

Minard Community Trust

Public Meeting Note – 22 July 2026 at Minard Village Hall

Attendees: Becs Barker, Brian Barker, Christine, Dave, Denise, Jan Brown, Jinnie Davis, Silvia Jost, Paul Lomas, Anne Paterson

Apologies: Margaret Moncur, Adriano Pia

Meeting purpose

To seek community views on the future of the community owned land to the north and east of the school following a suggestion by the Council as they prepare to sell the school buildings and community owned land. The final decision on whether to sell or not will be made by the trustees of the Community Trust.

Background

Please refer to the appended map for detail. The land coloured in pink is definitely going to be sold by the Council. The land coloured in yellow is owned by the community. The Council has offered to include the community owned land with the sale of the buildings and land they own. The proceeds from the sale would be split according to the percentage of land owned – so the community would receive 36.6% of the proceeds from the sale. All legal fees would be covered by the Council.

The community purchased the land in 2006 with plans to build a new community hall that would also provide additional space for the school. These plans have never progressed and with the school now closed and the existing hall meeting community needs there is no need to develop a new building on the site.

Current maintenance costs are covered by the Council. When the school land is sold the community will be responsible for the costs of upkeep for the land and any liabilities (for example the trees on the boundary by the A83).

In the 20 years the community has owned the land there have been no activities on the land.

The previous community meetings about the school and land did not identify any future activities that could be financially sustainable to enable a community buyout of the Council owned land. Some outline ideas were suggested, but no one was willing or able to develop these into robust business plans needed to progress to a community buyout.

Discussion

Initial discussion focused on questions clarifying the history of the community ownership and details of the offer from the Council.

Some discussion focused on the idea of a community garden to grow food for people in the village. Whilst there was support for the idea in principle there was broad agreement that we are operating at capacity of volunteers to run the hall, shop and Jubilee Garden on the foreshore.

A community food project is in effect a small market garden business and would need sustained input all year round to make it work. There is no evidence that we would be able to make that sustained effort.

There may be an alternative approach by helping people grow food in their own gardens and the income from the sale of the land might be able to help facilitate this.

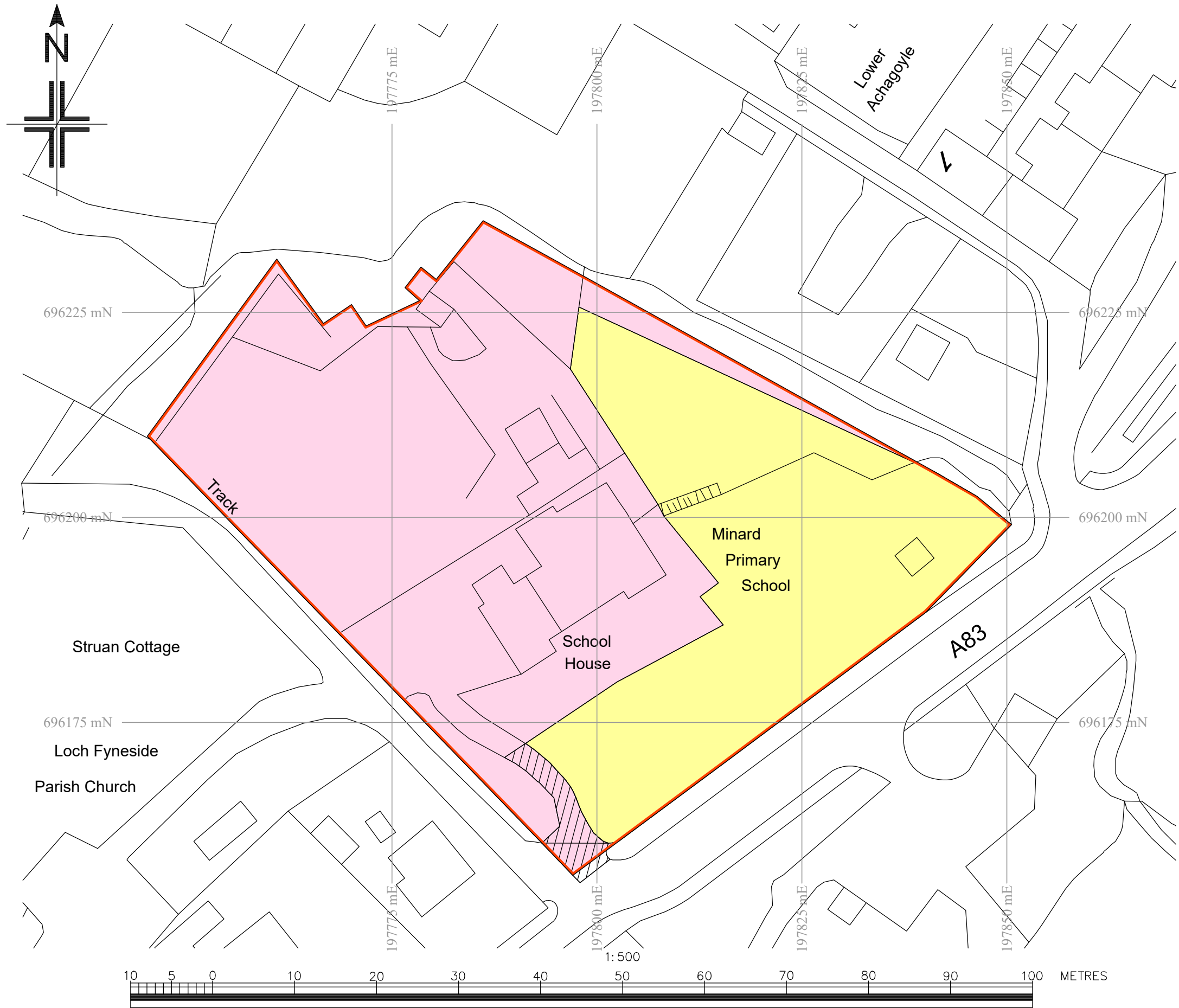
Rental income from the shop covers running costs for the hall to enable it to be hired out at low rates. That income would not support the maintenance costs of the land at the school.

The offer from the Council is a one-time offer. Once the Council owned land is sold the opportunity to benefit in the same way is gone.

A large majority of those present at the meeting were of the view that the better option was to go with the Council offer. The Community Trust trustees will make the final decision.

Actions Following the Meeting

The consensus of the Community Trust trustees following the meeting was that the best option was to accept the Council offer. The Council have been informed of this decision.



PLOT INFORMATION

Contents within the boundaries outlined Red - 4,331 square metres or thereby.

Argyll & Bute Council ownership shown shaded Pink - 2,746 sq.m.

Minard Community Trust ownership shown shaded Yellow - 1,585 sq.m.

Servitude right of access in favour of Minard Community Trust shown hatched Black.

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Customer Services

TITLE :
FORMER MINARD PRIMARY SCHOOL
MINARD
INVERARAY

PROJECT :
OWNERSHIP PLAN

Plan prepared by the Estates, Property Services, Housing
& Technical Services – South Lanarkshire Council.

File No.	Project No.
Ward Name & No. INVERARAY – 03	
Ref. No. FM	
Registration Area. ARGYLL	
Drafted by AW (SLC)	OS Sheet NR9796 NR99NE
Surveyed by	Date 11/06/2026
Checked by	Dwg.Type OWN Rev.
Sheet 1 of 1	Drawing No. AB03_0012
Scale 1 : 500	