

DRAFT MINUTES OF MORVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2016 LOCHALINE VILLAGE HALL

Present : Jim Bolton, Teresa Bolton, Davy Shaw, Martin Sampson, Andrew Baxter, Highland Councillor, Annabel Thomas and Gordon Wood, Drimnin Distillery and 5 members of the public.

Apologies : Susan Taylor, Cameron Bolton, Lesley Smart, PC Angela Campbell, Janette Mowat, Morvern Games Committee.

1. **Minutes** – agreed as a true record; proposed Davy Shaw, seconded Martin Sampson.

2. **Matters Arising**

- **NHS Meeting** – date set for 8 December at 7.30pm in Lochaline Village Hall. Very important to encourage as many people to attend.
- **Roads** – Torr Na Faire still not repaired – Jim to chase up. Calmac grass now cut but area around caravan still a mess which Calmac are aware of.
- **Transfer of Common Good Fund to Morvern Community Trust** – agreed in principle, awaiting formal agreement.
- **MCDC extension of pontoons** – letter of support sent by MCC.
- **Living Landscape** – MCDC to host “walk in” information day.

3. **Finances**

- Letter of thanks has been sent to Peter Lawson for his donation to the Over 60s lunch.
- Letter received from Village Hall Committee – we have not paid the last invoice. This was not passed on by Jenni Hodgson. Cheque written for £68-00 to pay amounts owed.

4. **Police report**

Jim read out report from Angie; main points

- **Cows on road** – Ardtornish Estate have been spoken to as possibly in breach of two offences.
- Big push for **Road safety** in 2017 – designated days of action 1 or 2 days per month; leaflets/ferry signs possible in liaison with Calmac.
- **Drink driving** – reminder that legal limit is 22 mg alcohol per 100ml breath. Reminder not to drive the morning after drinking as likely to still be over the limit.
- Make sure vehicles are winter ready; Angie will try & put weather/road issues on Facebook

5. **Annabel Thomas, Drimnin Distillery update**

- Now at end of main build phase and starting biomass boiler. Main contractors should be off site by Christmas. Road lorry traffic expected to lessen considerably by then – 1 lorry per month with malt (from Yorkshire but using organic Scottish

barley), two to three artics per month with barrels. Once start exporting (long term) this may increase. Also landscaping materials will be brought in by road.

- HMRC licences, training etc to be put in place.
- Team of 5 staff starting on 9 January 2017 and once ready for distilling will be operating 5 days per week. First product by 2020. Expect to produce approx. 100,000 litres alcohol per year. Brand name yet to be confirmed!
- Initial casks from America but hoping to source from Europe in future – variety of woods so not just standard single malt production.
- Currently plan is to bottle on site.
- Majority of visitors expected from Tobermory rather than Morvern. Initially maximum of 30/day but all pre booked. Will have brown road signs on peninsula plus website and press releases.
- Hoping to arrange visit day for locals prior to public opening.

Jim thanked Annabel for providing this update and looked forward to visiting the distillery in the New Year.

6. Andrew Baxter

- **Broadband** – BT seem most focused on Glenborrodale problems currently – their escalation team are due to report by 16 December. MCC wants MCDC to pursue this as proper to their remit but still discussing.
- **City Regional Deal** – all infrastructure centred on Inverness and Moray Firth – Andrew Baxter has written to Highland Council Chair on this but yet to receive a reply after 6 weeks.
- Andrew is now on HC's **Scrutiny Board** which will give him more opportunity to push Lochaber's case.
- Press reports regarding splitting HC but no great appetite for this. Need more autonomy for local areas eg only 3 Lochaber Councillors out of 19 on Planning Committee.
- **Drimnin Timber Road** – AB has spoken to all landowners & forestry Commission – hoping to get bid to Strategic Timber Fund by meeting on 20 Dec so back on the table again.

7. Christmas Lunch

- Jim will deal with the Christmas trees.
- Burach are providing the waitressing service – Jim thanked them for giving up their time to do this.
- Everything else in hand

8. Planning – 3 applications for houses at Achabeg – no comments.

9. MCDC

- Jim attended the last meeting on 10 November. Summary of current projects read out & copy of minutes available to look at after the meeting.

- Discussion around Sailing Club, marina and land – should this be leased or owned – MCDC will discuss further.
- Discussion over use of large sums of Trust money – not a bottomless pit – if on Ardtornish land, club should apply to Ardtornish as they will be the benefactors.
- Proposed Leisure Centre/swimming pool on Ardtornish land by marina
- Feeling that MCDC need to ensure they are representing all in the community not just a few. Jim encouraged as many as possible to attend the AGM in January.

10. Items from Councillors

- **Lochaline Ferry Terminal changes** – Calmac Assets have taken on board comments following public consultation. Yellow hatching area will be extended as will the marshalling lanes (need to be aware of potential drainage problems from slope; HC to be informed)
- **HC Local Democracy in Highlands** – views sought. All councillors to have a look at it on Email site.
- Teresa raised the issue **of Morvern Games & Gala week** not going ahead on behalf of Janette Mowat. The Games are not going to happen unless there is concrete commitment from people both for organising before the day & helping on the day itself. Long discussion – very sad if this doesn't go ahead as 2017 is 30th year. General feeling all should be involved including businesses and parents; it is totally unfair to expect two or three people to run the whole day. MCC agreed to write to Lochaline Primary School Parent Council on behalf of the Games Committee and Jim urged everyone in the community to volunteer to help ensure the week does go ahead.

11. Items from the Public – Nil

12. AOB – Nil.

No meeting in January, next meeting Monday 6 February 2017 at 7.30pm