

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DORNOCH**



Present

Yvonne Ross – Chair
Jim McGillivray – Councillor
Patrick Murray – Treasurer
Cath Macangus – Secretary

Jerry Bishop
Ann Durrand
David Macbeath
Jimmy Melville

Lou Rollason – Minutes

Visitors: Flowers & Fairs Committee, Dornoch Brig

January, 2020 Community Council Meeting chaired by Yvonne Ross.

1.0	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Maggie Hope & Graeme Ross	
2.0	Police Report Nothing to report; there are no pressing matters & the police are not present.	
3.0	FLOWERS & FAIRS Chair, Yvonne Ross (YR) welcomes the Flowers & Fairs committee to the meeting. <u>Main points:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group have served the community for 24 years. Due to age and the physical requirement wish to step back and encourage new member • Hanging baskets have to be watered every second day and this takes 2 people 2.5 hrs. • Estimate of £10 ph, over 15 weeks & done with one person if they were more physically able this is £1,500 per annum. • £2,000 – £2,500 for the plants, compost, cost of the car, MOT etc is additional costs. Planting always attracts volunteers and raffles raise £1500 • Ordered from Greens Nursery and get picked up and planed by flowers and fairs • The primary responsibility lies with DADCA. There is enough to fund this years plants 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An article will be put into Northern Times (via DADCA) to attract interest for volunteers and members of the company. Tain has far more at their disposal including machinery and people. Alness has someone employed for the role. CC have done clean ups of weeds, the burn and various areas. This is misunderstood to be the role of the council, but it is organised and carried out by volunteers. <p>It is hoped with extra income to common good funds a 'Town Officer' who could do all these jobs, including the beach toilets and the watering for Flowers & Fairs.</p> <p>The group were thanked for all their hard work and dedication to the town.</p>	PM/LR
4.0	DORNOCH BRIG	
	<p>YR welcomes to the Dornoch Brig group to the meeting and thanks them for attending.</p> <p><u>Main comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accessibility of the project outlined to the members of the CC (plans shown as well). The shed (10 x 8) will have polycarbonate to let the light in. They will purchase two wheelchairs to start with. Awaiting Beatrice funding and they raised £10k match funding, Total cost: £74k. Jim MacGillivray (JM) confirms that they have managed to get funding for the Ward Discretionary Fund. The project is due to begin in February and the car park will be shut for roughly three weeks in February/March. Access needs to be maintained for the RDGC. The wheelchairs have beach ball wheels which make it possible for them to go on the sand, unlike conventional wheelchairs. Original successful project from Berwick-on-Tweed. Brig received support from the nursing homes via feasibility study. The marine hoist would be static fixture and can be used by more people. Application can be submitted to Phil Tomlin (PT) with a pro-forma quote for approx. £6000 and the CC would be happy to support. Interested in the employment of a person to help with duties, 'Dornoch Townsperson' could contribute to this role. Dornoch Brig and Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs has plans to separate & then become a charity. YR suggests speaking to PT regarding the leasing, especially if they are moving away from Dornoch BRIG. 	YR
5.0	MUNICIPAL PROJECT	
	<p><u>Main Points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the works are going to be paid for in other towns in the county. Golspie etc have the same jobs done, but they don't take the money from the Common Good. Is this perhaps a charter to get ripped off? The common good are funding it and we would need assurances that we know the cost beforehand, rather than get a bill afterwards. Phil Tomalin to be asked if there is a detailed asset register, and are the bank steps on it? Some residential properties have extended their gardens into Common Good land. Bank Steps were quoted for £3.6k, suggestion to start with two projects – bank steps and ditch. DM to get Sean Anderson to look at the steps – JM states he is working next to him and will talk to him tomorrow (16/1/2020). 	<p>JM</p> <p>JB</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DM/JM</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of spreadsheet of the works done and to be completed be created so that the same points are not being discussed and there is a clearer understanding of progress. • To be added as an agenda item each month. 	YR YR LR
6.0	RDGC – CONSULTATION	
	<u>Main Points:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A legal agreement is required for future generations. The Highland Council would not take that on as it was not included in the heads of terms. £1 – £2k cost to get the legal document made up for the CC. • A letter should be sent to all the households in the constituency to state the position and get them to relay their thoughts to the Highland Council. • Current position: RDGC have agreed to £2 per visitor game, a minimum of £25k, reviewed every 5 years with the agreement being extended from 10 years to 99. • The legal agreement needs constructed & delivered to the RDGC with timeframe & failing the agreement being signed then it goes to the public vote. • Community Council agree to use recommended solicitor and authorise PM to contact re agreement 	PM
7.0	MINUTES OF MEETING 17TH DECEMBER 2019 & MATTERS ARISING	
	MINUTES PROPOSED:	
	Minutes proposed by JB. Seconded by JM: No changes needed.	
7.1	MATTERS ARISING	
	Regarding the minutes from December, point 4.1: <i>New signs to be ordered for the beach playpark/car park as there are more needed. – are in hand. Picking up signs – PM to do at the end of January.</i>	PM
8.0	TREASURERS REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point 7.3 in the accounts: JB incredibly concerned about the interest that has been accrued. • Point 7.3.1: “<i>That is a return on the investment of .4%. Historylinks has a percentage on a charitable basis of 1.8% instead and the Common Good Fund is being robbed by the HC.</i>”When looking at the accounts he notices there could be up to £20k short-changed over the past years. • The CC to ask PT about the explanation as is not enough • The CC has already expressed that the Common Good Land and funds need to be in the hands of the Dornoch Trust. The trust documents need to be sorted if the trust is to be used as a vehicle in the future. • To clarify: CC own funds are money that is given to them (war memorial fund & grant etc) and operated by the CC. The differences are that the CC are not allowed to hold land or employ people, but the trust is. The CC can be the vehicle that would hold the money. • Accounts point 5.1 – States there have been no changes to leases in 2018/2019. To be queried as the caravan campsite has had a change in lease – not just in rent – Davie Macbeth (DM) • Exclamation of Variances: Value of investment properties increase from £170k to £330k without any explanation. Explanation required. 	JB YR JB

9.0	PATHWAYS	
	No new business	
10.0	ROADS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking Consultation draft charges document was circulated. Dornoch South car park plans circulated. If DACIC can secure the site through Scottish Land Fund, it would create a chargeable car park, with some monies being given back to the community and the council run the car park within a lease and going back to the community after the HC lease has been paid off. • Release of consultation to the community is essential. People need to be aware. Charges for Courthouse carpark as it is stated is actually off-street parking. • Car & Coach parking available at Dornoch South that is chargeable and the rest of the town stays as it is without the charges. • If this does not go ahead, the <i>CC would look in to the buying it for the Common Good Land for future use for the community.</i> 	
11.0	PLANNING	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning application for 14 new flats – no view held by the CC always been a potential development area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESRA boat shed – CC agreed in principle but now believe it is too big and will obstruct views. All members fully understand the need for the service and that the work they do as volunteers is vital however is a two storey building required. ESRA propose to keep old shed as a store, there will be no public toilets due to their insurance. A single storey was discussed at site visit which architect stated could be done. • Lochinver have a similar situation but a much smaller shed and they are supported by RNLI and this suits their needs but boat is kept off site. • The CC agree that they object to the disproportionate size of the structure and would prefer a building that is more fitting with the area, not of that proposed size and would not obstruct the views of the beach from the car park area. • The CC to asks for an extension on decision until end Feb • Invite ESRA back to discuss. Invite joint visit to Lochinver to compare needs. 	<p>CM PM/JB</p>
12.0	FUNDING APPLICATIONS	
	None received	
13.0	CORRESPONDENCE	
	Car Park Consultation – as discussed in <i>Roads; point 10.0</i>	
14.0	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM <i>Drystone Wal in North Street is falling down</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Current owner's issue • CM – <i>"Chickweed in the burn."</i> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The burn will be cleaned as normal once weather allows. • <i>"Too much has been sold of Common Good Land and what is the monstrosity that has been built at the airfield."</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Hanger for show committee, complainant should write to HC as they are the trustees leasing the land • Ann Durrand (AD) <i>"Where do those who wish to start retail/move into retail go."</i> 	<p>CM All</p>

