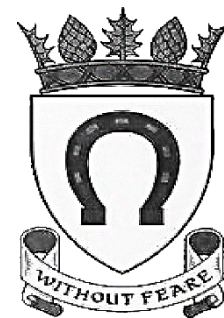


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2022
IN PERSON AT DORNOCH HUB & VIA ZOOM**



PRESENT

Patrick Murray – PM (Zoom)
Jerry Bishop – JB (Acting Chair)
Genevieve Duhigg – GD
Davie Macbeath – DB
Jimmy Melville – JM
Graeme Ross – GR
Lesley Strang – LS

IN ATTENDANCE

Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc; Leslie-anne Niven – Cllr – LN (Zoom)
Gordon Sutherland – C4C – GS; Prof David Bell – DB; Nicola Drummond – ND (Item 5)
Tom Dargie; Andrew Mackay; John Campbell (Zoom) plus one other (Item 5)
Morven Urquhart – MU; Joyce Everitt – JE; (Item 6)
PC Steven Clarke – SC (Item 15); Matthew Gallon (Zoom – Dornoch Firth 3-18 Campus)

PLEASE USE THE LINKS IN THE HEADINGS (WHERE APPLICABLE) TO ACCESS CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTATION.

FULL DOCUMENTATION IS AVAILABLE [here](#)

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies understood from Yvonne Macrae (YM)	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None were intimated.	
3.	ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (21/9/22) The minutes of the last meeting here were proposed by PM as an accurate account of the meeting and seconded by GD. Prior to this, the meeting moved to cover Items 5 & 6 (Visitors & Planning application 22/04650/FUL) before proceeding with the rest of the agenda from Item 4.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT))	
a.	Item 6; Planning – JB confirmed that he has set up a Facebook page to explain the role DACC plays in the planning process. As regards the applications relevant to Pitgrudy and The Meadows, PM stated that consultation has been requested. There was subsequent discussion on control areas and place plans.	
b.	Item 8; Provost's Robes and Chain – PM indicated that there had been as yet no response to his letter but would take up the matter in due course with the Ward Manager in the first instance. GR commented that the documentation he had researched provided clear evidence as to possession of these items.	PM
c.	Item 14(b) from September minutes – GR asked for an update on the fate of the Free Parking sign at the Eagle and the Parking sign at Trevoise. JMc	JMC

	replied that local Roads Officers had no knowledge of this, and the matter was to be pursued with Shane Manning.	
d.	Item 14(d) – Burghfield Steps – JMc had paid a site visit. In general, the steps were in reasonable order but there was a small stretch of wall which needed attention. It was left open as to how this would be addressed	
5.	VISITORS	
a.	<p>GS introduced this item by stating it was a courtesy visit, that the Golf Course application would be submitted shortly, and that a further attendance would be requested thereafter.</p> <p>ND summarised planning progress to date, that an in-depth assessment of the documents pertaining to the previous application had been carried out, and that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was in its final stages. She said that considerable changes had been made to the course design in view of the Reporters' 2020 comments and that the footprint of the course had been considerably reduced to accommodate these criticisms.</p> <p>DB highlighted the primary economic features: the current huge demand for golf worldwide, the alignment with current Scottish Government policies as there had been no recovery since Covid, the place of golf clusters in Scotland, the National Strategy for Economic Transformation, and Scotland's part amongst international Wellbeing Governments. He identified the 5 different types of capital, the problems the area faces through depopulation and skewed demographic structure and emphasized that in his opinion the new course would be highly successful.</p> <p>The Chair thanked GS, ND & DB for their submissions and assured everyone that there would be future opportunities for more discussions once any planning application had been submitted and validated by Highland Council.</p>	
	ITEMS FOR DECISION	
6.	PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS here	
a.	<p>22/04650/FUL Erection of 12 units at Croft Pedde</p> <p>MU was aware of the 6 plots but said that 12 units was an excessive development especially as land levels were above those in Elizabeth Crescent and asked if 2 storey houses are necessary for an ageing population.</p> <p>JB noted the recently appended sectional view which showed finished floor levels 18" higher than the base of the boundary wall.</p> <p>After further discussion, PM requested that an extension be asked for, but JB recommended seeking a consultation on this application and that was the decision of the meeting.</p>	JB
b.	<p>22/04977/FUL Planning Renewal for House at the Pillars</p> <p>No comment to be made</p>	
c.	<p>22/04488/FUL Change of use in Wallace Street</p> <p>There was considerable discussion over this application with PM urging a consistent approach to this type of application, JM pointing out that the shop had closed years ago, whilst GR was clear in his objection. The final decision was to request consultation.</p>	JB
d.	<p>22/04273/FUL House at Lednabirichen</p> <p>No comment to be made</p>	

e.	22/04256/FUL Accommodation unit at Cyderhall Cottage No comment to be made	
7.	FUNDING APPLICATIONS	
a.	DACIC Common Good Application here and here PM spoke to the email he had previously circulated and stated that this application would be money well spent. The following points were made in response: GR – a complete waste of money in view of MUGA at the school PM – the school closes around 4pm and at weekends GD – both facilities needed especially for NHC students and local sports groups. Community consultation has been thorough, and she is totally in favour JM asked if this would cause any delay for the new community centre, but JB stated that this would cause no delay DM said that the more that was happening the better LN pointed out that the cost of the Helmsdale MUGA was over £400K JB said that the project also depends on £50K from the Coastal Communities Fund. When put to the vote, the motion in favour of supporting this application was passed by 5 votes to 1.	
b.	Extra Item – Beinn Tharsuinn Fund The Chair stated that this was a late application from the Community Garden Group for £400 to create a wild-life orchard. PM said that in his opinion this should have gone to the Common Good Fund. JB approved the application but agreed that any award should come out of the Common Good as the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund had always been reserved for applications from out-with the burgh.	
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
8.	FINANCE UPDATE JB stated that there was little to report and that the update here should be taken as read. He raised the issue of the Zoom licence and asked that a third contribution come from the DACC account. This was approved.	JB
9.	PROJECTS UPDATE	
a	DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS here JB has been informed that it is not advisable to plant rose bushes at this time and that Spring would be better. He added that an application was going to the Common Good for Xmas Trees. It was agreed that it would be expedient to use the £958 roses money for this purpose.	JB
b	HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROJECTS JMc spoke to the attached report here which updated the situation as regards Council projects which still needed attention. He still has to organise a walk-around with the Roads Officer but that will be done shortly. The identity of the new Planning Officer responsible for the haul track at the Springfield development has yet to be clarified.	JMC

c	<p>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</p> <p>PM summarised the situation applying to Voluntary Charging at the Beach, and that the new RDGC lease was pending.</p> <p>Seagull Control – LS stated that there would be no benefit unless tried. GR asked where exactly the problem was. JM commented that it could be costly. PM pointed out that there might be more opposition in the context of Bird Flu. JB noted that the Invergordon cull had been halted. LS was asked to make enquiries about the experience of Invergordon and Inverness and to report back.</p> <p>Dog Waste – this had become more obvious at the Airfield and at Camore, and that there is a need for more bins. DM and LS to follow up.</p>	PM, LS, DM
10.	<p>COST OF LIVING CRISIS</p> <p>GD gave an update on the funding opportunities to support community efforts.</p> <p>PM noted that work was under way across Dornoch to provide warm hubs and noted the initiatives of DACIC, the West Church Hall and the Free Church.</p> <p>JB noted that the Dornoch Firth Group was applying to DTAS for funding.</p>	GD
11.	<p>ROADS AND PATHWAYS</p>	
a.	This item was held over to the December meeting.	
12.	<p>PARKING IN THE SQUARE</p> <p>In the ongoing absence of the Council Parking Officer this was deferred to a future meeting and to be kept on the agenda.</p>	GD
13.	<p>EXCEPTIONS TO “NO PARKING” IN THE SQUARE</p> <p>This was also held over till the December meeting.</p>	
14.	<p>XMAS LIGHTS</p> <p>PM mentioned that the new lights work and that volunteers are required to do the necessary preparation and erection.</p>	PM
15.	<p>POLICE REPORT</p> <p>here</p> <p>Police Officer Steven Clarke was welcomed to the meeting. He stated his intention to attend more meetings. He reported that there had been 30 calls in Dornoch, which involved assisting other agencies, medical matters and online fraud. He also indicated that sextortion was a growing problem.</p> <p>JB raised the issue of speeding traffic, road racing and 20mph enforcement. SC replied that warnings can be applied to both car and person, and that complaints can be reported by calling 101 or via the Police website.</p>	
15.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>	
a.	Relevant correspondence can be found here	
16.	<p>AOCB</p>	
a.	JM and LS raised an issue with Grange Cottage, but the meeting was informed that this had been dealt with.	

b.	JB mentioned the Coastal Erosion at Golspie document circulated at the request of Dr Dargie. No action to be taken at this point.	
THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 21:05 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 – 21ST DECEMBER 2022 LOCATION: HYBRID: ZOOM & THE DORNOCH HUB		