

Morvern Community Council (MCC) meeting held on
Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 7pm, Lochaline Village Hall

Present Community Council representatives: Clara Montgomery (CM), Henriette Laidlaw (HL), Miles Welsh (MW), Douglas Taylor (DT), Jenni Hodgson (JH)
and Members of the public x 1

1. The chair, HL, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Terra Grier, Helen Jones and India Boulton.
2. AOB requests were taken by the chair:
 - a. Concern raised by Michael Foxely about woodland planting in Ardtornish and potential vicinity to archaeological sites. Raised wishing to make sure a full archaeological survey has been carried out before planting occurs. CM will find out more information from Ardtornish and check with Morvern Heritage Society.
 - b. Urram car club is now available for private hire.
 - c. Raised the continuing problem that ferries and buses on Mull do not link up and there seems to be a lack of communication between West Coast Motors and Calmac. CM will email Calmac and West Coast Motors to flag this continuing problem.
 - d. Noted that there is currently a discussion to dedicate money currently allocated for a road fly-over in Inverness into buying a new Corran ferry.
 - e. Thanks was raised to the tidier of the bottom road in front of the mine.
3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
 - a. HL proposed accepting last meeting's minutes, seconded by DT.
 - b. Local Place Plan - HL: Steering committee has been formed and had their first meeting. Funding applications have been submitted.
 - c. School update - JC: No update.
 - d. Village Tidy Update – CM: HL will contact Highland Council through the Keep Scotland Beautiful website to organise a village litter picking day on the 20th April. HL will contact the school to help with organising and spreading the word. HJ & TG will make a poster for this event.
 - e. Air ambulance location – JC: Designated 3 places on Morvern: 1 at Ardtornish, 1 at Nc'Neen Drimnin, 1 at Kirk Brae field. As a community we should ensure that these areas are kept clear. HL will write to landowners of designated sites to make sure that they are aware of these designations.
 - f. Àrainn Shuaineirt Management Committee / UHI - CM: Trainings have now been posted on UHI NWH Strontian Facebook page, details to be confirmed, including elementary food hygiene certificate, emergency first aid at work, off-road riding basics, outdoor emergency first aid, British sign language basics, Scotland's mental health first aid, (and chainsaw hopefully to be confirmed). Karl Bungey is the new (temporary) Learning Centre Administrator for the UHI's learning centres in Strontian and Kilchoan (Karl.Bungey@uhi.ac.uk), to contact if you would like to see any courses.
 - g. Street lights - CM: Yet hear anything back from Highland Council.
 - h. Public transport costs - CM: Response from HITRANS did not answer directly to concern about public transport costs in the Highlands. CM will contact neighbouring community councils to encourage them to also contact HITRANS, or relevant authorities, about this problem.
 - i. Community calendar - CM: Big thank you to Robert Melohn who has been driving forward onboarding community groups to the calendar. We are hoping

to have this live and online on the 25th of March. HL will contact the Lochaline Social Club to get them on board.

- j. Forestry consultation (FLS & Scottish Forestry) - CM: FLS consultation on 14th February was very well attended by the community, although it was made clear that FLS do not have funds to prioritise community recreation. Members of the community are encouraged to input their views to the community consultation to FLS to continue to raise awareness of how important recreation in the forests is for the community. CM will advertise forms for community input again and contact FLS to find out closing dates for consultation and follow up on proposed future consultation dates.
 - k. Iggesund West Pier plan - HL has communicated to Iggesund that as a community we would support sympathetic fencing such as deer fencing to the pier. We are keen to ensure the public still have walking/cycling access around the pier house to the haul road. We also again asked them to work with their subcontractors to ensure timber lorries are not using the village but turning around at the pier and driving back up the haul road.
 - l. Calmac winter timetable - CM: Request from Lochaline Postal Service has been sent in to Calmac to consider their need to collect post off of the Oban ferry and return back to Lochaline in their future winter timetable. Specifically on a Saturday this is a problem due to a later morning sailing from Oban to Craignure, impacting the ability of the postal staff to make the Fishnish ferry before they stop for lunch.
 - m. Highland Environment Forum - CM: CM will forward correspondence regarding LNCS nomination onto local community environmental groups; Scottish Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Morvern Community Woodland group.
4. Youth's update - HJ / TG: Youth councillors absent.
 5. Lochaber Redesign Project (new Belford hospital) - HL: Received assurance that plan is on hold, not cancelled, and that the plot purchased and dedicated for the building will be kept dedicated for the hospital. Protest happening in Fort William on Saturday 16th March at 11pm.
 6. Housing - CM: HL to contact Scottish Sea Farms about the empty houses at Morvern Crescent and what they are going to do with them.
 7. Planning applications - MW:
 - a. MCDC 10 houses: MCC have repeated our support under certain conditions.
 - b. 3 forestry tracks proposed to go in at Killundine: few details published, MCC yet to submit any response.
 8. MCDC Update – HL: Currently there has been no successful application to take on the cafe in the Hub, so advertisement will go out further afield. MorVolt reports are now available on the Morvern.org website.
 9. Treasurer's Report - JH: One payment to Lochaline Village Hall £11.25. See table for balances. HL nominated that MCC employ a minute-taker, CM seconded. JH will advertise for minute-taker at £35/session. HL will put a tender out for grass cutting. HL will contact Kevin Laurie about locations to be cut under MCC.
 10. Other correspondence - CM
 - a. Maid of Glencoul refit: The Maid of Glencoul will shortly be heading for her planned annual refit scheduled to take place over the next few weeks, with her return to Ardgour expected April/May 2024.
 - b. Ardnamurchan Mod: Bòrd na Gàidhlig funding has been cut to the Ardnamurchan Mod. MW proposed that we donate £50, DT seconded.

MCC Treasurer's report for period		£
Opening Balance at:	13/2/2024	8,482.74
	Income Less Expenditure During the Period	11.25
Closing Balance at:	12/3/2024	8,471.49

Upcoming Meeting dates

2024

April (no meeting)

May 14

June 11 (AGM)

July (no meeting)

August 13 - Drimnin Village Hall

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10