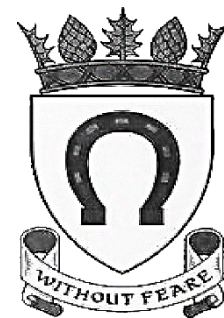


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH JANUARY, 7PM
VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL**



PRESENT

Patrick Murray – Chair - PM
Graeme Ross – Vice Chair - GR
Jerry Bishop – Treasurer – JB
Jimmy Melville – JM
Genevieve Duhigg – GD
Lucy Dixon – LD
Lesley Strang - LS

IN ATTENDANCE

Lou Rollason – Minutes – LR
Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc
Mark Robinson – Dornoch Free Church
Phil Tomalin – Ward Manager

N/B: PLEASE USE THE LINKS IN THE HEADINGS (WHERE APPLICABLE) TO ACCESS CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTATION		
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies received from Dave MacBeath.	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST JB declared an interest for 6a. GD declared an interest on point 6c. PM declared an interest for point 5.	
3.	<u>ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (21/10/20)</u> JM stated that the 20mph sign to be amended was not on Carnaig Street, but River Street. The minutes were then proposed by GR as a true account of the meeting and seconded by JB.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA) N/A	
GUEST SPEAKERS		
5.		

a. [MARK ROBINSON \(MR\) – DORNOCH FREE CHURCH \(DFC\)](#)

PM welcomed MR to the meeting.

MR stated this was the third and final stage of the renovation. The ground floor had been gutted and repurposed as a multipurpose space. Phase two was re-roofing the building and the final stage (3) is where they are currently. They are looking to put in cabling, AV equipment, internet access, an external fire escape as well as renovation. On the first floor, the space would be 165 square meters, with an adjacent breakout room of 50 square metres divided by a folding door to create a larger space when required. There will also be ancillary spaces including toilets, kitchen and a storage area. Planning permission has been granted for almost a year and DFC are now working on building warrants.

First and foremost, this will be a Church building (for weddings, funerals etc) and will not be marketed to compete with the Dornoch Social Club (DSC). The building may cater to overflow bookings and those that are too large for the DSC. With the upgraded AV equipment, the renovations would allow for live streaming weddings and teleconferencing across Europe – something DSC cannot do.

In terms of the current climate, DFC could also be used for vaccinations and Blood Donations.

Regarding charges, DFC only wish to see their outlays returned, not to make a profit.

MR was aware that funding may be seen as competition against other community buildings in Dornoch, however, DFC is looking at a much smaller amount and would not be applying for Lottery Funding.

JB stated that he could not find documentation regarding a public entertainment licence. JB also stated that the provision of toilets, the safety of fire exits and parking may be insufficient for that area of the town for holding community-based events.

MR took JB's comments on board and stated he would speak to the architect and he reiterated that the Free Church will remain predominantly a Church building and that DFC was not trying to compete with DSC.

GR stated that the renovations were welcomed by him as he believed that there was a lack of space at past Church related events he had attended.

GD stated that she had seen the space; thought it was brilliant and thought that there were opportunities for another venue for different community needs – issues that require privacy issues and overflow.

JB suggested that all the charities with community buildings in Dornoch gather together (virtually or otherwise) to discuss their objectives.

GR raised the point that the Free Church are just asking for a letter of support, and that DACC did not have responsibility for the technicalities of licencing and planning. He continued that DACC should either support the proposal as it currently stands or not, adding that the planning and licencing is beyond the competence of DACC.

LD wished to clarify that DACC were asked to support the spirit of the thing, rather than the future of the outcome of any renovations.

PM

	<p>A vote was held regarding supporting the project.</p> <p>JB voted against since he did not believe it was a community hall and it would be a shame that money went for a building that was not based on the community, but still using community funds.</p> <p>PM abstained.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE HELD ON WRITING A LETTER OF SUPPORT: MAJORITY IN FAVOUR AND IT WAS AGREED TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT WITH ALTERNATE WORDING FOR THE BOARD TO AGREE UPON</p>	
<p>b.</p>	<p>PHIL TOMALIN (PT) – WARD MANAGER</p> <p>After considerable discussion the following was agreed.</p> <p>PT will write a report to Sutherland County Committee on 1 March which will include an annual report for 19/20, 20/21 Q3 monitoring and budget for 21/22.</p> <p>The budget will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brought Forward Surplus and Carried Down Surplus both of which are around £300,000. • Grants and contributions budget for 21/22 will remain at £25,000. • Staff costs will be budgeted at £2,500 and Property and Maintenance costs at £13,500. • PT will talk to the Councillors to see if they will agree to working with the CC on longer term (e.g. 3 year) planning for the Common Good. The formal budgets will still be set annually. • The special projects in 21/22 will be funded by the in-year surplus (excess of income over expenditure) in the first instance, and then from usable cash reserves. The reserves afford a degree of flexibility for future significant projects that emerge outwith the budgeting process – as demonstrated by the process we followed for the current special projects. <p>PM and JB clarified that there are currently no ring-fenced projects. The aim is to use the c.£300,000 surplus on the most worthwhile projects that are practicable over the next 3 to 5 years. These may or may not include a Sports Barn and/or a Community Centre.</p> <p>DACC agreed to withdraw the grant application for £9,500 to address unforeseen Covid19 requirements. If DACC need such a resource it will re-apply either as part of its normal grants and contributions, or as a special project out of its surplus.</p> <p>DACC believes that annual interest of £2,500 on its cash surplus of c.£300,000 is unacceptable, and wants it explained and/or reviewed.</p>	<p>PM & JB</p>
	<p>ITEMS FOR DECISION</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>PLANNING & LICENCING APPLICATIONS:</p>	

a.	<p><u>EXTENSION TO MUSEUM – HISTORYLINKS: 20/04991/FUL</u></p> <p>JB informed DACC that planning had been rejected due to aesthetic objections.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WILL BE RESUBMITTED</p>	
b.	<p><u>EAST CLASHMORE FELLING PERMISSION</u></p> <p>PM stated that he did not believe there was anything for DACC to comment on except to ensure that the extraction routes are all properly vetted as usual by HC, which JMc will check.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ASK JMC TO CHECK VETTING OF EXTRACTION ROUTES</p>	JMC
c.	<p><u>SPAR SHOP – CASTLE STREET: 20/02361/FUL</u></p> <p>DACC had already approved this and continued to support it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPROVED</p>	
ITEMS FOR NOTING & DISCUSSION		
7.	<p><u>FINANCIAL UPDATE</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MONTH</p>	
8.	MUNICIPAL PROGRESS REPORTS & UPDATES	
a.	<p><u>WITHIN DACC'S CONTROL (JB)</u></p> <p>Public toilets at the beach need funding - applied for from the Common Good Fund. Colours for the walls and floor had been decided but the external walls were to be voted on: Blue, matching the coastguard building next door, or the current brown colour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTE TAKEN: 4 IN FAVOUR OF BLUE, 2 IN FAVOUR OF BROWN & ONE ABSTAINED.</p> <p>JB stated that he had received quotes for the works from the Gunns regarding the municipal projects. Overall they were all within budget so DACC needed to agree to them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DACC AGREED</p> <p>PM stated that birch not fir will be used for the trees to be planted at the Airfield.</p>	JB
b.	<p><u>AWAITING HC ACTIONS (JMC)</u></p> <p>JMc gave a short update.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN PROGRESS</p>	JMC
9.	<p><u>OTHER PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORTS</u></p>	

	NO UPDATES OUTSIDE OF THOSE CIRCULATED	
10.	<p>DACC WORK PLAN FOR 2021</p> <p>PM stated that DACC needed to look towards who should receive the DACC award and to plan the rejuvenation of the Christmas lights.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DELAYED UNTIL NEXT MONTH</p>	
11.	<p>DACC MEMBERSHIP REVIEW</p> <p>PM suggested the board look to bring in one more member. GR stated that DACC need to close the gaps with areas of the community who are not represented.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BOARD TO LOOK AT NEW POTENTIAL MEMBERS</p>	ALL
12.	<p><u>TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ELIZABETH COURT & MORRISON COURT</u></p> <p>JMc had a meeting with the site manager on the following day (21st Jan). LS brought up the parking and small children in the area, and the commensurate dangers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN PROGRESS</p>	JMC
13.	<p><u>DOG FOULING</u></p> <p>JMc stated that the incident of dog fouling was being looked at by the school and had spoken to the officers who will investigate making the fence more secure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MONTH</p>	DM
14.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>20MPH AT ENTRANCE TO MACKAY ROAD</p> <p>LR updated the correspondent with the discussions. Allan Garden's is adopted, Mackay Road is not. She therefore suggested to the correspondent that he found further support for the 20mph in the area and DACC could potentially help. Twenty's Plenty signs have been suggested – like Edderton.</p> <p>The police report included: 1 x abandoned call, 1 x abandoned vehicle, 3 x assist member of public, 1 x breach of bail, 5 x concern for person, 2 x Covid related, 1 x domestic incident, 1 x false call, 1 x fraud, 2 x information calls, 1 x intruder alarm, 1 x licensing issue, 1 x Pitgrudy incident, 3 x RTC, 1 x Road Traffic Offence, 1 x suspicious person.</p> <p>GD noted that there had been 2 serious drug-related incidents and it would be good if DACC had the opportunity to discuss these with the Police. PM asked LD to include this in her forthcoming discussions with the Police.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN PROGRESS</p>	LD

<p>15.</p>	<p>ROADS AND PATHWAYS</p> <p>JM brought up the uneven pavement outside Sandy Thompsons.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JMC TO FOLLOW UP</p> <p>PM questioned if DACC should be a liaison between the Highland Council and the community over the icy road conditions. JB stated that there is a document HC put out that offers information on getting the required help.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO ACTION REQUIRED</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JMC</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>GR – Wished to find out from PT if any other Community Councils have gone ahead with youth members – elected in the school to sit on the Community Council. PT would investigate. GR continued later that perhaps a letter to the rector to gauge interest and seek permission. JB suggested this is looked at post-Covid and in the new school year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PT STATED HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS POST COVID-19</p> <p>GR – Regarding the Royal Dornoch Golf Club (RDGC) and the fact that the consultation cannot be open to the public due to COVID-19 he questioned if it could be shelved until after the pandemic. He reiterated that this will affect the community for the next 99 years and believed that people will not have a reasonable chance to discuss this. JB stated that there have been 21 responses so far, with approximately 8 weeks (12th March 2021) to go – apparently a reasonable figure.</p> <p>DACC will monitor the situation based on the responses</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO FOLLOW UP AT NEXT MEETING</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PT</p>
<p>MEETING CLOSED AT: 21:11</p> <p>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>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17TH FEBRUARY, 2021, AT 7PM</p> <p>VIA ZOOM</p>		