

Morvern Community Council (MCC) meeting held on Tuesday 10th Dec 2024 at 7pm, Village Hall (with mince pies and mulled wine).

Present MCC representatives: Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Miles Welsh (MW), Terra Grier (TG), Helen Jones (HJ), Clara Montgomery (CM), Jenni Hodgson (JH)

Apologies from: Douglas Taylor, Andrew Baxter, Sarah Fanett

Meeting is quorate

Members of the public: 4

No declarations of interest.

1. Welcome.
2. No AOB requests
3. Minutes of last meeting had been approved by email.
 - a. Matters arising:
 - b. Local Place Plan (LPP): thanks to everyone who has contributed and submitted feedback (one question had nearly 70 responses!). Meeting 11/12/24 to go through responses and hoping to submit to Highland Council (HC) in January 2025. HL emphasised that the LPP is an ambition to work towards, but people can still object during the planning process. Thank you from member of the public to steering committee for putting it together.
 - c. Community Newsletter and Calendar: HL took idea to MCDC and will be meeting with SP, the new Operations Manager, this week to see what might be possible. Would be good to streamline activities and avoid clashes). Needs to be small, local and a combination of media: FB not reaching everyone, so email newsletter and paper one.
 - d. Roads: MCC has received more complaints about roads recently. Andrew Baxter (who sends apologies for today) has contacted HL and asked if he could help. HL mentioned all the road issues and asked for list of appropriate contacts at HC.
 - e. Village tidying: no update. CM has spoken to Ardtornish re nature maintenance, but no update there either. Tree surgeon too busy. **Action: CM** to write to Ardtornish, emphasising urgency re nesting birds.
 - f. Care homes: some progress. Dail Mhor meeting took place this afternoon, with Karen Anne Wilson from NHS Highland. Dail Mhor has received 19 applications and are hoping to interview next week and establishing what hours people can do. Regarding the building: HC are conducting building condition survey. By end of year we should know what repairs need doing, how the staffing situation is and what funding needs to be found. Moss Park will be sorted first. Fri 24th Jan next Care Home meeting.
 - g. HC public consultation on proposed visitor levy/tourist tax. Deadline was extended by another 7 weeks, so time to respond. (Please do!) Discussion was had about responding as MCC and what

issues we can see with the current proposals. **Action: HL** will see where our concerns would fit into the survey and will feed back in January.

4. Youth's update - AHS Xmas market was very successful. Pilot for bus starting in January 2025.
5. Lochaber Redesign Project (new Belford/Dail Mhor): see 3e.
6. Planning applications: forestry track land west of Larachbeag, deer management. 2 houses in Drimnin, next to Mill House, decrofted. If anyone local wants to comment, please do. **Action: DT** to put in response that we would like clarification re access. **Action: DT** to contact neighbours in Drimnin to hear their view.
7. MCDC Update:
 - a. SP has started as Operations Manager and has Open Door sessions for community this week.
 - b. The Café is open again and running well.
 - c. New director at MCDC: Miles Welsh. SL has moved away.
8. Anne Anderson from Scottish Seafarms (SSF):
 - a) SSF houses: draft agreement re 2 properties is ready and with MCDC's lawyers.
 - b) Enquiry into sunken vessel: vessel was towed away and fully inspected. Cause of sinking was a worn pad eye. All similar vessels have now also been checked and fitted with further safety measures. Inspection processes have been tightened and communication in case of future incidents will include informing MCC. Article about vessel can be found in December issue of Source, SSF Newsletter: <https://scottishseafarms.com/news-ssf/the-source-newsletter/>
 - c) Newsletter also has information about SSF "Heart of Community Fund", which supports community initiatives (e.g. towards transport?). **Action: all directors** to look at it. SSF would like to support the community and use content of LPP when speaking to stakeholders.
 - d) Fiunary fishfarm expansion: SSF working to put in planning application for Fiunary expansion. Hoping to submit in February 2025. All environment survey work has been completed and led to SSF having to reduce the size of the planned farm to enable recoverability. SSF are conducting a scientific study of Sound of Mull, in partnership with Nature Scot: mapping and monitoring biodiversity. AA happy to come and do presentation about internship opportunities for all ages, esp. young people. **Action: HL** to ask Caolas to contact AA.
9. Treasurer's report: Community Benefit money £2,230,84 from Kingairloch is in and will be moved to Common Good Fund. £2,999,84 in general fund. Common good £765,96. Treasurer has not switched accounts yet, but now has the information to do so. MCT application re-submitted, due to technical issues.
10. Other correspondence
 - a. Natural Capital partnership: HL attended meeting. Ardtornish is working with Edinburgh University. There is more funding available if they can demonstrate community benefit and are creating framework to identify this. Amanda Bryan from Edinburgh Uni would like to come out here in January and meet. Needs small group of 10-12 people as sounding board;

limited group will incl. MCT, MCC, school. **Action: HL** to attend Natural Capital meeting on behalf of MCC.

- b. National Lottery Climate Action Fund: PAS has approached some of the communities they have worked with to apply for funding towards community climate action activities. PAS are doing this on our behalf, using Live Life Morvern.

AOB: -

Meeting closed at 20.25

Next meeting: 14th Jan 2025, Zoom