

Minutes of Morvern Community Development Company Board Meeting

held in public

Thursday, 13th August 2015

Lochaline Village Hall, 7.30pm

Directors: Lesley Jones, John Hodgson, Jenni Hodgson, Lilia Dobrokhodova (Dev Officer).

Members of the public: Robert Laurie, Linda Martin

Apologies: Angus Robertson, Clare Holohan, Jane Stuart – Smith

1. Minutes of last public meeting 14th May 2015
2. Matters arising
3. Fuel pumps
4. Morvern Hydro
5. Affordable housing
6. Hazelwood
7. AOB
8. Next public meeting – AGM, 12th November 2015, Lochaline Village Hall

Lesley Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Minutes** – Jennie proposed, Lesley seconded.
2. **Matters arising** – Oil Club set up for Lochalilne, no one ordered through the Club yet but the service is there if required. Information about it is on www.morvern.org, Facebook, leaflets in the shop and notice board.
3. **Fuel Pumps** – 24/7 payment system is now operational. There are a couple of teething issues with the equipment but MCDC are working on resolving the issues that are reported. Tokheim are coming to replace equipment as some of it was damaged during delivery and issues we are experiencing might be connected to damage occurred in transit. MCDC will inform the community if any closures of the service are anticipated. MCDC have had 3 fuel deliveries so far, since the takeover from Lochaline Stores in the middle of June.

Trading Standards came to inspect Lochaline Filling Station and overall are satisfied with everything. MCDC are required to install Customer Emergency Cabinet containing pumps shut down button and emergency telephone programmed with 999. MCDC have this in hand and will be installing the cabinet asap.

MCDC have an emergency payment agreement with Lochaline Stores – thank you to the shop for their cooperation and understanding.

There are currently 7 local accounts.

Post Office, Forestry and Highland Council are currently unable to use their All Star card for taking fuel, this is an issue with All Star, but MCDC have been advised that All Star are working on resolving the issue.

MCDC are working on producing a sign and notice board for Lochaline Filling Station.

4. **Morvern Hydro Project** – MCDC’s application to National Forest Land Scheme has been approved. MCDC now has 18 months to lease the land for 2 hydro schemes from FCS. Lilia applied for pre – planning advice from the Highland Council for the two schemes – Allt achadh Forsa and Barr River. Full feasibility tender is being worked on.
5. **Housing** – MCDC completed a feasibility study into potential affordable and sheltered housing in Lochaline. MCDC’s application to National Forest Land Scheme has been approved. MCDC now has 9 months to purchase the land under NFLS. This is land adjacent to Dailrainich. There is demand for affordable housing in Lochaline and potential for local businesses in the area to grow and attract work force that would require housing.

6. AOB

Hazelwood – fencing replacement has been completed by contractor engaged by MCDC. Thank you. MCDC sustained some criticism on Facebook from members of the public with regard to paths in Hazelwood. It was disappointing to see comments on Facebook when public meetings by both MCDC and MCC are intended for anyone with any issue to come forward and talk in public about it. MCDC and MCC have a joint responsibility over Hazelwood. Hazelwood paths have been added to village grass cutting contract and MCDC and MCC will be splitting the costs of the Hazelwood cut. Grass to be cut once a month.

Telephone boxes – MCC posted 90 day notices in telephone boxes, to be adopted by the community. Various uses for telephone boxes – book exchange, notice boards, defibrillator station etc.

LIFE – this is a project on rhododendron elimination in Morvern and MCDC have been approached as an anchor organisation for employment of project officer. A discussion took place about this but Directors felt that more information was required before a decision could be made. Lilia to progress.

MCDC at the Village Hall – there seems to be a clash with Burach choir rehearsals with MCDC Thursday meetings every 3 months. The Directors felt that MCDC as a community organisation should continue to have its public meetings in the Village Hall taking 4 Thursdays in a year.