

Morvern Community Council Meeting

7pm via ZOOM Monday July 6th 2020

Present: Peter Lawson, Janette Cameron, Andy Robinson, Duncan Orr Ewing, Cllr Andrew Baxter, Martin Sampson, Angus Robertson (chair), Annie Tordoff (secretary), Morven Gemmill, Dr Susan Taylor, Sally Semple, Alasdair Firth, Stuart & Sue Layton, Sally Semple, Linda Martin

Apologies: Kenny McLaughlin(treasurer), PC Angela Campbell

1. AR welcomed all members of the public and RSPB to the meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's report 06/07/2021	Balance at 1/6/2020	£7,523.17
	Income from Loch Uisge Hydro Community Fund	£836.63
	Expenditure	£0.00
	Balance at 6/7/2020	£8,359.80
	Note: invoice send to MCDC for resilience expenses to date but not yet paid	£2,201.70

3. Previous minutes agreed by email circulation and uploaded to Morvern.org. An additional meeting was held by councillors on Tuesday 16th June at 6pm to change office bearers - Angus Robertson will be chair, Kenny McLaughlin as treasurer, Annie Tordoff continues as secretary. Morvern, Martin and Alasdair will remain as councillors.
4. RSPB Morvern LIFE Bid and Glencripesdale NNR proposal. Andy Robinson described the LIFE reapplication which aims to enhance western atlantic woodland and better manage rhododendron eradication in Morvern. The bid will be submitted by October and if successful would be operational by July. The bid was discussed at a previous MCC meeting, with particular emphasis on gauging what benefits it would be to our community. RSPB answered that , if successful, it could provide a small number of jobs locally, perhaps around 4. MCC requested close liaison with RSPB as the project develops.
5. Duncan Orr discussed SNH owned Glencripesdale Nature reserve of 600 ha neighbouring Laudale estate on the side of Loch Sunart. . RSPB concerned about deterioration of area - deer fencing, rhododendron infestation and are meeting with SNH to explore if RSPB could take over the management of the site through acquisition. Early conversations with local people have taken place but if RSPB mounted a bid to purchase there would have to be a formal community consultation. Some discussion held about deer management and necessary fencing. MCC suggested that discussion with Sunart CC would be useful and exploration of joint responsibilities with communities. Councillors were interested in both proposals and asked to be kept close to developments. There may be economies of scale if both projects were to run simultaneously. MCC thanked Duncan and Andy for attending.
6. Killundine Update - AF updated MCC on behalf of Morvern Community Woodlands. MCW has been awarded £1m from the Scottish Land Fund on evidence of clear community support. This leaves a further 1.7m to raise by October. MCW will seek to

do this through donors and partners committed to the project, with an option for local crowd funding later, when things become clearer. Details will be released in the press and locally this week. If funds are not raised by October it seems likely that the estate will be offered for sale on the open market. MCC wished MCW all success in the coming months. If the required funds are raised, it is likely that MCW will seek to hold a community ballot. MCC encouraged MCW and would provide assistance and support over the question of when and how to ballot the community. MCC will include Killundine on our agenda next month.

7. Police Update. A written update was read out to the meeting as follows:
With the hospitality and tourism starting up again there will undoubtedly be an influx of tourists from far afield visiting the area. The roads will be busier, and some folk may not have ever driven on single track roads so please be patient.
Pubs are allowed to re-open the beer garden/outdoor area as of today the 6th July with the 15th being earmarked for indoor trading/alcohol consumption. If a licenced premise does not have outdoor drinking conditions on their licence they must apply for an occasional licence. No premises should be allowing alcohol to be consumed indoors until the 15th July as per Scot Gov guidelines and all the social distancing guidelines must be adhered to. If anyone has any queries get in touch with Highland Council Licensing. We will be doing LP checks in the coming weeks more so than we would in normal times so keep to the guidelines.
I am hoping the new officer will be in situ at the beginning of August all going well. Social media must not be used to report incidents of Covid-19 guideline breaches all reports should be made through 101 so we get a proper figure for Covid related calls. Please be careful when posting comments, there have been a few incidents where some comments have been abusive and have caused offence.
MCC Thanked the police for this useful update, looked forward to meeting the new local police officer and wished PC Kevin a long and happy retirement.
8. Playpark - MCC thanked all local people for grass cutting in the play area. AR wrote to Dot Ferguson on 3rd July and asked for an answer prior to tonight's meeting. HCC moved their original position from opening play parks on 31st July when they are safe to do so. The play area will now be inspected on Wednesday and opened if safe to do so. MG will attend for MCC with Janette Cameron on Wednesday. It was noted by the community that the way in which the park was closed by HCC was suboptimal and lines of communication could be better should this situation arise again. MCC agreed that, going forward, it would be helpful to understand the inspection regime and to have a copy of the inspection report and ongoing maintenance programme.
9. Tourism charter and Resilience Group update- MCC continues to thank all volunteers for their ongoing support. The visitors charter has been widely circulated and available to see on Morvern.Org. Stu Layton updated everyone that there will be family dinghy sailing through Morvern Sailing Club who are encouraging all families to join in.
10. Planning applications

- Nc'nean Distillery; Maturation, bottling and cask storage facilities(Ref. No: 20/02148/FUL). application now formally received - no update from last months discussion. Agreed our response should be generally supportive but, regarding construction and future operational traffic, that planners should safeguard the integrity of the extremely vulnerable public road to Drimnin.

- Marine Scotland application for Auliston barge site. Agreed; MCC response to ask marine Scotland for evidence that there will be no adverse effect on important marine species

11. Ward 21 grants for energy efficiency.

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1210/environment/829/energy_and_sustainability/2 Discussion held about the type of insulation (internal/external) which architecturally does not always fit in this area - Councillor Baxter to investigate. Sally will feed back to the council after her own enquiries.

12. Succession Planning for primary care medical services - AT discussed involving the community in future options for primary care after Dr Taylor retires. AT will work with Dr Taylor to plan a future meeting. Social care is developing through Highland Hospice - action AT to contact Lara Van der Peer.

13. Current COVID testing also discussed and Dr Taylor working to understand current testing and trace arrangements in Morvern which are unclear. Dr Taylor will report back to MCC who offered support wherever needed. NHS Inform is the first port of call for testing and there is no local provision for tourist COVID testing. Action AT to liaise with Dr Taylor to progress.

14. Community Plan - AR has spoken to Peter Boylan(MCT) and Jane Stuart-Smith (MCDC). MCC will lead on development of the plan. AR proposed developing a subgroup, reporting to the full council, to take this forward - action Angus, Morven and Kenny (TBC). MCC would really welcome any interest from community members or other groups to help drive this forward.

15. Corran ferry - AB updated that there was a steering group meeting 3 weeks ago and agreed recommendation to Highland Council to upgrade the pier on either side of the narrows and a new Roll on roll off ferry in the first instance as the ferry requires to be replaced in the next 5 years. Payments have not been taken recently on the ferry to protect staff. Charges will start again on 15th July. The group is working to make sure that the plan is on the Scottish Government strategic transport to explore other options including fixed crossing. The community will be fully engaged during these developments.

16. Village tidy up - MCC have noted that local people have voluntarily been cutting grass and tidying for which we are all grateful. It was noted that the village tidy plan, including management of overgrowth, required to be resurrected post lockdown. Everyone wanted to thank Toby for his consistent picking up of litter. There has been litter on roads during lockdown and we would like to remind everyone to take their litter home. Tidying of overgrowth cannot be done until nesting season is over. Highland council should also keep back path from Kirk Brae to the shop clear. Additional ideas such as outdoor gyms discussed. AR to talk to Ally and Kenny to get a plan together.

Date and Time of next meeting 3rd August 7pm

