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**Minutes for Urgent MCDC Board Meeting
 Wednesday 14th Jan 2026**

Attendance:	Attendees, AR (Chair), KL, HK, ST, Officers SP, LD, AD Apologies BR, MW (BR and MW sent notes of their comments in advance to all Directors)
1. Introduction & declarations of interest	AR and ST both have family members who work for MCDC and associated companies Declarations of interest - HL declared a non-pecuniary interest in the AOB item as it related to the CC of which Henriette is the Chair. AD missed the start of the meeting, but wanted to declare an interest as she works at the cafe
2. Confirmation of Housing subgroup decision on Miners Court	<p>A lengthy discussion took place on this considering the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current housing allocation policy and process, this does not reference Subgroup – action needs updating and confirmed by MCDC Board • Housing Subgroup membership and terms of reference – action needs to be reviewed and confirmed by MCDC Board • The Housing allocation policy requires a review before the allocation of the new 14 homes – check aligned to national best practice, good examples from Orkney and Knoydart received – action Lila to progress with Housing Subgroup and onto MCDC for approval • MCDC are not the statutory homelessness provider or housing provider – that is the Highland Council, who receive Scottish government funding for these duties • Community perception/concerns relating to Miners Court letting process • Community Benefit of the café operation. Nearly 6000 transactions (5831) took place in 2025, showing how many individuals and groups are visiting the café. • Difficulty of recruitment for key workers without accommodation • Alternative accommodation possibilities for key workers (2 options discussed) • Current operational challenges • Recommendation of the MCDC Housing Sub-Group <p>Resolved:</p>

	<p>That while being grateful and mindful for the recommendation of the Housing Subgroup, the MCDC also considered the broader impact on the MCDC organisation and on the community. In particular MCDC Directors wanted to support the significant progress being made by MCTC in relation to Café Operations and enable the employment of a cook, that assures the continued employment of the seven part-time staff working in the café</p> <p>It was agreed that a decision on the re-letting of the Miners Court property should be deferred until the end of February to allow the Cook Recruitment process to continue with an accommodation option. It was agreed that Miners Court could be made available at that point for the Cook if no other solution could be found.</p> <p>The Operations Manager and Directors committed to seek alternative accommodation options.</p>
3.	Confirmation of the MCT Loan acceptance – this was approved
4.	Discussion of MCDC Community payment to MCT – it was agreed a meeting be set up between MCDC, MCT, MCTC and MCC to see how all organisations could work better together in the future. It was also agreed it should be discussed about how MCT could be more transparent in its charitable activities.
5.	AOB - A formal complaint to MCDC has been received in relation to the Operations Manager and B Rendall and M Welsh were nominated to a Subgroup per the MCDC Complaint Process to respond.

Next Meeting	Date	17-02-2026	Time:	7pm
	Location	Hub	Board Only	
Minutes approved	06-02-2026			Angus Robertson (Chair