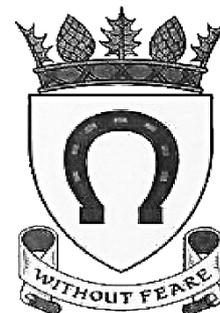


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON MONDAY 17TH JUNE
VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL**



PRESENT

Patrick Murray – Chair - PM
Graeme Ross – Vice Chair - GR
Cath Macangus – Secretary – CM
Jerry Bishop – Treasurer – JB
Ann Durrand – AD
Maggie Hope – MH
Davie MacBeath – DM
Jimmy Melville – JM

IN ATTENDANCE

Lou Rollason – Minutes – LR
Jim McGillivray – JMc
Joan Bishop – DACIC
Sir Gavin Gilbey – Earls Cross & Station Road Woodland
Brian Munro – Member of the public
Peter Wild – Member of the public

APOLOGIES

PRELIMINARIES		
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE No absences.	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None were declared.	
3.	ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (20/05/20) The minutes were agreed, proposed by AD and seconded by JB.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA)	
a.	JMc reviewed the housing development programme at Elizabeth Crescent and confirmed with HC that in principle part of the development land has been allocated to the Community. What this means still needs to be clarified in detail and JMc will continue to work on this.	JMc
b.	Highland & Islands Bloodbank – PM & JMc had yet to follow this up but stated that they will.	JMc & PM
c.	JMc stated that the Dornoch Industrial Units idea was well received by Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) at their focus group. HIE stated they would need DACC to identify the need and what existing premises could/or might suit. This was to become a regular agenda item for the HIE focus group. HIE would be undertaking a local survey but would appreciate the help of finding the potential sites.	DM & AD

	DM stated that a potential site would be Dornoch South and JB stated that this should be discussed with Dornoch Area Community Interest Company (DACIC) and HIE together as DACIC were looking at the site too. Joan Bishop stated that there were already other businesses in town that were looking at the sites. DM & AD TO IDENTIFY PERSONS WHO HAVE A NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL UNITS & POTENTIAL SITES	
d.	GR stated he spoke to the gentleman regarding a Sutherland Day. JMc stated that the idea of a Sutherland Day would 'open a can of worms' but suggested that the Sutherland flag is flown at the Sutherland Show.	
e.	JMc could not find the railing that JM pointed out at last meeting. JMc questioned if it was not a private access point. JMc stated he would look again with JM assisting. JM & JMC TO IDENTIFY RAILING	JMc & JM
f.	DM has not yet fixed the post. JMc had not yet got any dog fouling signage due to other commitments. DM TO FIX POST. JMC TO GET SIGNAGE	DM & JMc
5.	TRANSFER COVID19 FUNDS TO DORNOCH FIRTH GROUP PM reminded the meeting that this had previously been approved via e-mail but that he wished it to be minuted. The money (£8,398.91) had legally been DACC's property but it had been transferred to the Dornoch Firth Group (DFG) for DFG's to use to combat adverse effects of Covid-19 on the IV25 Community.. PM asked for formal confirmation of the email approval. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.	
ITEMS FOR DECISION		
6.	PLANNING & LICENCING APPLICATIONS	
a.	20/01777/PIP - ERECTION OF HOUSE AND UPGRADING OF ACCESS - MARY'S COTTAGE, SKELBO MUIR, SKELBO, DORNOCH IV25 3QH – (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED) NO OBJECTIONS	
b.	20/01758/FUL - ERECTION OF EXTENSION TO HOUSE - CYDERHALL FARM COTTAGES, DORNOCH, IV25 3RW. – (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED) NO OBJECTIONS	
7.	How to recognise Yvonne Ross's service to the Community (document circulated) PM had sent through e-mail documentation regarding this. PM stated that a previous idea of Yvonne Ross's was the creation of a Community Service Award for people and/or groups that have been particularly helpful to Dornoch. PM's proposal was that DACC start said award in Yvonne Ross's honour with her being its first recipient.	CM

	<p>JB asked if it could be an annual award that could be presented at future AGMs whereby the recipient would be invited to receive their award at the AGM.</p> <p>This was well received by DACC. JB then suggested that this be checked in advance with Yvonne Ross to ensure she would be happy for DACC to create the award and that she would be happy to receive it – CM to do this. JB then suggested that if Yvonne Ross is happy with this then it can be discussed if the award is given annually or not.</p> <p>CMTO CHECK YVONNE ROSS WOULD BE HAPPY WITH THIS.</p>	
8.	<p>NEW TREE AT KENNEDY AVENUE</p> <p>JM stated that the damage caused to the tree would not have been storm damage, but instead vandalism. PM asked if this was a DACC or Highland Council (HC) matter & JM stated that it was a private matter. DM explained that nobody would do anything so to save any issues that might arise in the future, it would be best if DACC just did it.</p> <p>PM proposed that a sum of up to £35 should be authorised for DC to buy and to plant a new tree.</p> <p>NEW TREE AT KENNEDY AVENUE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED UP TO £35. DM TO ARRANGE</p>	DM
9.	<p>DACC CORRESPONDENCE PROTOCOL (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED)</p> <p>PM asked if the protocol that was previously distributed would be approved.</p> <p>CORRESPONDENCE PROTOCOL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.</p>	
10.	<p>DORNOCH SKIP (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED)</p> <p>PM introduced a previously circulated paper regarding the future of the Dornoch Skip, noting supporting documents from a Ward 4 Business meeting paper (dated 9/3/20) and an email response to this from JB (dated 18/3/20).</p> <p>PM outlined the reasons why DACC were opposed to the closure of the waste disposal facility at The Meadows, citing loss of amenity, an increase in fly-tipping and the environmental impact of travelling to alternative sites. DM also noted possible road safety issues surrounding the increased traffic (including recent road accidents on the A9 at Tain and other issues surrounding transportation of waste in vehicles).</p> <p>The following discussions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD asked why the Dornoch Skip had been closed, questioned how much it would cost to make the facility compliant and if the DACC would be able to help with this. • DM asked how much the skip cost per annum – JB replied that THC had suggested a figure of £180,000. 	

- DM asked if the site could be taken over by the DACC. JMc replied that the problem would be getting the waste uplifted and that the disposal cost would be prohibitive. JB pointed out that sorted waste cost £3 per tonne in landfill tax as opposed to unsorted waste which cost almost £100 a tonne.
- JB observed that the Dornoch Skip had been operated unlike any other in the area and because it was unmanned the waste was not checked or sorted which resulted in a high disposal cost. He noted that Dornoch had been used as convenient waste disposal centre for the area, with stories of people travelling from distance to dispose of commercial waste at the Dornoch site as it was unmanned so they could do so without charge.
- JB asked if DACC members believed that THC would have any investment finance available after the Covid-19 crisis was resolved. He also observed that the THC offer meant a skip would only be open for another 12 months, meaning the only long-term option would be a community-based solution. To this end, he suggested that the DACC look to create a sub-committee to explore community-based solutions if a stay of execution is granted.
- JB suggested speaking to the Community Garden organisers about composting of garden waste, but and JM stated that there would be too much to be accommodated there and PM added that the Highland Council had said in writing that it was intending to start a garden waste brown bin collection from September at a cost of £45 pa per household.
- CM was asked how much the uplift of larger items (such as fridges) cost and confirmed it was £22.50 for up to 3 items from one location.
- PM state that he thought the current Dornoch site was a luxury that the rest of the Highlands had not had, but that there is potential to help with people who cannot afford to have bulky items uplifted by the Highland Council.
- JB stated that people cannot continue to keep putting rubbish in the ground & strongly objected to the idea of an incinerator, which had been introduced by Sir Gavin Gilbey (SGG - Visitor to the meeting).

A vote was then taken on the two proposals contained in the paper:

Proposal 1: (DACC opposes the closure for the reasons stated) was **unanimously approved** with agreement that a letter be sent to the Highland Council by DACC *strongly* objecting to the closing of the facility.

Proposal 2: (If HC continues to pursue its policy of closure, DACC asks HC to continue the site for at least twelve months after lockdown, to give DACC time to investigate the possibility of setting up a Community recycling facility for garden waste, metal, glass, electrical goods, etc.) was also **unanimously approved**.

PM

	Finally, it was agreed to delay discussion of the formation of a sub-committee to explore community-based recycling initiatives until a response from THC had been received.	
11.	<p>DORNOCH TRUST (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED)</p> <p>PM began by saying to those who might not be aware that the Dornoch Trust was a company that all DACC members of the previous DACC were directors of. PM continued that the main reason it was set up was to own land or leases to land. Without using a vehicle such as a Company or Trust the only way DACC can own land is by three officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) owning the land in trust for the Community. The legal implications of both these avenues are unclear and may result in unlimited personal liability for DACC members.</p> <p>JMc told the group that the trust was formed when there was the potential of the caravan park defaulting and as such was done in a hurry. PM acknowledged this and stated his understanding of the situation but believed that now this needed to be further explored. JB then stated his concerns with what DACC members might be liable for and mentioned a case where a community council have been embroiled in court proceedings. (In this case, the community council had been sued by an estate on behalf of the deceased who passed away from injuries sustained through a fall which was caused by steps that had had works carried out by the community council in question. He continued that it was paramount that a third party be involved that can own property with full indemnity for DACC office bearers and possibly all DACC members.</p> <p>JB & PM TO FORM A SUBCOMMITTEE TO GET ADVICE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER</p>	PM & JB
ITEMS FOR NOTING & DISCUSSION		
12.	<p>EARLS CROSS AND STATION ROAD WOODLAND (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED)</p> <p>SGG referred to his proposal which had been circulated to DACC. SGG had previously been looking after them but felt he can no longer do so. SGG spoke to Norman Ross (acting Principal of Dornoch Academy) who wants to see the school participating in the supporting and regeneration of the woodland area. SGG asked DACC to start a project on maintaining and rejuvenating the Earls Cross and Station Road Woodland area.</p> <p>DM stated he agreed with SGG's concerns and proposal as the area is not being looked after at all and would be willing to get involved with this project. JM also agreed but wondered what Sutherland Estates (official owners) had to say. SGG stated he did contact Sutherland Estates, but they had no interest in maintaining the woodland. SGG then asked why DACC do not purchase the woods themselves, but PM had previously stated that this could potentially open DACC up to legal liabilities. SGG continued that this is a unique</p>	JB, PM & DM

	<p>piece of woodland. JB stated that he also agreed with SGG's point and appreciated that SGG had done a lot of the maintenance over the years and suggested that DJ Macleod (farm project & youth coordinator) could potentially be interested.</p> <p>JMc stated that DJ Macleod had taken a contract away from the town and it would be unlikely that he would be able to help.</p> <p>It was agreed that there was a need to invite Sutherland Estates & Forestry Commission (FC - now known as Forestry and Land Scotland) to have a meeting at the site of the woodland to discuss this. DM had a contact in FC with whom he would discuss this.</p> <p>SGG also suggested that because of previous proposals in Dornoch crowd funding/fundraising might be an option if it could be proved that it was the most northerly wood of its kind. PM stated this is something that could be looked at after the meeting and when a suitable course of action had been found.</p> <p>PM, DM AND JB TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH SUTHERLAND ESTATES, FORESTRY COMMISSION AND INTERESTED PARTIES</p>	
13.	<p>LAIRG WINDFARM (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED)</p> <p>The document was circulated previously and contained information regarding the update on this windfarm from which Dornoch stands to receive 5% of substantial Community payments. PM asked if anyone wanted to oppose or propose a motion, and no one did.</p> <p>NOTED.</p>	
14.	<p>BEACH CARAVAN SITE (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED)</p> <p>PM referred to his proposal which that DACC support current HC policy regarding Beach Caravan Site rent.</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.</p>	
15.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>No new correspondence received that had not been previously circulated. A police report was requested but not received.</p> <p>LR TO ASK POLICE FOR A REPORT AND INVITE THEM TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING AND SUBSEQUENTLY EVERY QUARTER</p>	
16.	<p>ROADS & PATHWAYS</p> <p>DM believed that the pathway at the top of the Royal Dornoch Golf Club (RDGC) needs to be addressed. GR stated that RDGC have normally maintained this. PM & DM suggested taking this offline and speaking to Neil Hampton of RDGC regarding this.</p> <p>PM & DM TO PROGRESS WITH NEIL HAMPTON</p>	<p>PM & DM</p>

17.	TREASURERS REPORTS	
a.	DACC ACCOUNTS (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED) NOTED	
b.	DORNOCH COMMON GOOD CASH FORECAST (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED) NOTED	
18.	<p>MUNICIPAL PROJECTS UPDATE (JB) (DOCUMENT CIRCULATED)</p> <p>JB stated that the document was online & everyone had access. He had done some work on public toilets & refurbishment and concluded that DACC must get the ownership model sorted out (see item 11 above).</p> <p>JB stated that once this had been done, it would be best to discuss with Phil Tomlin (Ward Manager) how to go about releasing the funding.</p> <p>JB continued that there was a growing number of municipal projects and only two of them had been actioned in his 6 months of being a member of DACC. JB wished to know how to access the funding so the other matters can be remedied efficiently.</p> <p>JB TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH PHIL TOMLIN TO CLARIFY HOW TO FINANCE ROUTINE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE</p>	JB
19.	OTHER OUTSTANDING PROJECTS NOTED	
20.	AOCB	
	<p>Joan Bishop: Joan Bishop stated that a new fund had become available for projects to improve resilience for the whole town coming out of Covid-19. Some ideas that were mentioned by Joan and the businesses she had communicated with included purchasing street furniture, hand sanitiser for outside and Covid-19 based signage.</p> <p>AD stated her concern about the state of the town because of Covid-19 and worried that many businesses might not survive. CM questioned if the Common Good Fund could be used in this instance, but PM and GR stated that this was not the case.</p> <p>MH stated that seats and picnic benches would be of benefit to the whole town and would allow for encouragement of visitors into the town whilst maintaining social distancing.</p> <p>PM STATED THAT IF ANYONE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS TO FORWARD THEM TO JOAN ON THIS MATTER.</p>	
	JM: Wishes to thank and congratulate the office bearers.	
	PM: Questioned whether a DACC meeting would be held in July.	
	APPROVED: DACC MEETING TO BE HELD ON JULY 15TH	

	<p style="text-align: center;">MEETING CLOSED AT: 21:18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">With no further business to discuss, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at the above time and the date of next meeting is stated below.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 15TH JULY 2020 AT 7PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POTENTIALLY HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL.</p>	