

DRAFT MINUTES OF MORVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MONDAY 4 JULY 2016 AT 7.30pm, LOCHALINE VILLAGE HALL

Present : Jim Bolton (Chair), Teresa Bolton (Mins), Cameron Bolton, Martin Sampson, PC Angie Campbell and 11 members of the public.

Apologies : Susan Taylor, Jenni Hodgson, Davy Shaw, Lesley Smart

Jim Bolton welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself to some new faces present. He informed the meeting that Martin Sampson was willing to join the council as a co-opted member – proposed by Teresa and seconded by Cameron – he was welcomed by everyone. It was further stated that Jenni Hodgson had tendered her resignation from the council due to personal commitments so a new treasurer would need to be appointed.

Prior to starting the agenda the Chair extended the Council's congratulations to Jean Robinson for being recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and awarded the British Empire Medal for service to the Community which was thoroughly deserved.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting – Two amendments required :

- Insert in paragraph 2, Matters Arising "It has been reported that the firm awarded the contract for timber removal from Barr, believed to be TSL, are having difficulties accessing pier facilities due to the stance of Iggusund who own the pier. It was agreed this would be followed up by the Council."
- Amend paragraph 8, item I, last line from "one lorry....per week" to "one lorry....per day."

With these changes, minutes proposed by Cameron Bolton, seconded by Teresa Bolton.

2. Matters Arising

- **Grass Cutting** – no interest shown. Angie knows of someone in Strontian who might be willing – she will find out. HC grass cutting been done outside of village but not in Drimnin. Complaints also that Carnacalliche timber lorry drivers are lopping branches from overhanging roadside trees and leaving them in the middle of the road. Lines of sight in and around village, Drimnin Road and Loch Sunart side not done – raise with HC & Angie will monitor.
- **BT** – The Chair summarised David Sillitto's letter concerning his problems with BT. The Council are still awaiting a full response to their concerns from Brendan Dick, BT Head in Scotland, and will continue to put pressure on them and encouraged everyone to do likewise. Brendan Dick's email & mobile number were circulated to those at the meeting.
- **Roads** – Wall at Village Hall has been repaired (although cracking further down); road repairs are being done around the village at present; Drimnin Road scheduled for August/September. It may be closed on occasion but disruption will be kept to a minimum.
- **Phone boxes** – still waiting for BT to remove electrics.

- **Ardtornish Estate Community Fund** – No reply from Angus Robertson to our enquiries on this. Highland Council was also unaware of this. Letter now written to CEO Tony McInnes and also to Kate Forbes, MSP – summary of letter read out to meeting and copies available to those who wanted one. A member of the public expressed disappointment that, in view of the amount of public monies obtained by many estates, including Ardtornish, no one was willing to attend the Community Council meeting to “answer their critics”. Jim also read out an Email received from Iain Thornber supporting the Community Council’s stance on this issue for which Jim thanked him.
- **Participatory Budget** – application forms and information packs now available on Highland Council’s website; posters on local noticeboards and Facebook; deadline September.

3. Finance

- Bank accounts are still not sorted – balance same as last month namely £10,178-95 General Account and £5,627-71 in the CGF Account.
- Jim has paid for the skip hire £744-00.
- Auditor’s invoice outstanding £36 – Jim will pay in interim.

4. Police Report

- **Speeding** – Lots of Facebook comments on speeding on village brae (although an issue across the peninsula). Angie explained that at present she is the sole officer due to staff shortages in Fort William so she has no corroboration and no speed gun. She is pursuing the campaign with local schools after the summer break and also looking at signage with them. All agreed that the 20mph signs were too close to the school & should be moved – possibly need a power source although ones in Strontian are solar powered. Speeding been a long standing problem on Drimnin Road by Drimnin Post Office. Angie agreed that 60mph speed limit on some Morvern roads is astounding but to reduce this need a survey. She confirmed she is consulting with Mark Smith, HC Roads Inspection team re. this & has reported the recent RTA at Fuinary to them (driver charged with reckless driving). MCC can make representations to HC to reduce speed limit due to state of the road etc. It was suggested that perhaps members of the public could act as corroboration – not sure – possibly try & encourage people to become Special Constables through local advertising campaign. It was agreed that Angie & Jim would visit Drimnin 14 July to assess some of the problems first hand.
- **Bogus workmen** – Recent success in this area including confiscation of electrical goods which Trading Standards deemed to be “lethal” – thanks to all the community for their help.
- **Car & caravan adjacent to Social Club** – Angie has spoken to Alan Kennedy. The owners have been identified & hopefully it will be cleaned up.
- **European Referendum** – recent incident in Strontian where a tourist made extremely unpleasant, racist remarks leaving the individual they were made to very shaken. This behaviour is unwelcome & won’t be tolerated – any such incidents

should be reported to the police on 101 and if possible try and get a car registration number or similar.

- **Air Weapons** – Police Scotland website details criteria for those who need to get a licence. Amnesty for those who have an air weapon who no longer want it has been extended to 31 Dec 16. New regulations came into effect on 1 July 16.

5. Planning

- Erection of house etc, Plot 3, Mungosdail House – no comments.
- Formation of link road between forests, Killundine – number of concerns from Drimnin residents, who would like a public meeting on this. Any comments from residents can be forwarded to MCC who will pass them on to Planning. Further discussion on this at paragraph 7 below.
- Correspondence received from member of the public expressing concern on general planning issue. Feels that all too often restrictions or stipulations are made during the planning process which are then ignored once planning permission has been granted. There needs to be systems in place to ensure applicants do adhere to any such instructions.

6. MCDC

Old Fire Station – few suggestions received so likely to be put on open market up to £15K. Jimmy Byrne said that MCDC should remain independent and not nominate other businesses to benefit. Discussion re the various “arms” of the company. Next meeting 14 July which Jim will attend.

7. Items from Councillors

- Teresa offered the Council’s best wishes to Calum and Faith Finnigan on their new business taking over the O2 café, supported by all present.
- Davy Shaw, by Email, asked for the Forest Road link to be raised and wants copy of planning application. Teresa expressed concern that as secretary, she had asked to be sent copies of all correspondence between Davy and Drimnin Estate regarding this and the new distillery but had received nothing. This made it very difficult for the Council to comment on the project & properly assess the situation. Long discussion but the feeling is –
 - a. If the owners of the 4 forests involved are in agreement the road is to be welcomed as it will remove heavy traffic from the Drimnin Road and provide an alternative route in emergencies.
 - b. Concerns need to be addressed regarding access – must be open at all times with no locked gates.
 - c. Unclear from maps available as to what is happening at the northern end of the proposed road which is Drimnin Estate land – again need assurances that access will be available at all times, with no obstruction.
 - d. Who will be responsible for maintenance? Needs to be clear from beginning. Angie believed at Ardtoe, maintenance & resurfacing was part funded by the developers.

e. Concerns should be sorted before any funding is released from the Strategic Timber Transport Fund.

Teresa will find out from HC Planning timescale for registering comments. She will also send a copy of the initial report on this to Jimmy Byrne, at his request.

Meeting informed by Shirley Shaw that Drimnin residents wanted a public meeting on this. Community Council willing to chair this but needed relevant documents.

Shirley said that Davy should chair it as he has been involved from the start.

- **State of Drimnin Road** – long standing deterioration caused by industrial lorries and other vehicles which have caused holes and subsidence. Exacerbated in recent months by vehicles transporting equipment/goods for the new distillery. This could be helped by use of forestry roads including the new link but really the road needs to be strengthened – junction with Drimnin Estate road is seeping water and is not able to withstand the heavy traffic. In addition lack of suitable passing places for these vehicles, especially between Glenmorvern and Drimnin. Agreed that Jim and Angie would inspect these on 14th July.
- **Funding available to communities for Resilience Planning** – Email with details circulated to councillors. Everyone encouraged to think of any suitable projects. Full details available from secretary.

8. Items from the Public

- Jimmy Byrne informed meeting that Electricity Board SSE has been fined by OfGen for poor service. However only SSE customers are getting small refunds and not Hydro customers & OfGen are saying monies should go to charity. Difficult for MCC or any organisation to make one claim on behalf of people who may now be with other companies but Jim agreed to look into it and report back.

9. Any Other Business

Break in August so next meeting will be Monday 1 September at 7.30pm at Lochaline Village Hall.