

**Minutes of Morvern Community Development Company
Board Meeting held in public
Wednesday, 12th February 2020, Lochaline Primary School, 7.30pm**

MCDC/MCTC Directors: Angus Robertson, Jennie Robertson, Nick Tordoff, Sarah Jones, Jane Stuart – Smith (by video link), Alasdair Firth, Amy Stammers, Bob Jones, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Development Officer).

Members of the public: Sue Layton, Stuart Layton, Peter Boyle.

Apologies: Lesley Jones,

Agenda:

1. Apologies
 2. Minutes of previous meeting
 3. Matters arising
 4. MCDC/MCTC code of conduct and register of interests
 5. MCDC working document
 6. Report re Community Consultation – Jane
 7. Projects update
 - Barr hydro
 - Housing and Community hub
 - Marina and Management accounts
 8. Natural Playgrounds, Mull 5th March 2020 – Amy,
 9. Bottles fund
 10. Baton relay
 11. AOB
- 2. Minutes** – 11th December 2019 Jennie proposed, Jane seconded; 14th May 2019 Angus proposed, Sarah seconded, 28th November 2019 Nick proposed, Amy seconded.
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- 3. Matters arising** – Harris letter Jane to revisit. Fuel bug issue is being investigated, D&S Forecourt are expected on site shortly to replace caps, treat diesel tanks with bug killer and check for water in tanks.
- 4. Code of conduct and register of interests** – still some outstanding and to be handed in.
- Angus noted his interest for the meeting as a trustee of Craig Sellar Trust. No other interests declared.
- 5. MCDC working document** – Lilia demonstrated the draft to the meeting. Resend to Jane for comment and then to the rest of the board.
- 6. Report re community consultation** – Jane updated the meeting on her further meeting with chairs of MCC and MCT. Summary of report:

JSS met with PB and MG on Sunday afternoon and had a general chat about how to progress the community consultation (CC) to identify the community's priorities for organisations in Morvern. MCDC, a separate, independent legal identity is keen to work with MCC and MCT.

JSS has given MCC a list of consultants that have experience of community consultations in small communities in Scotland. It was agreed we wanted to keep the cost to a minimum but that some sort of independent facilitator is a good idea.

MCC to lead on organising the community consultation with MCT. MCDC to support this.

7. Projects updates:

Barr Hydro – the MorVolts board recommendation is to go ahead with the project. There were ups and downs getting to this decision. The difference in hydrology between our technical advisor Glen Hydro and banks due diligence advisor Hydroplan, the difference is 10% which is very significant. This resulted in triodes lending less but EIF is filling the gap, but EIF money is 2% more expensive. Nick showed a graph which demonstrates the income using both hydrology models and the average between the two. The Hydroplan model does not show £50K income that the community set as their limit to. Bank is always going with the most conservative estimation. Hydroplan are known for being conservative.

We can still decide not to go ahead, MorVolts will go into receivership and contractors and CARES will lose money. MCDC will be protected but there will be reputational damage. A comment was made that even the hydro scheme is not bringing any money into the community; it is still delivering green energy. It is not in bank's interests to run the hydro scheme; they will do everything to keep us going. In 5 years time the risk will be substantially lower. There is a need to communicate to the community that with the hydro scheme there will not be a sudden influx of cash into the community. Jane suggested that the board speak about reserves for MCDC in the next 2-3 months. Jane thanked the sub – committee for all the huge amount of work they have done. Nick asked the MCDC board if happy to go ahead. Unanimous decision to go ahead. MCDC, as the shareholder, will need to make a formal decision on this and sign various bits of paperwork. Aim for 28th February for financial close. Nick will consult the lawyers and see if this matter can be dealt with by email. It is time to start thinking about attracting energy hungry industries to the area that could potentially use the electricity from the scheme. Amendment on planning approved for the power house.

Housing and Community – insert the info from my update. Update on Locahber housing. CS commitment to older people but houses can not lay empty. Amy is doing a press release, include input from MCT and CS Trust. Angus will do a bit on CS F and Susan Taylor for MCT. Deadline for DTD 20th Feb. Another application to Clothworkers + crowdfunding and “buy a

brick". The more money we can raise from funds, the less money we would need to borrow from bank.

Decision to adopt MorVolts logo designed by a schoolchild.

Marina – Angus presented the MCTC to address several issues with regard to the road etc. Lilia will speak to Glensanda when she goes to choose the rock for public art, to see if more rock can be donated for various community projects.

Idea of electric bikes for the harbour, MCTC board to discuss.

8. Natural Playground on Mull, 5th March 2020 – perhaps not something MCDC want to get involved at this point.

9. Bottles fund – needs more thought on this.

10. **Baton Relay** – there was a meeting in the Village Hall, good idea of how to get the baton on 24th August from Morvern to Strontian. Amy will email minutes to Lilia to put on the web.

11. **AOB** – articles with regard to MCC directors, Jane drafted something and will email around for comments.

Planning for felling of Doctors Wood is in – comments to be in by 27th February 2020. There is a restocking plan to replant with conifer. Perhaps people should comment on restocking plan. Look which way they extract the wood. For MCC to ask the decision to be delayed to give people time to comment.

12. Next meeting -