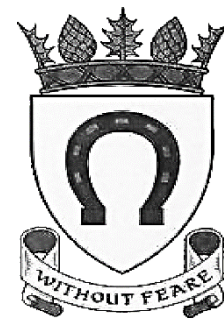


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2023
IN PERSON AT DORNOCH HUB & VIA ZOOM**



PRESENT

Patrick Murray – PM
Genevieve Duhigg – GD
Jimmy Melville – JM
David MacBeath – DM
Graeme Ross – GR (Zoom)
Lesley Strang – LS

IN ATTENDANCE

Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc
Caroline McMorran (Zoom)
Giles Huby – GH – UHI (Zoom)
Caroline Keenan – CK – member of the public (Zoom)
Matthew Gallon – MG – Senior Pupil, Dornoch 3-18 Campus (Zoom)
Finlay Gibson – FG – Senior Pupil, Dornoch 3-18 Campus (Zoom)
Mark Fraser (volunteer Zoom Controller)

**PLEASE USE THE LINKS IN THE HEADINGS (WHERE APPLICABLE) TO ACCESS CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTATION.
FULL DOCUMENTATION IS AVAILABLE [here](#)**

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were tendered on behalf of JB	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None	
3.	ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (18/01/23) The minutes of the last meeting here were proposed by GD as an accurate account of the meeting, with one small amendment, and seconded by LS. Prior to this, the meeting moved to cover Item 5 (Visitors)	
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT)	
a.	Provost’s Robes and Chain – PM confirmed that Highland Council had conceded that these were the property of DACC. GR asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the Ward Manager in recognition of his work on this issue. On the matter of insurance, PM stated that the items were insured by Historylinks.	PM
b.	Free Parking Sign at The Eagle – GR enquired again about this and was informed that, as per the decision of the Community Council, a request had been submitted to the Parking Manager to have this re-instated, though no action seems to have been taken. GR suggested that more urgency might arise if the sign was reported to the Police as having been stolen.	JMC
c.	Item 6 – Planning: no matters arising from the previous list.	PM
d.	Cost of Living Crisis – ongoing	JB

e.	Coronation – GD led the discussion. She had been in touch with the Lord Lieutenant who is organising a schools art competition and various other activities. PM stated that Ms Rollason is not now inclined to organise any events. There ensued discussion around other things which might be done, with the concluding action that LS should speak to the main community organisations to ascertain who is doing what.	LS
5.	VISITORS	
a.	GH spoke to his presentation which can be found here . PM enquired what the implications might be specifically for Dornoch. GH replied that it was important to keep a watching brief, that there would be regular announcements and that there would be economic opportunities to be gained. With no further questions, PM thanked GH for attending the meeting.	JMC
	ITEMS FOR DECISION	
6.	PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS	
	here and here	
a.	22/05356/RCC – Springfield Road Construction – Support, but action for PM to contact Springfield and to emphasise strongly DACC is expecting them to go ahead with this.	PM
b.	22/06107/FUL – Distillery – DACC unanimously in support	
c.	22/06157/ADV – Interpretation Panel, Skelbo – no comment	
d.	23/00204/FUL – Ridgeline, 26 Elizabeth Crescent – no comment	
e.	23/00230/ADV- Interpretation Board, Embo – no comment	
f.	23/00312/FUL – House alterations, Clashmore – no comment	
g.	23/00321/FUL – Garage & Ancillary Building, Hilton – no comment	
h.	22/06159/ADV – Interpretation Panel, Embo – no comment	
i.	23/00433/FUL – Change of use, Ross House – no objection in principle but at least 3 units should be available as affordable housing.	
7.	FUNDING APPLICATIONS Beinn Tharsuinn application for Community Garden Wildflower Meadow (£430) confirmed.	
	ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION	
8.	FINANCE UPDATE here In the absence of JB, PM moved that the report be accepted as read.	JB, PM
9.	PROJECTS UPDATE	

a	<p>DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS here There has been a request from the Dornoch Beach Group for more dog waste bins. Should these be provided there would be a need for volunteers to empty these bins. LS enquired about the health and safety aspects of volunteers involved in this work and asked where the bins would be placed. GD informed the meeting that the group has full PLI. PM stated that, since there was no great DACC objection to the request, the next steps lay with the Beach Group to progress, but there would need to be discussion about what conditions had to be met.</p>	
b	<p>HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROJECTS JMc spoke to the attached report here . He had previously circulated the inlay plan for St Gilbert Street here and this was welcomed. There was discussion about contractor parking arising from the refurbishment of the Dornoch Station Hotel. DM was very critical of the present situation, but JM was less so. Action on JMc to go back to the Site Manager to seek improvement. PM updated the meeting about the Public Toilets in the Square. He had approached the Castle Hotel about assisting with the opening and closing of these toilets and awaited a response.</p>	JMC, PM
c	<p>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS here PM made comment that most business in this item concerned the Place Plan here. He then referred to the work needed on the Dornoch Burn. DM confirmed that he had received a price from local contractors at £13K plus VAT here and this would cover works from the Public Toilets as far as the old Mallin House site. GD enquired about longer term upkeep, and LS suggested that the whole Burn be considered for a maintenance schedule. PM stated his preference for a 5-year plan, and that the issue would be followed up for decision at the March meeting. GD then updated members on the progress of the Place Plan, which had been discussed at the recent Dornoch Focus Group meeting, with the next stage being to acquire funding for a Housing Survey for the Burgh. She went on to explain that the BID initiative had successfully completed the 3 face-to-face consultation events, with a follow-up meeting of the Steering Group on Tuesday 21st, and online sessions thereafter. She expressed her thanks to the members of the Steering Group who had progressed things to this stage.</p>	PM, GD
10.	<p>ROADS & PATHWAYS here and here PM noted that the Dornoch Parking Plan had progressed as an experimental traffic order with consultation to take place with the parking controls in place. Members expressed misgivings about this as the understanding had been that there would be extensive public consultation prior to any traffic order being sought by the Highland Council. GR demanded that consultation documents be placed in shops, whilst GD also recommended a full consultation process. Action on JMc to convey these concerns to the Council Parking Manager.</p>	JMC
	<p>GR enquired about the ownership of a path extending to the south of Castle Street. Action on PM and JM to investigate this. JM raised the issue of traffic speeding on the north road out of Dornoch past the Station and suggested a speed bump. MG and FG confirmed that the culprits were most likely local “boy racers” and the incidents usually took place after 9:00pm. JMc to request action from the Police.</p>	PM, JM, JMC

	DM enquired about the possibility of a pavement at the public toilets in Shore Street. JMc to follow up with Roads and Parking Officers.	
11.	SEAGULLS	
a.	PM informed members that the Common Good application for funds to commission this work had been rejected by local Highland Councillors. LS requested that an email be agreed to send in response to this refusal indicating the deep disappointment of the Dornoch Area Community Council.	PM
12.	PARKING IN DORNOCH Covered under Item 10	GD
13.	POLICE REPORT None had been received despite request having been made.	
14.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	Relevant correspondence can be found here .	
	PM referred to a recent email from a local businessman here concerning the Dornoch Business Park. GD stated that the Herras fencing at the entrance is unsightly and undertook to ask her contact at UHI to try to ascertain ownership of this site. In response to a comment that the park is under-utilised, she also undertook to discuss this aspect with HIE. GR asked that something be done to advertise the benefits to businesses of being based in Dornoch. In response, GD suggested that this be an action to assigned to the Dornoch BID once established. Action on JMc to determine if the planning definition of the Business Park can be updated to reflect current and potential usage.	GD, JMC
15.	AOCB	
a.	PM enquired of MG and FG if they would be willing to join DACC as co-opted members representing the younger age group. Both indicated they were agreeable to this invitation. (After the close of the official meeting, it was agreed by 5 Members, with GR abstaining, that they be formally approached with this invitation and the school informed accordingly. Points were made about the 20-minute training video for new CC members, and voting rights especially as regards Licensing decisions. GD raised the issue of succession planning with the next DACC election due in November).	PM
b.	GR asked if anybody had any knowledge of the Burgh Council Orb which used to be on display at Burgh Council meetings. As nobody present had any knowledge of this item, he agreed to follow up himself.	GR
c.	CK thanked DACC members for the invitation to attend the meeting and indicated she would be interested in attending future meetings.	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 21:00

**WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE CHAIR EXTENDED HIS THANKS TO THOSE WHO
ATTENDED AND CLOSED THE MEETING.**

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS STATED BELOW.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 15TH MARCH 2023

LOCATION: HYBRID: ZOOM & THE DORNOCH HUB