

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF  
DORNOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DORNOCH**



**Present**

Jim McGillivray (Cllr)  
Graeme Ross  
Jimmy Melville  
David Macbeath  
Patrick Murray  
Maggie Hope  
Ann Durrand  
Jerry Bishop  
Cath Macangus

Community Council First Meeting – Nov/Dec 2019 – Meeting initially chaired by Councillor Jim McGillivray until election of Chair/Vice had taken place.

1.0	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Yvonne Ross</p>	
2.0	<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b> Jim McG welcomed everyone and introduced the nominations as follows –</p> <p>Election of Chair – GR nominated YR and seconded by PM (no other nominations were given) Although Yvonne Ross was absent JMcG had spoken to her previous the meeting and she stated she would accept if nominated. Election of Vice – CM nominated GR and seconded by MH</p> <p>This point Vice GR took over the meeting in YR absence.</p> <p>Election of Treasurer – JM nominated PM and seconded by DM. Election of Secretary (due to resignation of Linda Robichaud) PM nominated CM and seconded by JM (until position has been filled). JM put forward that a letter of thanks be sent to Miss Robichaud CM to do.</p>	CM
3.0	<p><b>ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS</b> Constitution was read and an amendment disgust – this was consequently reported to Phil Tomalin after the meeting who authorised the amendment and this can be formally approved at next meeting.</p>	PM

4.0	<p><b>OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM OUTGOING COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>          JB commented that the old minutes of the CC were not satisfactory. The minutes going forward will be checked and amended.</p>	<p>CM PM</p>
4.1	<p>PM          New signs to be ordered for the beach playpark/car park as there are more needed. – are in hand.</p>	<p>PM</p>
4.2	<p>Cheque from Karen Reid for £400 is out of date. Karen Reid who is a regular visitor to Dornoch raised this money in Aberdeenshire towards a new defibrillator being put into the old telephone kiosk in the Square – CM to contact Karen Reid and request an updated cheque. MH to get the ball moving regarding getting either the defibrillator presently in the Castle or a new defibrillator into the kiosk.</p>	<p>CM MH</p>
4.3	<p>Wind Farm email regarding funding. PM attended a meeting in Lairg and requested Dornoch CC to receive more than 5%. PM stated he had no time to follow this up but if anyone else wished to they were welcome. No one volunteered.</p>	
4.4	<p>CC bank account standing at £5414.60 – JB enquired what was main source of the CC account. PM informed everyone that the CC has three balances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rental income from Common Good Land. This is controlled by Trustees comprised of all the Highland Councillors. Any payments from this fund must be requested by the CC and authorised by the Trustees.</li> <li>2. A very small amount from the Beinn Tharsuinn wind Farm. The money from this goes to all IV25 residents including those who do not benefit from the Common Good Land.</li> <li>3. CC bank account as above. A small balance from miscellaneous sources such as an annual grants and money raised in the past for the Christmas Lights. This money is used for such expenses as Beach toilet maintenance/cleaning, Insurance, Armistice Wreath etc.</li> </ol> <p>GR explained that the common good money is to be spent only in the boundaries of the Burgh. Whereas the other two balances can be used in the throughout the IV25 area.</p>	
4.5	<p><b>AGREEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>PM suggested an extra meeting regarding RDGC to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 so Yvonne Ross can attend and a full forum with regard to a decision regarding the RDGC lease. It was agreed 7pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> December at Carnegie Chambers.</p>	
5	<p>GR stated that future meetings will be held as normal every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the month, 7pm in Council Chambers except for an annual holiday in July 2020 i.e. January 15<sup>th</sup>, February 19<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup>, April 15<sup>th</sup>, May 20<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>, August 19<sup>th</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, December 16<sup>th</sup></p>	
5.1	<p>MH mentioned that getting some youngsters involved (over voting age) 16-18 year olds would be beneficial to the CC, if they were asked to get involved.</p>	<p>MH</p>

6	<b>AOB</b>	
6.1	<p>CM checked back notes for the November meeting (as minutes not typed yet) and the following was noted – Springfield development, white lines. White lines for parking in the square to be repainted as not many left. JMcG to contact Joanne Sutherland. Pathway from Proncynain Cemetery (Poles Road) down to Dornoch very unsafe; proper walkway is needed. Matt Dent has been notified JMcG stated. Matt Dent will have to check if the road is the minimum width and if Ian McHardy can push back his wall to gain room. DM and AD will have a site meeting and will request Joanne Sutherland to attend, and letter to be sent to Ian McHardy (when we ascertain where he is currently living) regarding the wall and land.</p>	<p>JMCG  DM AD</p>
6.2	<p>AD Has had reports that the old doctors bridge on Shore road is becoming increasingly dangerous to walk on as the chicken wire on walkway is deteriorating making the wooden slats very slippery. GR suggested contacting the HC to check whether the bridge has been adopted by the HC or not. JMcG will contact HC to check. GR also noted to check insurance up to date regarding any accidents etc if Bridge is owned by CC.</p>	<p>JMCG  GR</p>
6.3	<p>DM Requested any update on the state of the road at the junction from Church Street down to the Showground. The junction has been really destroyed with the heavy vehicles that are being used to erect the Show building at Aerodrome site. CM has said she will put through a card to the HC to see if the road dept can fix this e.g. with some chips.</p>	<p>CM</p>
6.4	<p>JM Reported that the weeds on Golf Road are bad, JMcG informed meeting that the HC are not allowed to use effective weed killer now so maybe the CC will have a weed removal day and get the road cleared off them. Will organise a date/time for volunteers to meet.</p>	
6.5	<p>AD Reported that the pathways in the Old Cemetery and Proncynain are not kept like they used to be; the graveyard in Halkirk has been kept immaculately but this is due to a combined effort of a group of individuals not the HC crew. JMcG explained again that the HC are not allowed to use any effective weed killer. A group of volunteers to be looked into. CM said she would ask James Irving about this. Whilst on the subject JMcG informed the new councillors that the new Cemetery extension was to be made across the road, the field is in the process of being bought at Pitgrudy. The state of the Cemetery gates was also raised and these will be looked into also.</p>	<p>CM</p>
6.6	<p>DM Reports that the burn down past the surgery is still unsightly and needs a small digger to tidy this up; he stated that he had spoken to James Irving about this but not heard anything back yet although James Irving had said that a small digger would not be feasible for the job in hand. DM will look into this, Also reported that the car park at the beach car park has very large puddles of water, and wondered could chipping be put there to save the water hanging about.</p>	<p>DM</p>
6.7	<p>JB Requested information regarding the Pot 170, which a lot of the meeting had never heard of before. JMcG explained it was a money pot that developments in Dornoch could or have paid into, eg Kirkwood paid £29,000 into it after their</p>	

	<p>development was finished. Other developments have put in street lights etc. JB wanted to know what this money could be used for, whether it could be used for the renewal of the bank steps etc? JMcG stated that it was only to be used for the people of Dornoch with regards to a new business, company, help with starting up new developments etc. So cannot be used to help with renovations of the bank steps etc. JB then asked if the money that is in the CG fund at the moment could be used for all the outstanding work to be done in the CG land at the moment, and requested JMcG contact Phil Tomalin Ward Manager about getting 10% out of the CG fund. This would enable the burn clear up, new cemetery gates/painted, Doctors bridge, both lots of Steps, i.e. bank and St Gilberts, and other municipal projects that need to be undertaken in the Burgh. The view was that the CG fund should be used to help all the areas in The Burgh that need restored, cleaned or fixed. Everyone agreed and JMcG said that he would contact PT to get the ball rolling on this,</p> <p>DM</p> <p>6.8 Purchase Carnegie Library for £1. DM enquired about the likelihood of the CC being able to purchase the Library for £1 in the New Year. JMcG explained that the Dornoch Trust can purchase the Library. The Trust's Directors must be changed to include all current community councillors. JB did bring up though the pros and cons to purchasing such a building because keeping the maintenance, heating etc, all adds up. Would the Library stay there and would they pay rent too? Who else could rent the building? CM stated Weddings pay £25 a Wedding rental for the building and the Christian Fellowship pay a lot, but then the CF are supposed to be building down at the old gas works. CM also stated that other businesses in the area have hired it out for meetings as have the children's panel, teachers etc. JB suggested a business plan be made up before going any further with purchase of the library. Everyone in agreement. JMcG explained that that the Dornoch Trust is able to deal with all CG property that has no lease on it such as the Janitors house at the School. A business plan is to be made and will feature in the next Agenda.</p> <p>7 GR Planning applications – Quarry Evelix – No problems, all agreed.</p> <p>7.1 4 flats Student planning</p> <p>7.2 Elizabeth gardens/court etc plans – await YR return to be spoken about. DM commented on the land behind Elizabeth Gardens where there has been letters sent out regarding the building of 22 houses, although previously stated 104 houses/flats. DM states that the land has been left to total wilderness now, should Mr McHardy, of the housing department of the HC, not be notified of the state it is in?</p> <p>7.3 14 new flats behind Fire Station GR requested everyone to check out the plans at 19/053691 on the HC website.</p> <p>7.4 Repair to Cathedral North entrance, improving the actual entrance. No problem.</p> <p>MH</p> <p>8 Asked can ESRA connect water supply from the beach toilets as to do it any other way would cost £15,000.</p> <p>9 Dog Poo bag issues, Earls Cross has no bins – JMcG going to check with Andy Shaw HC regarding this issue.</p>	<p>JMcG</p> <p>JB</p> <p>JMcG</p>
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Chick weed in Dornoch Burn – will be looked into with the rest of the burn issues.

JB

Regarding onward meetings JB requested that as there is no one representing Embo, Clashmore etc in the CC (JMCG and CM both stated that people had been asked but no one willing to take on the role) should a meeting be held in Embo one month at the Community Centre to see if this attracts anyone willing to attend meetings? And then at Clashmore? Everyone thought this could be done to see the result and JB going to contact William Hamilton regarding this.

JB

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GOLF CLUB

PM

PM summarised (for the new members) the position to date as follows: RDGC are requesting a new lease from CC to build their new golf clubhouse. RDGC have offered:

- a) £25,000 a year for 99 years to be paid to the Common Good. (The existing lease is £150/year and runs out in 53 years)  
PLUS for 10 years only
- b) £2 per visitor (assuming there were 12,500 visitors in 2019)  
PLUS for 10 years only
- c) £10,000 paid out to local charities per year.

The CC have offered:

- a) As above.
- b) As above but for 99 years not 10 years.
- c) As above but £16,250 not £10,000 and for 99 years not 10 years.

If RDGC not going to agree then the feeling is that this should go to public consultation to the people of Dornoch, so they can have their say also. Everyone in attendance agreed this should happen and PM said he would get costs etc of a public consultation and information too.

PM

JB wanted to know who has been representing the Golf Club and was informed mainly Neil Hampton, Rob Murray & Willie Hook. He showed disappointment that this had got to this stage and requested that he have a meeting with Neil Hampton alone, to which it was decided that this should happen with YR present also.

PM to find out the final cost of a postal ballot and what is needed to be done before etc.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING –  
30<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 7PM  
CARNEGIE CHAMBERS

No further business meeting finished at 9.50pm

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