



Melvich Community SCIO,
c/o 2 Sinclair Gardens,
Portskerra, Melvich,
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October 2021 Community Update Melvich Community SCIO



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1. INTRODUCTION

Thanks for taking the time to read our updates. We hope that you find these updates useful and informative. A lot has happened in the background since our update to you last month, so we thought it timely to give you another update.

2. HALL STATUS

As you may have noticed, the old Melvich Village Hall has now been demolished. All the wastes have been removed from site and have either been recycled or disposed of as appropriate. A significant amount of wood was removed from the hall and has been recycled or re-purposed within our community by individuals who committed to making donations for the materials removed.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

We are moving forward with implementing the preferred option from the options assessment of knocking down the existing village hall, acquire adjacent land and design/construct a replacement facility that is fit for purpose and will help meet the needs of our community in the medium to long term.

In the picture below there are three different colours overlaying an aerial photo. The area shown in blue is the approximate extent of Melvich Community SCIO's title deeds. The two areas shown in red are approximate areas of land that we are progressing trying to purchase from the existing landowner – we have submitted grant applications to cover the land purchase costs and legal fees.

The approximate area shown in green (Melvich public toilets) is owned by Highland Council and an expression of interest has been lodged for a community asset transfer to take place as we feel that our new community hub could incorporate vastly improved public toilets to the benefit of locals and visitors alike.



We have dug trial pits in the land behind the old hall and believe that it should be possible to attain a suitable level area for constructing our new community hub.

The next key activity is to develop the specification for our new community hub. We have had some input from various individuals and groups so far as to what is required and we want to incorporate this information with inputs from our community.

On Saturday 6th November 2021, starting at 2:30pm, a community hub specification workshop will be held at the Halladale Inn. If you are interested in participating in this in person workshop, then please get in touch with us as places are limited (due to COVID-19 restrictions).

The key outputs from this workshop will be shared with our community as we progressively develop the specifications for the type of facility that we would like to have in our community. If you are unable to make it along to the workshop, then please get in touch and let us know what you would like included in the specification for our community hub. Once we have a specification developed then we can start engaging with architects to prepare drawings for further consultation and consideration.

4. 100 CLUB

We cannot rely solely on funding from grant funders to build and then maintain our new community hub. We need to raise funds within our community too and we need to have a regular income stream to the charity so that the new community hub can be financially sustainable. As such, Melvich Community SCIO has set up a 100 club. We are pleased that a good number of people in our community have joined the 100 club and we would be delighted if more people participated or if existing participants wished to purchase more tickets. Please consider participating in our 100 club as this will help Melvich Community SCIO and you could win a cash prize. Please contact us for further information.

5. INTERIM USE OF SITE OF THE FORMER MELVICH VILLAGE HALL

During the period of time between the old village hall having been demolished and the new community hub being constructed, we are intending to make use of our land as an outdoor community space.

We have been successful in gaining some funding from the Communities Recovery Fund 2 (CRF2). This funding is from the Scottish Government via Highlands And Islands Enterprise (HIE). HIE have been working with Community Anchor Organisations to distribute the funds and for us this money has come in through the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (KoSDT) whom we had submitted a funding application to. We intend to create a community growing resource for bedding plants and small local food production. The funding is a contribution towards providing raised beds, accessible pathways and seating areas. We feel that this will be a positive use of the former Melvich Village Hall site in the interim and everything installed will be moveable so that it can be re-used as the community hub takes shape.

If you would like to become involved in this **Community Growing Project**, then please get in touch with us. Everyone is welcome to participate.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

It is intended to dissolve Melvich Village Hall Association on 31st December 2021, but we still need to hold a final AGM for this charity. We intend to hold an AGM for Melvich Village Hall Association (Registered charity SC029590) on **Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7:30pm**. This should be a short AGM as most business is now being conducted by Melvich Community SCIO (Registered charity SC050942). It is intended that the first AGM of Melvich Community SCIO then takes place immediately after the Melvich Village Hall Association AGM. Both meetings will be held using Zoom and chaired/minuted separately.

If you would like to attend our AGMs on **23rd November 2021 at 7:30pm by Zoom**, then please get in touch with us and we will share a link with you and electronic copies of the relevant papers.

Please note that only members of Melvich Community SCIO have voting rights at the Melvich Community SCIO AGM. If you are not already a member then please consider joining. If you are interested in becoming a trustee of Melvich Community SCIO and helping us move forward with implementing our strategic plan, then please get in touch so that the nomination process can be started.

7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year, we can't provide a facility to congregate before and after the 2-minute silence on Sunday 14th November 2021. However please pop into the Coastline Coffee Shop and pick up a coffee or tea and either a bacon roll, a muffin or a fruit scone with jam and butter after attending the 2-minute silence at Melvich War Memorial this year. Thank you to Melvich Community Council for providing us with a micro-grant to help cover the costs of providing this catering.

8. AMAZON SMILE – A SIMPLE WAY TO DONATE THAT COSTS YOU NOTHING!

As we move forward with needing to keep raise funds for the construction and subsequent on-going running costs of our new community hub it is important that we try to bring in as many donations as possible. Every little bit counts. For those of you who use the online retailer Amazon here's how you can help.

1. Use this link <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC050942> to register Melvich Community SCIO as the charity that you wish to support. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of your eligible Amazon purchases to us.
2. Only purchases that are made at **smile.amazon.co.uk** will generate donations to us.
3. Go to the **smile.amazon.co.uk** site and save it to your desktop or home page, on your phone, so you use the new link.
4. Everything on the site using this new link is the same as your existing Amazon site.

Christmas is coming and we will all be buying things online, so this is an easy way to get involved and help.