

Morvern Community Council

Notes March 15th at 7pm

Present: Councillors: Angus Robertson (chair), Tom Finley, Annie Tordoff, (secretary), Morven Gemmill, Stu and Sue Layton, Annemie Shanks, Nicki Burnham, Sarah Jones, Peter and Gillian Llewellyn, Gill Tyson, Jane Stuart-Smith, Keith and Henriette Laidlaw

Apologies: Kenny McLaughlin

1. Welcome - AR welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. No declarations of interest declared.
2. AOB
3. Minutes (agreed by email circulation) & matters arising
 - a. Drimnin cemetery road - discussed at last meeting and letter sent to Dot Ferguson at Highland council. Highland Council's view is that they don't own or maintain the road, but only have a right of access across it to the cemetery. Dot asked if MCC could advise on who owns the road. MCC have replied providing the useful information that Derek Lewis gave us at the last meeting, raising MCC concerns and seeking further advice on these. MCC concerns are as follows
 - i. Clarity for Scottish Waters' access to the road is not clear despite all the work that they have undertaken.
 - ii. Access to the cemetery. If this is restricted to that of a public footpath (foot bike or horse) as implied by Derek Lewis, then the council think this is not acceptable for modern times. MCC would wish to see a welcome, sustainable and formalised access for all and most importantly for those with a disability.
 - iii. MCC would like Highland council to provide clarity of the roads access rights and ensure that it is accessible for all (awaited response)
ACTION: AR to inform DL of MCC progress on this subject.
 - b. Community Plan - EOI sent out to potential partners with the closing date of April 12th. We are continuing to try and source additional funding with support from MCDC. Sarah Jones will be representing MCDC, David Campbell MCT and Councillors Annie and Douglas representing MCC. Meeting to agree selection criteria of the preferred partner in train.
 - c. Village tidy
 - i. Area currently being used for hub build discussed and that it was agreed that it should be landscaped following completion of the Hub. And the area around the war memorial. It was also noted that material is accumulating. Meeting to be held between MCDC, Ardtornish and MCC proposed. **Kenny, Tom and Morven agreed to action.** It was noted that the contractor is required to landscape. All agreed that the area is an important area in the heart of the village so landscaping for future use was noted to be important. **Action: SJ will speak to builders to understand what they plan to do. MG to arrange a meeting. AR to write to Ardtornish and MCDC.**
 - ii. Expression of interest completed and ready for village tidy. MCC needs to know what council plans are this year to ensure that any additional work contracted for is not duplicating. Also need to confirm what offer is available from Ardtornish. MCC would like to thank those who have continued to clear the village in the interim. **ACTION MG**

- d. Succession planning for primary care medical services (Dr Taylor retiring June 2022) - AT reported that recent contact has been made with NHS Highland with a view to meeting soon. It was agreed that we need to have firm commitment **ACTION AT to write to NHS Highland again.**
4. Lochaline Primary School - AS stated that the parent council has been in touch with NHS Highland and a recruitment plan is in place in the first instance for a cluster head (Ardgour/Lochaline). The principal teacher will be permanent in the local school, supported by a supply teacher and clerical officer. All agreed that support for any potential successors and subsequent posts would be helpful e.g. available housing, amenities and benefits of living in Lochaline. Use of social media discussed to promote the area. HL agreed to coordinate this w/c 29th March
5. Future of De tha Dol? - Meeting to be held later on 31st March. AR asked for a Morvern representative(s) for the journal. Discussion held around the future vision and business model of paper and how it could be useful and sustainable in the future. **ACTION MG** to summarise discussion and feedback to De tha Dol? Before the meeting. **AT** agreed to put the meeting date on LA facebook page to encourage people to attend.
6. Treasurer's report - not reported this month.
7. Planning applications
 - a. Application received from Marine Scotland to do dredging of spillage sand which has built up under the loading pier at the mine. It was noted that there can be a huge amount of plastic within the old reject sand that has come from within the mine which requires local volunteers to clear the plastic which may be harmful to wildlife etc. **AR to ask if some dredged sand can be moved to the small beach at the hotel and sailing club beach if it is clean.** No other objections from MCC who will respond to Marine Scotland supporting the application.
8. Resilience Update - no further updates.
9. Police update - None but noted that camper vans etc have already been seen in the area despite lockdown restrictions. Local people should not hesitate to contact police if they are concerned.
10. MCDL Update. Hub going to plan, harbour hoping to welcome visitors more this year. Responses for Morvern Aires are now on line for people to access. Hydro is progressing to plan. Community electric bikes have been applied for.
11. Letter written to elected members regarding poor quality of Drimin road sent but no reply. Letter to roads dept to be sent. **ACTION AT.** Speeding sign at the school discussed - and thought that the readings could be inaccurate, potentially due to its position.
12. For info - ongoing research into Skate preservation <https://www.argyllhopespot.scot/>

Date and time of next meeting April 12th 7pm by ZOOM