

MCDC Board meeting 11 November 2021

Held in public and on zoom

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION	DATE/TIMELINE
<b>In attendance</b>	<p>Jane Stuart-Smith Chair      MCDC  Sarah Jones Vice Chair      MCDC &amp; Morvolts  Angus Robertson Treasurer MCDC MCTC &amp; Morvolts  Nick Tordoff                      MCDC &amp; Morvolts  Amy Stammers                  MCDC  Bob Jones                          MCDC and MCTC  Jennie Robertson                MCDC  Lesley Jones                        MCTC</p> <p>Lilia Dobrokhodva              Project Officer</p> <p>4 members of the public attended: Peter and Gillian Llewelyn Keith and Henrietta Laidlaw</p>		
<b>1 Apologies</b>			
	Kenny McLaughlin		
<b>2 Matters arising</b>			
	Will be dealt with via agenda.		
<b>3 Code of conduct register of interests</b>			
	JSS asked if any new conflicts or changes to the register of interests. JSS asked that directors raise any issues if they come up as we go through matters.	All directors	
<b>4 Management Accounts</b>			
	<p>Monthly Management Accounts for the 3 companies circulated by AR. JSS reminded Directors that they have access to the accounts prior to the meeting and if anyone had any questions, please email Angus who is very happy to go through them.</p> <p>AR provided a short summary of MCTC. Morvolts and MCDC are complex and a snapshot of where the companies are. AR suggested he give an update of these company's financial position in a few months as mid-way through the year. Agreed.</p>	<p>All directors</p> <p>AR</p>	
<b>MCTC</b>	MCTC is halfway through financial year. Harbour season has ended. The MCTC directors met last		

	<p>week to discuss winter closing and staffing for next year as the HMs are leaving/have left. In summary 2020 was very poor due to COVID. This year MCTC has recouped three quarters of last year's losses.</p> <p>Pump income and turnover good in fact better than expected.</p> <p>Overall profit for MCTC to date this year is £12K for half year. But this has to cover winter costs until the start of next season, so the position is very tight.</p> <p>RJ Explained that modest income possible from winter locals using the pontoons under the local agreement that we have used before. The harbour is still accessible to locals but they must be mindful of the weather conditions and boats must not be left unattended and stick to the agreement about usage.</p>		
MorVolts	<p>The company has spent £5.5m. It still has not received any income into the bank account yet although it is generating power nothing has been paid to Morvolts yet. As a result, the accounts look alarming as we are at the stage of maximum spend and no income. The accounts should look more impressive as we get paid for the energy generated.</p>		
MCDC	<p>These are complex accounts and we are half way through the year. Please could all directors review and ask AR if they have any questions. A more detailed summary will be provided in a few months.</p> <p>JSS commented that it looked as if there is nothing startling or unexpected on the accounts and Angus agreed.</p> <p>The AGM has been postponed while awaiting the statutory accounts to come back from new accountants. The AGM will be the new year and will meet the statutory time limits but it will be tight.</p>	<p>AR</p> <p>Lilia/AR/JSS</p>	
<b>5 Projects Updates</b>			
Barr Hydro	<p>AR reported that the Barr scheme has been getting plenty of rain recently and is running well. It is too early to be certain how the scheme will work but it is starting to work well and confidence is growing in the system and hopes</p>	MorVolts	

	<p>are getting high for a successful scheme.</p> <p>The July poor rainfall meant almost no income but it gave a chance to see the system running gently.</p> <p>The operational phase has started and the contractor has left barring the snagging. The issues on snagging are minimal.</p> <p>The Grand opening is 26 Nov 11.am</p> <p>NT: caretaker recruitment now being considered and trying to work with MCTC on this to amalgamate the roles if possible.</p> <p>SSE have been paid a considerable amount to upgrade and install the correct infrastructure and extra power....unfortunately they have not followed through with their side of the deal....resulting in us having to turn down the throttle and reduce production which resulted in a loss of income....SSE are refusing to compensate as they are not liable as per the contract....a formal complaint will be raised unfortunately this is not the first mistake that SSE have made. A formal complaint will be raised on behalf of the community.</p> <p>MG question: OFGEM will be aware of the complaint being raised and although they do not get involved they will be monitoring it.</p> <p>So far the system looks like generating the projected numbers and things are positive.</p> <p>AS asked if the line was still restricted? The answer is no and we are back to capacity now and all producers can generate at full power in the area.</p>	<p>All directors</p> <p>MCTC board/JSS</p>	<p>End of Nov 21</p>
<p>Pontoons</p>	<p>RJ: Pontoons now on winter arrangements: Some Income generation possible from winter local use at the local agreement is that the harbour is still accessible to locals but they must be mindful of the weather conditions and boats must not be left unattended.</p> <p>RJ reminding that lifejackets must be worn by all users including oyster project researchers</p>	<p>MCTC directors</p>	

Housing and Hub	<p>AS: Snagging A strong letter of complaint was sent to the architect detailing the boards disappointment, the plumbers have been on site and there are considerable problems with the electrical installation.</p> <p>MCDC will maintain the pressure on the architects. MacGregors are winding up trading from 1st Dec they will appoint a QS to stay in touch with the projects.</p> <p>Questions NT: questioning the electrical contractors and wondering if we should be having them back? we need to be sure that we do not allow the same inadequate contractors to keep returning to the job. Lilia has requested the architect find a third party electrical contractor to check work to reinstate confidence.</p> <p>JSS: reduced hours in the café SJ &amp; MG concerns that there is poor provision for lunch, tea and coffees for quite a lot of the week wondering what the community would like to do about it and how this can be avoided. It is difficult running a business in the winter when there are very reduced customers and if the community could support its café that would be great.</p>	Lilia/AS/SJ/JR	
Pumps	<p>New pumps installed, some minor problems with the pump install....2 power cuts tested the system. we now have the capability to restart remotely ourselves. the system will run for 30 mins during a power cut but then into safe mode. there should be an easy restart now. Lilia and Adeline will be able to restart but more people should be trained in case someone is away.</p>	Lilia	
Bikes	<p>These still have not arrived and no word of when they will arrive.</p>	Lilia/KM	
Communications strategy	<p>MCDC could be much better at communicating with its members and we could find ways to be more forthcoming with how project updates are conveyed etc</p> <p>NT feels that the new community plan may flag up some better ways to communicate more widely within the community and errs on the side of caution when using Facebook etc. Should we return to the regular newsletter? How do we get the word out does it need feedback or should we continue with sending even if no engagement</p>		

	<p>come back. Perhaps all groups are struggling? Can the community consultation help with this?</p> <p>GL: feels few people are aware of the problems and difficulties that MCDC are facing and we do not shout about it enough. A newsletter would be a great way to get the word out. MCDC punches well above its weight and deserves high praise and support for all it has achieved and is doing.</p> <p>KL: You are busy doing and you don't have a plan in place to report, suggest a 6 month update wider than just FB. Seemed to be a consensus to move away from FB.</p>		
Live Life Morvern	<p>Live Life Morvern AS: reminding that there is an option to sign up for the mailing list where we could use this to reach the community in the future.</p> <p>A plea to all Please fill out the questionnaire. AS/SJ urged everyone to complete the form and to get involved with the process and have fun with the planning and visioning for the future.</p> <p>There will be the opportunity for members of the community to engage in some zoom sessions where we will have scenario based consultations similar to table top exercise but via zoom..... these will be wholly based on the members of the community views and so we are urging Morvern to push away any preconceived ideas and embrace this opportunity to engage with fellow residents and get chatting.</p> <p>SJ confirmed that MCDC will take charge of the emailing list and monitor its use for future use within in the community. this will be fully GDPR compliant and will only hold names and emails so very basic.</p> <p>MG asking how many people will respond? is there any demographic that will be missed? LLM have tried to ensure that everyone has access to the questionnaire either digitally or paper drops.....anyone who has any questions about the plan process or would like anything explained then please contact LLM steering group or AS or SJ on MCDC</p>		
AOB	Proposed meeting change to 8th Dec suggest		

	<p>meet in the hub? Agreed by directors.</p> <p>Reminder 26th Nov for grand opening of Barr and meet at the hub for tea and cake.</p> <p>Lilia has written to media but no response from anyone. KL .suggested Kate Forbes office should be asked. JSS to look for names at BBC etc to get personal contacts to try and make sure opening gets some coverage.</p> <p>Meeting closed 20.38pm</p>		
NEXT MEETING	7.30 at the Hub on 8 December 2021		