

Morvern Community Council
Meeting notes January 18th at 7pm

Present: Councillors Angus Robertson, Morven Gemmill, Annie Tordoff, Tom Finley, Kenny McLaughlin, Douglas Taylor
Members of the public: Stu & Sue Layton, Peter & Gillian Llewellyn, Sarah Jones

1. Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. No declaration of interest noted.
 2. Minutes (agreed by email circulation) & matters arising as follows
 - a. Chair noted that induction call with Tom and Douglas was arranged and hopefully was helpful
 - b. Christmas hampers were delivered which were well received. Thanks to Liz for lovely boxes, Dr Taylor for great organisation, Craig Sellar trust for funding and councillors for delivering.
 - c. Urram and Strontian consultation and plan still live - please do respond to the survey
 - d. No interest from Morvern community groups for purchase of Glencripesdale to date. Opportunity still open for any group that may be interested.
 3. AOB
 - a. Road from Drimnin to the cemetery at Drimnin is in poor condition. Highland Council owns the graveyard and, presumably, has a right of access. Local residents have access to the road but the road has deteriorated. Advice to be sought from Highland Council as the graveyard is currently largely inaccessible. **ACTION TF & AT**
 - b. Request from post office locally to ask Calmac to alter local boat lunchtime to facilitate better mail delivery. **Action - TF to discuss with Keith L** in the first instance.
 - c. Community Service - discussed and it is hoped that any community service opportunity would be of optimal benefit to the village acknowledging that supervision is required. A variety of views were shared. It was agreed that, where Community Service or Payback Orders are concerned, MCC should and would always strive to support the Justice Social Work professionals to achieve best results in terms of both rehabilitation and benefit to the community.- **ACTION AR to investigate**
 4. Planning applications
 - a. Current applications discussed - no objections raised from MCC
 5. Resilience Update
 - a. Update from Highland Council Policy Unit was made available on the agenda prior to the meeting as follows
- **Covid Council Briefing** – prior to the start of the Council meeting yesterday, a briefing was provided by Dr Tim Allison, Director of Public Health for NHS Highland, Chief Superintendent Conrad Trickett from Police Scotland and the Council's Chief Executive

Donna Manson. The briefing was recorded and is available to view at the following link <https://highland.public-i.tv/cor>

- [e/portal/webcast_interactive/535401](https://highland.public-i.tv/cor/e/portal/webcast_interactive/535401). I hope you find this interesting and informative.
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- **Covid Resilience Grant Support** – the local covid resilience grant scheme is still in place and available for groups to apply to. The purpose of the fund is to support covid-19 related community activity and on supporting emergency food, supplies and vulnerable individuals. Examples of support could include:
 - supporting local volunteer efforts and expenses including developing promotional materials and support for local volunteer telephone systems
 - making up food packs for vulnerable households
 - developing measures to address social isolation
 - providing a source of funding to enable groups to shop for individuals in the community where households no longer have cash available and they cannot source local deliveries
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 - The criteria for the Scheme has been amended and groups can now apply for funding up to £1,500 at any one time.
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- **Temporary Business Closure Grant** – a new grant scheme has been launched to support businesses who have had to close due to the covid-19 protective measures introduced. The Closure Grant operates as a two-tiered scheme, with a grant of £2,000 for premises which have a rateable value of up to and including £51,000 and a grant of £3,000 for those businesses with a rateable value of £51,001 and above. The grant is payable every four weeks, in arrears, for the duration protective measures are in place.
 - For more information please visit www.highland.gov.uk/strategicframeworkfund
 - Over the coming weeks the Scottish Government will be making available a range of other grants to businesses, including Taxi and Private Hire; Newly Self Employed, Mobile Close Contact Services and a Highland Discretionary Business Grant scheme. The Council has been asked to deliver these grant schemes and as detailed eligibility and grant scheme information becomes available from the Scottish Government, the Council will provide guidance and detail on its website as to who is eligible and how to apply for grant. We will provide updates as and when they become available.
- **NHS Vaccine updates:** the latest update from NHS Highland on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link: www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine
- Finally, we know that across Highland many Community Councils or other community groups put up a Christmas tree and Christmas lights in their town/village as a part of local celebrations. Following the tightened Covid restrictions now in place a number of you have asked for guidance on how/when to take down these trees and

lights. With the legal requirement to now stay at home, we would advise that this cannot be regarded as an essential task or reason for leaving home and therefore the decorations should remain in place for the time being.

- b. AT updated that local arrangements for contractors working in the area has been distributed - see attached Guidance
 - c. Dongles and pulse oximeters are being purchased from resilience funds.
 - d. MCC has one digital device spare for local use. Not wifi enabled. Lilia to ask funders if device can be used within the community
6. Police update - none received
7. MCDC Update from KM.
- a. Project to introduce native oysters (protected species) at Lochaline pontoons for sea wilding proposed and fully supported by MCDC. Project will be coordinated by Coalas. These oysters are a protected species and **not** for harvesting.
 - b. Consultation on site for camper van hook up on going. Survey closes on 21st January and everyone is encouraged to participate in the [consultation](#). Document has been uploaded to the Morvern.org website.
 - c. Hydro project is hoped to be ready by end of June.
 - d. Community Hub is likely to be completed by Easter. MCDC hoping to employ someone to do general maintenance in light of new developments. MCDC next meeting 11th so next MCC meeting Monday 15th (tbc)
8. Community Plan- no progress since Christmas. Large grant application unsuccessful. AR contacting other contacts to progress. DT offered to support - Action DT and AR
9. Village tidy- Expression of Interest ready. Map to be completed and schedule/timing of work to be finalised.- ACTION AR/MG. Discussion held about scope for our village in bloom in future. Some housing association houses noted to be requiring maintenance (gutters etc). MCC to ask Highland Council/Housing associations to ensure public areas are kept tidy and remind people that help is available from Highland Council for those who are unable to do their own garden. MG to research and draft letter. Following on from the success of Christmas decorations suggestions made about a village in bloom or gala week having an open garden day.
10. Date and time of next meeting **February 15th (Monday after MCDC meeting) tbc**
11. Treasurer's report (See report below) - no transactions carried out since last meeting

MCC Treasurer's report for period to 1/12/2020 to 12/01/2021		
Opening Balance at:	01/12/2020	£11,561.50
INCOME	Nil	£0.00
EXPENDITURE	Nil	£0.00
Closing Balance at:	12/01/2021	£11,561.50