

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON MONDAY 19TH AUGUST, 7PM
VIA ONLINE CONFERENCE CALL**



PRESENT

Patrick Murray – Chair - PM
Graeme Ross – Vice Chair - GR
Jerry Bishop – Treasurer – JB
Davie MacBeath – DM
Maggie Hope – MH
Jimmy Melville - JM

IN ATTENDANCE

Lou Rollason – Minutes – LR
Jim McGillivray – JMc

APOLOGIES

Cath Macangus – Secretary – CM
Ann Durrand – AD
Lesley Strang – LS

VISITORS

Caroline McMorran – Northern Times

PRELIMINARIES		
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from CM, AD & LS	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None were declared.	
3.	ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (15/7/20) JMc requested a name change in item 4a. It was incorrectly stated as 'John Mackay' and not John McHardy. JM stated that he had not made the comments regarding vehicles in item 20, it was in fact GR. GR wished it to be recorded that he had declared a possibly perceived conflict of interest re Dornoch Stores and so would not be commenting on the relevant agenda item. The minutes were then proposed by JM as a true account of the meeting and seconded by DM. ITEMS TO BE AMENDED.	LR
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA)	
a.	Bishopfield – Work in progress – Next step is for DACC to suggest a vehicle to receive the land set aside for Community Build IN PROGRESS	JMc

b.	<p>Industrial Units – JMc stated that it was in Highlands and Islands Enterprise Board’s (HIE’s) short term interest to commission a survey to ascertain interest and he pressed to get this moved quickly. JMc continued that he had pointed out the area down by the station as a potential location & GR stated that the industrial units by the railway were wooden.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN PROGRESS</p>	JMc
c.	<p>Railing – Matter had been passed to the mechanical engineering section of the Highland Council (HC).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN PROGRESS</p>	JMc & JM
d.	<p>Meeting with Phil Tomalin – Regarding the public toilets, PM stated that Phil Tomlin would come back to DACC with exactly what was needed. There were two options; one would be to encourage HC to do it themselves and work out the cost. The other would be to follow DM’s original plan to find a specialist company that DACC could then use. JMc would look to working with HC to which DM asked, “who does the work?” JMc stated that it would be done internally or put out to tender. DM stated his preference would be to contract the work out to alleviate the potential time and cost it would take for HC to do it. JB stated that the ownership model was too difficult to work with for the public toilets, so believed working with HC was the best way forward. The same issue lay with the bank steps. PM stated that although this was agreed with the bank steps, it would not be the same with the toilets as it was a bigger project. PM stated that they would not be handing a blank cheque to HC as the cost could be too high. MH continued that it was a starting point.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN PROGRESS</p>	JB & PM
e.	<p>DORNOCH COMMUNITY AWARD</p> <p>The award had been chosen as well as a gift for Yvonne Ross. PM asked what DACC should do to present these to them. MH suggested meeting at the beach and PM applauded this idea. Both the award and gift to be given at the same time as it would be easy to socially distance at the beach. PM to reach out to the award winner and JMc to reach out to Yvonne Ross.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM & JMC TO ARRANGE MEETING.</p>	PM & JMc
5.	<p style="text-align: center;">RATIFY DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH BANK STEPS REPAIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO OBJECTIONS – TO GO AHEAD</p>	
ITEMS FOR DECISION		
6.	<p style="text-align: center;">PLANNING & LICENCING APPLICATIONS</p>	
a.	<p>20/02602/FUL Erection of shed/log store 24 Elizabeth Crescent Dornoch IV25 3NN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO OBJECTIONS AS RESIDENTIAL.</p>	

b.	<p>20/02641/FUL - First floor extension over existing single storey rear kitchen / dining area to create bedroom accommodation on first floor (Amendment to 18/03525/FUL) 4 Back Street Embo Dornoch IV25 3PT</p> <p>NO OBJECTIONS AS RESIDENTIAL.</p>	
c.	<p>20/02669/PNO Erection of agricultural building Acharry Muir Spinningdale Ardgay, IV24 3AF</p> <p>NO OBJECTIONS AS RESIDENTIAL.</p>	
7.	<p>APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE EWAN CHISHOLM'S SEAFOOD CAFÉ PROPOSAL</p> <p>JM asked that litter was taken into consideration. PM reiterated that this was mentioned in Mr Chisholm's proposal. JM asked that PM inform Phil Tomalin (PT) of the proposal.</p> <p>APPROVED</p>	PM/PT
8.	<p>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</p> <p>PM stated he felt strongly that DACC needed to work more closely with other Dornoch groups. DADCA and Dornoch and District Community Interest Company (DACIC) would be the two of most interest. PM reiterated that the individual members who attend would not have voting rights and would only be speaking on behalf of their organisation. Specific members included in this arrangement from DACIC and DADCA would likely be Chair, Joan Bishop & Secretary, Gordon Sutherland & and the two Co-Chairs, Carol Mackay and Viki Mackenzie respectively</p> <p>PM continued that there were other organisations that he would like to invite to be associate members at a later date.</p> <p>GR stated that the wording should be examined and believed that they should be invited to meetings only when a project or subject was relevant to them. He continued that by having them as associate members they would potentially have more power than members of the public. MH and JM agreed.</p> <p>WITHDRAWN & TO BE DISCUSSED NEXT MEETING</p>	
9.	<p>EARLS CROSS AND STATION ROAD WOODLAND</p> <p>PM reiterated the notes from last meeting which he summarised as the land having to be purchased by DACC from Sutherland Estates before any right to manage the woodland could be granted. This land would only be sold at its valuation price and his opinion was that there were more pressing matters to contend with. DACC mostly agreed, however DM stated that he was disappointed that it was an 'all or nothing' idea – either leave as it was or turn into a woodland park – neither of which were wanted by DACC. Depending on the cost (including the legal fees), DM would be in favour of it coming</p>	DM

	<p>into DACC hands. His focus was that as it was not in the centre it appeared to have been forgotten. He was disappointed in the fact that it could not be made better, or at least maintained and would be left to fall into disrepair. GR asked who was responsible for the upkeep of the pathways? DM stated that the area had been done recently, but no one knew who had done the work.</p> <p>JB suggested that DM took this on and spoke to Sutherland Estates but in any discussions with them, made sure that DACC would not be liable for any issues that might arise in the area. JB continued that until then, DACC were wasting time as there was nothing to be done currently.</p> <p>DM TO ASK HOW MUCH SUTHERLAND ESTATE WOULD SELL THE LAND FOR.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>TREASURER'S REPORT (JB)</p> <p>JB stated there had been little change in the balance. The beach toilets had been reopened and DACC had committed to £50 a week for cleaning. He also committed to an expenditure of £76.17 for dispensers of hand sanitiser and the hand sanitiser itself and a new donations box. The previous donations box (placed by JMc two years ago) had £43 in it.</p> <p>Unfortunately, campervans had disposed of their waste in the toilets which led to the drains needing to be cleared. JMc stated he asked for temporary disposal units to sit next to the toilets and this was approved.</p> <p>JB asked for approval of the cleaning charge and any costs that may arise from this. Approved.</p> <p>JM asked who locks the toilets, he was informed they were open 24 hours a day. The toilets will remain open until the end of October.</p> <p>APPROVED</p> <p>Regarding the Common Good Fund, JB stated that these funds should now be put to better use. The funds include £100,000 previously set aside for the Sports Bar & £100,000 previously set aside for the Community Centre neither of which were 'active' projects.</p> <p>JB fully supported these projects, but as they had disappeared off the HC project plan he believed that DACC needed a plan of usage of the funds that made sense for the current three-year funding cycle. GR stated that this was not just for a project but for the children of the future. GR reiterated what had happened in Tain where they garnered a considerable income from the mussels but have now literally ran out of money.</p> <p>MH stated that she was interested to hear JMc's opinion, as he was trying to get the Sports Hall reinstated. JMc stated that the previous tender for a Sports Hall was £3.1 million (three years ago) and was now roughly £3.9 million. He stated that unfortunately Dornoch was a low priority for an Inverness-centric administration. The HC had withdrawn its offer of 3.4 million for the old Inverness college building. He finished by stating that he 'is not holding his breath' on the matter of a Sports Hall being reinstated but would keep trying.</p>	<p>JMc</p>

	<p>JM stated that he was devoted to getting a new community centre and although the Social Club is getting a refurbishment, all Dornoch was looking at currently was a Curling Rink which he did not believe would be beneficial for Dornoch. However, he fully supported spending the funds we currently have for the good of the community. GR asked if they should wait until JMc had spoken with HC, however PM stated that this would be a constant and would not get DACC any further.</p> <p>JB understood the emotional attachment but stated that the amount DACC would need for the current projects list (including the toilets) was £183,000, meaning that with the income of £50,000 per annum, DACC could easily support an application of £150,000 if required – based on the cash flow projections and the average 2-3 year planning process.</p> <p>PM called for a vote for or against.</p> <p>For the forecast presented, five for the forecast – PM, JB, DM, MH & JM. 1 against – GR.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPROVED</p>	
11.	<p>BEACH DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>PM asked for any objections to the previously circulated documents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO OBJECTIONS</p>	
12.	<p>DORNOCH PLANNING SEMINAR</p> <p>JB summarised the previously circulated document. He was concerned that there were knee jerk reactions as issues and developments arose and would like to look at creating a plan for the town. Originally there was an HIE plan, but PM stated that this might almost be up for renewal and was not as relevant now. The new plan would look at current issues, such as the beach, parking, motorhomes, overnight stays of campervans etc.</p> <p>PM stated that he would like to see a meeting of the minds of all the groups (or as many as possible) to create a town plan for the future, as many other towns are doing. JB asked that someone contact HIE on this matter. PM agreed & JMc will pass on contact details to PM.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOTED IN FAVOUR OF A SEMINAR BEING HELD</p>	JB, JMc & PM
	ITEMS FOR NOTING & DISCUSSION	
13.	<p>DISCUSSION PAPER ON PARKING AND MANAGING TOURISTS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT MONTH.</p>	JB
14.	PROGRESS REPORTS AND UPDATES	
a.	<p>COVID-19</p> <p>PM asked for any comments on previously circulated documents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO COMMENTS RECEIVED</p>	
b.	DORNOCH SKIP	JB

	<p>JB asked if there were any negative comments received. GR stated that people had commented that a midweek opening was unacceptable, but the majority understood it was a start. JB hoped that there would be a number of volunteers who could be trained and that this would potentially allow movement to a weekend slot. JM stated that he was worried that volunteers may receive abuse if members of the public are told that they cannot drop certain items off. DM suggested extra signage for what can and cannot be disposed of and that abuse of volunteers would not be tolerated. JB would receive a poster with what can and cannot be deposited and all other regulations pertaining to the running of the site.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JB RECEIVING A POSTER TO PUT UP FOR REGULATIONS</p>	
c.	<p>DORNOCH TRUST</p> <p>PM asked for any comments on previously circulated documents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO COMMENTS RECEIVED</p>	
15.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE INCLUDING ANY SUBMISSION FROM POLICE</p> <p>An e-mail was received to ask for Councillors' support for a "NO THROUGH ROAD" sign on Church Street between no. 8 and Kerrisdale. LR to raise with HC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO RAISE WITH HC</p>	LR
16.	<p>ROADS AND PATHWAYS</p> <p>DM asked about the white lining which has still to be done. JMc to follow up.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO BE FOLLOWED UP WITH HC</p> <p>MH stated that she has had people ask about ways in which the traffic could be slowed on the road to Embo. PM stated that we should add the discussion of a 20mph limit to the agenda next meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA</p> <p>JM brought up the issue of potholes on Shore Road. DM asked if this could be brought up with the water board – whose lorries use the road often with heavy loads. PM to find out who to contact regarding this and do so.</p>	JMc PM
ITEMS FOR NOTING AND DISCUSSION		
17.	<p>MUNICIPAL PROJECTS UPDATE (JB)</p> <p>JB stated that the bank steps had almost started & continued that he looked forward to their completion.</p>	JB

	<p>The toilets had been discussed already. JB added that the war memorial bench would need stone masonry work and the Gunns were happy to do the work. They had suggested Billy May for some of the woodwork. JB to contact Billy May. PM asked that the projects be split into groups of 'smaller, inexpensive tasks' and 'those that needed a larger amount of expenditure'. JB agreed to do this. JB would like to include painting of the beach toilets as a task over the winter.</p> <p>JB TO CONTACT THE GUNNS AND SPLIT THE PROJECT LIST</p> <p>JM stated that the road in front of Dornoch Hotel, along to the Golf Club had only one bench and a holiday maker had commented that there was space for more benches. DM also stated that putting curbing in would stop people parking there. JB stated that there would be an upgrade of the junction if the housing on Bishopfield Road goes ahead.</p>	
<p>18.</p>	<p>AOCB</p>	
	<p>PM: PM was reluctant to distribute the posters for 'responsible camping' as they could promote the activities they wish to dissuade and asked if DACC agreed to only a limited distribution Everyone agreed. PM then asked about the Facebook post and JB commented that over 1000 people had seen it and over 100 had interacted with it, so it should be left.</p> <p>LEAVE POST ON FB UP BUT LIMIT DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS</p> <p>GR: Asked that when looking at proposals that are grouped together, they are broken down and that they are looked at individually, regardless of whether they count as one project.</p> <p>JB: Brought up the issue of two campervans which were keyed by a local resident. JB stated that he did not know what the follow up was after the police were called but stated that he believed that this was a very dangerous development, where people appear to have taken what they deem to be the law into their own hands. The victims were guests of the town and were dining in the Castle and this behaviour was unacceptable. PM asked to make it clear that DACC deplored this action. Unanimously agreed and sympathies expressed to the guests who had their campervans vandalised.</p> <p>JB TO CREATE A FB POST.</p> <p>DM: Had cleared the whins along the Golf Course. He requested some money to repair the ironwork along the gates. PM to authorise payment when DM finds out the cost.</p> <p>APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE DEPENDENT ON COST</p> <p>DM asked if JMc had gotten any further with the Dornoch Hotel, which he had not, but he would continue to follow up. DM had</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>JB</p> <p>DM & PM</p>

	<p>already reached out to several people involved in the organisation and had not heard back.</p> <p>MH: Stated that she had received a picture of human excrement from a customer by the Witches Stone and was told the next day it was still there. MH asked what the protocol was going forward. PM stated that the easiest thing was to pick it up so that it could be reported to HC, but they would be unlikely to do anything.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM TO ACTION</p> <p>JM: Stated that the clearing of the burn had not yet been done. DM stated they were spraying it the other day. JM continued that the street signs were a disgrace and that they were covered in green slime and DM said he would help with this. A shoutout for Burn Cleanout to be done later in the year probably October. JMc to arrange a skip for the day.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PM</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">MEETING CLOSED AT: 21:18</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 style="text-align: center;">DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DORNOCH (IF ALLOWED).</p>	