

Minutes of AGM

Morvern Community Development Company and Morvern Community Trading Company

Thursday, 27th November 2014

Lochaline Primary School

Present

Directors: Lesley Jones, Jane Stuart-Smith, Angus Robertson, Jenni Hodgson, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Development Officer)

Members of the public: Robert Laurie, Creina Jackson.

Proxies: none received

Apologies: Clare Holohan, Tracy Lawes, John Hodgson

- 1. Apologies & Proxies:** Lesley welcomed everyone to the AGM. Lilia noted that no proxies had been received and no nominations for directorship. AR noted that the meeting was quorate.
- 2. Minutes of the last AGM:** The minutes of the last AGM (22.01.2014) were read and accepted. Jane proposed and Angus seconded.

Matters – question was asked about Marketing Graduate Placement. Angus explained that although MCDC budgeted for this, not enough applications had been received. There was one good candidate but time scales were unsuitable. MCDC employed Harbour Master and Assistant and Lilia was back from maternity leave so a lot of the load was spread between those positions. It is possible to apply for graduate placement in the future, once the time is right for MCDC and there is sufficient work to justify the placement.

- 3. Chairperson's Report:** Lesley thanked everyone for coming to the AGM.
Pontoons – very busy this year, access road finished. Lesley reminded everyone that there is a 5 mph speed limit on the access road and this needs to be adhered to, as the access road is primarily used by pedestrians, including children, cyclists and dog walkers. The Harbour is fully operational and created meaningful employment throughout the year. The Harbour team were able to attend Scotland Boat Show in Inverkip in October 2014 using marketing budget. They sported Lochaline Harbour uniform and were able to pick up tips and chat to like minded people.

Community website - is now live. Thank you to Riona Whyte and Lilia for all the hard work to make this possible. www.morvern.org is a community website where everyone in the community can contribute (individuals, businesses and community groups), email web@morvern.org to send your updates.

Renewables – a lot had been done on this project with expert advise from Angus Robertson. Thank you. Lilia has put together a good clear information pack and it had been sent out to every household in Morvern. MCDC held a public meeting in October to answer any queries members of the public might have, the meeting was well attended and valuable feedback was received. The next stage for this project is community ballot that should arrive in the post on 5th December 2014. We urge to community to respond to this ballot in order to allow MCDC to proceed onto the next stage – lodging NFLS application.

Scout Hut – is on hold as the community still do not have a clear view of the long term plan for the site. A member of the public expressed a concern that it is taking too long to make a decision on the Scout Hut site. Jane explained that the development needs to be sustainable. There is an interest in heritage. The same member of the public asked if businesses had been asked if they would rent spaces? Yes, local businesses had been asked but were not prepared to pay rents etc.

DTAS Conference – Lesley attended in September and gave a presentation on work that MCDC had done. Morvern is definitely on the map due to the amount of work that had been done in such a small community.

Board training – Directors undergone board training about their roles and responsibilities.

Lesley encouraged all members of MCDC to get involved in the company. There are over a 100 members and each one of them should be involved as the company belongs to them.

4. Treasurer's Report & Presentation of Accounts

Angus presented the **accounts of MCDC** to the meeting. The accounts are in a new format as MCDC is a registered charity, regulated by OSCR. The accounts give information on Directors and Office Bearers, Directors' Report, Independent Auditors report. The accounts are quite difficult to understand but they are easier than previous cashflow accounts.

Income – £202K

Expenditure - £133K

Nett income - £68K

Nett movement - £68K

Added to last year, the company is worth £642K

The balance sheet explains where the £642K is – Land (Hazelwood, fuel, Scout Hut, allotments) and Tangible assets (pontoons).

Accounts are being presented to the AGM after having been approved by Directors.

MCTC management accounts:

Extracted from accounting package Quickbooks, these are profit and loss accounts to 31.03.2014 and to date.

The income figures are to be proud of, due to hard working staff, we are on target for growth and expanding, great feedback re team at Lochaline Harbour.

Profit: £28K last year

Profit: £26K this year

MCTC had made a charitable donation to MCDC of £28,569.00

With time property costs are likely to go up.

MCDC and MCTC accounts are available at the Post Office and on www.morvern.org

5. Appointment of Auditors: Currently using R.A.Clement Associates. Angus proposed to stay with them, Jane seconded.

6. Retirement & Appointment of Directors: Angus Robertson, Lesley Jones and Jane Stuart – Smith are to stand down, a third every year. Lesley and Jane can stand for re – election. Angus cannot stand for re – election this time in accordance with the Constitution.

Jenni Hodgson had been co – opted on the Board as second representative from MCC. Jane proposed Lesley seconded to elect Jenni on the Board.

Jane and Lesley stood for re – election.

Jane – proposed by Jenni, seconded by Angus

Lesley – proposed by Jane, seconded by Angus

7. Election of Office Bearers –

It was proposed that Angus stays as Honorary Treasurer of MCDC and a Company Secretary, both as a volunteer, not a Director. Jane proposed Lesley seconded.

Lesley – Chair – Jane proposed, Angus seconded

Jane – Vice Chair – Jenni proposed, Angus seconded

8. Subscription fee: a discussion took place about this. It was agreed to call the subscription fee a guarantee instead. The guarantee is remain at £1.00 per life for now but this needs to be thought about further, in order to make membership more meaningful.

9. AOB:

Hazelwood – land belongs to MCDC but when bought from Forestry Commission, the understanding was that the responsibility will be shared between MCDC and MCC. MCDC received grants, including FC, and used own cash to maintain the wood. Alistair Scoular retired – not much maintenance since.

MCC – research ways of maintenance scheme.

MCW – interested in doing something.

MCDC – would like to see a management plan for the woods. MCW to come up with proposal and work out how to finance.

Possibility of making Hazelwood part of village grass cutting contract. The plan would be for three groups to have a meeting and work out a practical plan for maintenance, then run it by the community, then MCDC Board to make the final decision.

A member of the public said that it was said to see it overgrowing.

Fencing – an issue. MCT might be able to help. Views over the Sound. Coppicing.

MCDC and MCTC Board meeting followed immediately after and members of the public had been invited to stay but they left as it was getting late.