

**Minutes of Morvern Community Development Company
Board Meeting held in public
Thursday, 11th February 2021, held by Zoom, 7.30pm**

MCDC/MCTC Directors: Jane Stuart-Smith, Sarah Jones, Bob Jones, Lesley Jones, Nick Tordoff, Angus Robertson, Jennie Robertson, Kenny McLaughlin, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Development Officer).

Members of the public: Stuart and Sue Layton, Keith and Henriette Laidlaw, Hugh Raven, Ivan Woolley, Lesley Smart, Teresa Bolton.

Apologies: None

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising
4. MCDC/MCTC code of conduct and register of interests
5. Management accounts
6. Projects update
 - Barr Hydro and MorVolts – progress
 - Housing and Community Hub – progress
 - Marina – staffing and other
7. Future projects
8. AOB
9. Next meeting – 11th March 2021, 7.30pm by Zoom to be held in public

2. Minutes – minutes of January 2021 proposed by KM and seconded by BJ.

3. Matters arising – all on the agenda.

4. Code of conduct and register of interests – all registers now online.

JR repeated her interest in Barr Hydro as archaeologist.

Paperwork from Morven now in place.

5. Management accounts – AR had circulated monthly management accounts for MCDC, MorVolts and MCTC. No concerns were noted by the directors. Angus answered questions from directors by email prior to the meeting. All three companies are in stable financial situation with some COVID grants in place. The companies are growing.

6. Projects updates:

Barr Hydro progress update sent to the board and the community, on www.morvern.org. The latest construction meeting took place earlier on this morning. Lots of progress on site. Power house should be completed soon, construction ongoing along the rest of the scheme. Difficulties with SSE and

Brexit added a lot more paperwork that MorVolts are working through. Starting to work out how the scheme will operate post construction. FIT deadline has been extended for a year but the scheme is on target to complete on time this year. Might need to use leverage if SSE keep delaying things.

Community Hub and Housing – report was sent out to the board with an update. Received several comments from the community that the place is starting to look nice and positive feedback on how nice the area is looking. Sinclair is shielding due to health reasons and Gordie is on site.

The sub – group is considering who will take on the management of the houses.

TB asked about the gift shop plans. Following a request for expressions of interest by local businesses (for use of the upstairs space) a number of local business contacted MCDC. One local business has expressed an interest in running a craft shop on the first floor. MCDC's understanding is they intend to stock local crafts for sale in one place. The board confirmed that MCDC will not be running this retail outlet but leasing the space. TB asked how local craft makers can benefit from/get involved in the space and it was agreed that anyone who is interested in selling their craft should contact Lilia and she will pass on their details to the prospective lessee.

AR is in discussions with the prospective lessee of the café. MCDC has had expressions of interest for renting office space from the Mine and the Morvern Rainforest project if their project gets funded. Discussions are ongoing.

Marina – hoping for a better year this season. Market is looking like more British boats will be around. Hope to have the shore facilities open. Work done on the back of the shore facilities, work will carry on that. HMs will take on the cleaning roles for the time being. Lochaber Geopark panel will be replaced. The one at the snack bar will be replaced by the HMs too.

- 7. Future Projects** – good time and opportunity to start thinking about future projects. MCC, MCDC and MCT are working on a community planning exercise. Things are progressing but rather slowly. May be a good idea to look at the previous Growth plan.

- 8. AOB** –

There was an article in **The Oban Times** stating that the Council are building **houses** in various areas but Lochaline is not on the list. Lilia will liaise with Sarah and update the board.

Lease with Shiel Buses agreed for the bus parking at the Village Hall car park, this will help to maintain the carpark.

MCDC sent a letter of support for EU LIFE bid for **Morvern Rainforest project**.

Morvern Aires – results of the consultation published. The board reviewed all responses and decided not to go ahead. MCDC will see look at putting a summary

of ideas and suggestions from the consultation on the website of what the community said.

9. Next meeting – 11th March 2021, 7.30pm by Zoom

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