

MCDC Board meeting 12th January 2023, 7.30pm Hub

Present

Jane Stuart – Smith – Chair

Amy Stammers

Jennie Robertson

Kenny McLaughlin

Bob Jones

Nick Tordoff

Henriette Laidlaw

Lesley Jones – MCTC

In attendance:

Angus Robertson Hon Treasurer

Lilia Dobrokhodova – Co Secretary

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Declarations of interest
4. Matters arising
5. Report from Honorary Treasurer
6. Projects update
 - Electric Car
 - Hydro
 - Housing
 - Marina
 - Hub
7. Website
8. AOB
9. Next meeting – 9th February 2023, 7.30pm in public in the Village Hall

Apologies: Sue Layton, Morgan Gemmill

Minute of the last meeting: Kenny proposed, Nick seconded.

Declaration of interest: None.

Matters:

Warm Space – Annemie announced her winter hours Monday to Friday, so this is on hold for now .

Report from Honorary Treasurer

Angus is continuing working on the budgets, MCTC first and will be training board members on reading accounts next week.

Accountant asked for formal approval to file tax return. There is no tax to pay.

Decision: [The Board agreed to ask accountant to file the tax return.](#)

Date fixed for Monday, 16th Jan at 3pm to digest accounts with Angus.

Need to continue to work on preparation for Adeline leaving. This needs to become part of training planning on Saturday.

Projects updates

Electric car

Amy sent out her update on her research into apps on electric car and explained the details and answered questions. Still to consider how we manage the cleaning. Suggested a deposit is taken for cleaning and returned if the car is returned clean.

URRAM – have 4 drivers in Morvern. They are increasing their trips and expand beyond NHS hospital appointments.

What is MCDC policy on the electric car – to sell and give money to the funder, gift to another community group, try and make it economically viable or accept that this is a loss-making entity. Board needs to know all the options available.

The charger is now in stock with wholesalers and EV Guys will be in touch next week with installation date.

Concerns about how we can manage the car better if we keep it were raised. Felt that someone needs to have responsibility for checking the car etc and this could be part of any new role that MCDC decides is needed. To be discussed at the training day.

Action: Lilia to enquire whether Morvern on the Move might take on the ownership of the car and or URRAM.

Amy will check if the photos are timed on the app and if there are two rates that can be charged for residents and visitors.

Hydro

November was a good month, although hydro down for 36 hours due to SSE work. There was an outage in December for over a week, lost little due to a dry spell. One of the switches was faulty. There were delays while tried to figure out the cause of the fault. It highlighted that the holding of spares can be improved, and this is being looked at by John Heaton and the Board. The hydro is up and running at the moment. If it stops raining for more than 4 hours the generation drops as it is a run of river scheme.

£50K now transferred from MorVolts to MCDC.

MCDC will transfer money to MCT and this will be announced to the community.

MorVolts meeting on 30th January when December accounts will be available.

Action: JSS to write to MCT to advise them and prepare a PR to be sent out. Will circulate to board for any comments.

Housing

Lilia and Sarah met with Roderick today. He has once again kindly offered to help us with the housing project. See report submitted to the Board.

The subcommittee will request more information from Makar. As soon as we have this Roderick has agreed to meet them with sub group.

Once this has been fulfilled a full report will go to the Board based on our various meetings and documents from all four companies and hopefully will then be asking for a prompt decision to get things moving.

We have already had a zoom meeting with The Wee House company, and they have undertaken their own site visit.

No Board decision required yet.

Marina

MCTC had a board meeting on Tuesday.

Maintenance list is being drawn up. Progress with budget and needs more work doing to it. Sue is working on harbour prices for next season.

Hub/Miner's Court

Snagging will be happening in March/April.

MCTC suggested that the hub is run under the MCDC umbrella as there are advantages of having charitable status and accountants are comfortable that the Hub delivers community benefits etc and therefore qualifies. Employment to be contracted through MCTC (as it is for MorVolts to keep one PAYE system).

Management of the Hub is a role that needs thinking about and how we resource it.

Decision: MCDC is to run and manage the Hub with a support contract from MCTC.

Website

Go ahead with the new website with Andy Lock's proposal.

JSS said it would be good if directors could have a designated Morvern.org email for all company business.

Action: Lilia to instruct Andy to go ahead and keep the board informed. Think about users of the website. Lilia will ask how many Morvern.org emails are available.

All Board members are asked to look at other community websites and feed back to Lilia any good design or ideas.

AOB

Dropbox set up for MCDC is being worked on.

Training on Saturday – Kirsty Scott the trainer and Andrew Carr from HIE will be here for the training. Start at 8.45. Jane will send out the agenda. People will be allocated into 3 groups for breakout sessions.

MCC meetings alignments – currently May and October do not align, the rest are OK.

Next meeting: 9th February 2023, Village Hall, in public.