

Morvern Community Council (MCC) meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7pm, Lochaline Village Hall

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

Apologies from: Douglas Taylor, Helen Jones, Alastair Sinclair

Meeting is quorate

Members of the public: 8

No declarations of interest.

1. Welcome

2. AOB requests: Zoom access to meetings, 60+ Christmas party

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

a. Access and updating of MCC page on website

Has been brought up with MCDC, who have the files and will add them asap. **Action: HL to request that MCDC show MCC how to update the page themselves.**

b. Village maintenance/nature

HL has met with FLS and is meeting with Community Liaison Officer this week to discuss options re FLS land between hotel and Torr na Faire and between allotments and High Street.

William Hawes (Ardtornish) has contacted tree surgeon regarding trimming trees, but still waiting for quote, which will then be sent to MCC. If community agrees, scrub can also be removed, but trees have priority, due to view. (Scrub has been cleared before; CM suggests using grazers (sheep/goats), members of public at meeting positive, would have to consult village in general.

Hazelwood: MCDC is pursuing a management plan and hoping to get this done over winter.

c. Local Place Plan

Since consultation in July, Steering group has been creating draft plan, which they aim to share by the end of this month for comments (email, website, community engagement events). MCC encourages everyone to engage with it and give their comments (positive as well as negative). Contact MCDC if you'd like to be on the email mailing list.

d. School update

No update from Janette. HL spoken to Jenny Robertson re old funds that might be available for music lessons. School needs to liaise directly with MCT if they need funding. **Action HL to let school know.**

e. Phone box: has now got solar power and ready for next stage: lights being installed and "telephone" will be installed where people can "dial a story" related to the mine (Heritage Society). Celebration of phone box: Sunday 27th Oct with picnic in hall and souvenir for the children. **Action: review location of solar panel and check if any permissions are needed from OpenReach.**

f. Street lights: CM has had reply from Highland Council (HC). Would be difficult not to have streetlights on, because we pay for them through council tax. CM asked if we could have Christmas lights instead, but that was only possible at extra cost of £300/pole. **Action: CM to continue dialogue with HC.**

Action: CM to investigate minimum required distance between streetlights and gardens (as the ones in Kirk Brae might be too close)

Suggestions included a sensor/button to only use the lights when needed or put different covers on the lights, to limit where the light goes. **Action: CM to go door to door to find out what Kirk Brae residents would prefer.**

Field of hope lights (Xmas tree): Katy to build “Christmas tree” out of willow to be placed around current tree until it is big enough for lights. Should cost £80. **Decision:** All in agreement.

g. Public transport costs and logistics:

Ongoing. HL now has a contact at Mull Council and will pass that on to CM to follow up.

h. Forestry: email received announcing Kinlochteacuis area felling.

i. Roads:

No news from HC. Outstanding road repairs still include Torr na Faire, missing passing places, Drimnin Road between Kiel-Sruthan. Road near Savary needs to be added as well.

j. Fouling: no reply from HC yet.

4. Communication to Highland Council:

MCC has forwarded our recent minutes/agendas to HC, as per the requirements for this year’s grant.

- a) Information about new proposed scheme for windfarms: according to guidelines, communities around windfarms receive money. New proposal would suggest that the increase in community funding would go to HC instead. (Also not specified exactly what the money can be used for). HL has asked councillors to clarify and if that is the plan, we oppose. **Decision:** all in agreement. Morvern

seems likely candidate for many windfarms. MCDL is setting up a specific consultation to find out how the community feel about windfarms.

- b) Speed limit through the village: HL spoken to HC re speed limit in the village, eg. lorries going down main street. We are impacted by felling both here and on Mull, as lorries pass through the village. Suggestion: speak to the companies and ask them to drive slowly, especially during school hours. Also lorries passing the school bus in the morning. (Timber lorries from Mull also impact negatively on Corran Ferry).
- c) HL also discussed extending the 20mph limit to Kiel Church: Places of worship qualify for a 20mph limit, so HC is looking into this.

5. Youth update: Saturday bus. HJ/TG have spoken to pupils at AHS and 9 young people would like a Saturday bus service. Also poll on Morvern Lift Share App and Facebook to show that adults would also use it. **Action: HL to speak to Rob to find out what paperwork is needed.** Maybe “booking” in advance, so bus is only running if needed. (Suggestion from member of public: voucher system with taxi service, if only few people wanting to use bus. Will send link to HL about this example. Urram car could perhaps be used?)

6. Lochaber Redesign Project (new Belford/Dail Mhor). Redesign project stalled due to lack of money. Current focus very much on Moss Park care home closing, which could offer employment opportunities at Dail Mhor, who are currently deployed at Moss Park.

There have been 2 meetings with Kate Forbes regarding what’s gone wrong and how to move forward. Maintenance of interior and exterior of building is an important issue. Job adverts have gone out, but not clear on how many hours they are offering. Anyone who is interested in care work, even a few hours a week, should get in touch. Urram can also support people with applications. Urram is concerned that costs of maintenance repairs will be presented as so high, that it will be impossible to reopen.

7. Housing

One of the Miners' Court houses now available to rent. Point system subcontracted to letting agents. HL has requested that criteria be put up on MCDC website.

Negotiations with Fish Farm are going well and MCDC will be managing the letting of 2 houses on Morvern Crescent.

Development opposite Kirk Brae very close to getting planning permission.

HL has spoken to MCDC/Urram re proposal when we get the new houses, to do some joint advertising for key workers whom we'd like to join our community (e.g. carers, young families).

8. Planning applications

Nothing to report

9. MCDC Update:

New operations director has been appointed and will be joining us in November.

Currently inviting anyone who is interested to apply to be part of board for either MCDC/MCTC/MorVolts. Employing Operations Director should take away some of the workload for directors, so perhaps lowering barriers for people to join a board. Especially keen to involve younger people.

MorVolts has done very well due to the rainy summer.

FLS and MCDC are discussing possible asset transfer.

Withdrawal of winter fuel allowance: MCC, MCDC and MCT will meet up to discuss options to support people impacted by this.

MCDC agreed to have a joint mailing list with MCC, as requested. Currently looking at GDPR requirements for this.

10. Treasurer's Report:

No movement in common good fund account: £7.550, 96

General fund: £1.339,08

Bought poppy wreaths, which have gone to Kate.

MCC would like to employ Katy D for 10 additional hours for Local Place Plan. **Decision:** All in agreement. **Action:** HL to inform PAS

11. Other correspondence:

a. Corran ferry steering group meeting online via Teams, Thurs 14/11/24 13.00-14.00. Some other councils are writing to HC again. JH attended presentation in Ardgour and heard many concerns about the new area of access to the ferry on A82. Suggestion: create a roundabout? Other issue: Glasgow bus stop. Where will this be located? **Action:** HL to write regarding this.

Action HL: For next consultation: ask HC if free transport to consultation can be extended to Morvern and other areas?

b. Corran Ferry timber lorries causing congestion.

c. Lochaber area Place Plan online meeting thurs 17th oct 18-20.00

d. Community Council Review 2024-5 initial engagement survey

e. Dail Mhor update: see 6.

f. MCT grant: form needs to be signed. **Action:** HL and JH to sign.

g. Surgery update: survey now finished. MCC will sort feedback into themes to go back to surgery. Surgery will provide MCC with statistics for this year. Then joint meeting between MCC and surgery, followed by feedback to community.

h. Screen Machine proposal for donation: looking to raise 200K. JH proposed to donate £50 pounds, CM seconded. **Decision:** all in agreement.

- i. Christmas party for over-60s: first Saturday of Dec (7th Dec). Susan Taylor to post on FB and organise volunteers, ask for musicians, catering (Susan will speak to Whitehouse). Funding through MCT.
- j. Susan offers to attend MCC meetings and connect others via Zoom. Suggestion: have the occasional meeting via Zoom only? E.g. trying out in November and January? Will need clear rules for Zoom meeting etiquette. Link will be posted on Facebook and on Morvern.org in advance of meeting.

[Minutes approved via email]

Date of next meeting: 12th November 2024 (via Zoom)