her 4.5.

8. Village maintenance - grass cutting is up to date . Request received following clearing of Torr na Faire hill - thanks to all 13 volunteers involved. Future funding of village maintenance was also discussed and funding streams to support this. Holding Highland Council to account for areas to be done by them should continue - action MCC. Lengthy discussion held about the importance of having a longer term maintenance plan including consideration of biodiversity. The importance of business sponsorship/volunteers discussed as well. Angus asked for volunteers from the community to form a small group to develop a longer term plan for village maintenance. **ACTION** - Henriette & Angus to organise a meeting in the village hall open to those who would be interested in getting involved.
9. Snack bar notice board - huge thanks to Emily and Kevin for collecting the materials and constructing the new board.
10. Sites for air ambulance discussed - and site at hotel was recently used and had to be cleared before landing. **ACTION:** JC/AT to write to air ambulance to understand what is required for landing sites across Morvern.
11. West Pier - no progress to report
12. Planning applications
10 houses in Lochaline - MCC supportive of application. Oban times covered the application.
Scottish Sea Farms Fiunary Fish Farm expansion - response to be submitted. Initial response sent to SSF - councillors to meet again on Wednesday 10am to formulate response to Highland Council.
13. MCDC Update - Hydro did well in July. Directors required for MCDC.
14. Treasurer's Report. See below

MCC Treasurer's report for period		£
Opening Balance at:	6/8/2023	£6,275.29
INCOME	Ecoplastic lumber for snackbar notice board	-£272.30
EXPENDITURE	Village Maintenance - cut 5 of 7 up to 31/18/23	-£750.00
Closing Balance at:	7/9/2023	£5,252.99

2023 Meeting dates

9th October
13th November
11th December

