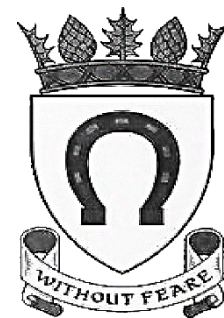


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE, AFTER AGM
VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON AT THE DORNOCH HUB**



PRESENT

Patrick Murray – Chair – PM
Jerry Bishop – Treasurer – JB
Lucy Dixon – LD (Zoom)
Genevieve Duhigg – GD (Zoom)
David MacBeth – DM (Zoom)
Graeme Ross – GR (Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE

Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc
Caroline McMorran – Northern Times

PLEASE USE THE LINKS IN THE HEADINGS (WHERE APPLICABLE) TO ACCESS CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTATION. FULL DOCUMENTATION IS AVAILABLE here		
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Yvonne Macrae (YM), Jimmy Melville (JM) and Lesley Strang (LS)	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None were tendered.	
3.	ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (18/5/22) (here) The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by JB as an accurate account of the meeting and seconded by DM.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT)	
a.	GD expressed her thanks to PM for organising the Dornoch Jubilee Party. PM in turn stated his appreciation of the efforts of DM, Jimmy MacDonald and Judy Sutherland and quoted the opinion of Patrick Marriott, “the best Jubilee Party in Sutherland”.	
5.	VISITORS None	
ITEMS FOR DECISION		
6.	PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS	
a	22/01976/FUL CC to make no comment on this application.	JB
b	22/01216/FUL CC to make no comment on this application.	JB

	(JMc declared a family interest and was outside the meeting during the discussion).	
b	<p>22/02044FUL Erection of house and installation of air source heat pump Yulara 1 Sinclair Court, The Meadows, Dornoch – here</p> <p>An extension until 16th June had been granted by Planning to allow a response to be submitted. Neighbours' comments on the Planning website were noted. Leading contributions to the debate were as follows:</p> <p>GR – this was a right of way as defined in 1874. This application would engender a loss of amenity through restriction of access. Any objection should include reference to a vehicular and pedestrian right of way rather than a thoroughfare.</p> <p>JB – any objection must be based on a material planning consideration.</p> <p>GD – made reference to unnecessary development of site especially in the context of other major Dornoch developments. Could objection be removed if plans were amended for a wider access and smaller house?</p> <p>JB – this is a small house crammed into a small site with little consideration for parking arrangements.</p> <p>After further discussion, the Community Council agreed to submit an objection to this application.</p>	“
7.	<p>COMMON GOOD CONSULTATION ON THE DISPOSAL BY SALE OF AN AREA OF LAND AT 6 WELL STREET – HERE</p> <p>The main features of this debate were as follows:</p> <p>PM – had been approached by the individuals concerned and on balance declared an interest in this item.</p> <p>GD – supported the disposal of small parcels of land either by sale or substantially increased length of period of lease.</p> <p>GR – totally opposed to any sale and quoted the long-standing principle of no sale of CG Land under any circumstances. Also, in his opinion the plot is worth more than the £8,000 valuation placed on it, and could the Trustees of the Common Good be sued if sold below market value?</p> <p>DM – although a moderate size of plot could there be a big increase in value of the entire property if acquired?</p> <p>GD – suggested 2 principles applied: never sell or take each application on its merits.</p> <p>JB – stated the following: the value had been assessed at £8,000 by the Council Surveyor; the area of land in question is no more than the size of the meeting room; it is inaccessible to the population in general; what benefit to the Common Good if not sold; after a number of community land acquisitions, there is now at least 1,600 times more land in community ownership in Dornoch than the size of the site being requested for sale.</p> <p>LD – 1 River Street sets a precedent for considering each application on its merits.</p> <p>GR – pointed out that 1 River Street was an extremely small area and there were extenuating circumstances for recommending sale in that case.</p> <p>JB – sought a vote to decide CC response to the consultation.</p> <p>In favour of sale: DM, GD, JB, LD Against sale: GR, who asked for his objection to be minuted PM, having declared an interest, did not vote.</p>	
8.	<p>FINANCE UPDATE</p> <p>JB spoke to this item, as per circulated report here . The Beach Toilets are now responsibility of the Dornoch Trust, and the support grant is expected shortly. The £360 Beach Awards loan will be repaid in the near future.</p>	JB

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
9.	PROJECTS UPDATE	
a	<p>DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS – HERE PM outlined the main progress to date as per circulated report. The first 4 phases are complete, with Beach Awards and Green Canopy receiving current attention. 40 more rose bushes at a cost of £960 to replace existing blank spaces in community flower beds are being ordered, and the next step is a refresh for the town Notice Boards and fountain in the Cathedral Green. He invited suggestions from CC members as to future projects and reminded the meeting that the estimate price for works on the Dornoch Burn is still awaited.</p> <p>GD – suggested that signage in the Earls Cross Wood might need refreshed with possible funding from the North Highland Initiative.</p> <p>JB – the funding for the purchase of the new Xmas Lights has been secured.</p>	PM
b	<p>HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROJECTS – HERE JMc spoke to this item. There has been no progress on the Church Street signage with the Council squads involved in surface dressing across the County. White-lining season is almost here, and the Council lining equipment has been fully risk-assessed. Work should start on the Cemetery extension over the summer; the Senior Roads Technician is not convinced about removing the paving outcrops in Elizabeth Court; the Bishopfield play equipment has been repaired; a consultation meeting over invitation to pay in the Lower Beach Car Park is being organised with Shane Manning; and the haul track from the Springfield development to Poles Road still awaits approval.</p>	JM
c	<p>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS – HERE PM spoke across a range of projects. The following are work in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Grange Road path and RDGC signage: Matt Dent will attend a site meeting to provide professional advice on this issue. - Airfield Shed: still no final lease in place, the matter in the hands of Council Legal Department. - 800 Cathedral Anniversary – it seems that this will be a small celebration with the major event planned for 2039. GR pointed out that the 700th was celebrated in 1924 and raised doubt about the year in which the 800th should be held. PM suggested that GR and Historylinks take this up with representatives of the Cathedral (Kim McCarthy and Liz Manson). - RDGC lease – JMc stated that this was bouncing back and forward between solicitors and was currently in the hands of HC Legal who awaited the return from holiday of the Council Surveyor. - Dog Poo – DM pressed for more bins at the Airfield. JB indicated that this could easily be done if specific sites can be identified. - Meadows Park. It seems that problems have arisen over the boundaries of the Meadows Park, the renovated Cricket Pitch, and the lease held by some local residents, as negotiated with Sutherland Estates, for keeping of livestock. PM suggested that the present Trustee model is not fit for purpose with no Cathedral Minister and no substantive Rector of the Academy in place. GR responded that this was a matter for the Trustees, and PM conceded that the CC had no formal role in this matter. - GD raised the issue of street planters. Viki MacKenzie is organising this and more funds are needed. Can an application be instigated as part of Maintenance Project work to Common Good, or Ward Discretionary or RDGC Community Fund? 	PM, GR

d	<p>DORNOCH PLACE PLAN GD has followed up on this item. The Investing in Communities Fund is opening a consultation on relaunching around the themes of crisis and poverty and restructuring its priorities accordingly. This makes funding a Project Manager unlikely. She referenced the BID and Hospitality meetings she had attended and noted that Sustrans is opening a new fund for walking and recycling, but that a sub-committee is now needed to progress the Place Plan.</p>	GD
e	<p>QUEEN'S CANOPY LD led on this item. She indicated that there had been good public interest in the free trees. Discussion moved onto a contingency plan for any surplus, with options identified as allowing people to take as required once bookings had been honoured and any residue being planted in the Earls Cross Wood.</p>	LD
f	<p>JOHN O'GROATS TRAIL GD stated that there was a consultation event for the Inverness-Helmsdale stretch scheduled for Dornoch on 6th August to seek to get the best out of the trail and any connected series of trails. The CC agreed there was much in favour of this initiative and GD to draft a letter of support.</p>	GD
10.	<p>PUBLIC TOILETS UPDATE Concern was again expressed about the lack of closure on this item and the ongoing snagging which was still happening, especially the doors not locking properly, and the Gents disabled door being of insufficient width. Requests had been made to have these items fixed, and a further request for budget figures to allow an investigation into the feasibility of a community lease of the facility.</p>	PM,JMC
11.	<p>ROADS AND PATHWAYS No issues raised.</p>	
12.	<p>UKRAINIAN REFUGEES PM raised this issue. He noted that Golspie CC were proactive in encouraging support for refugees. He asked the CC to consider whether it should follow suit, discourage, or take no stance. In discussion it was pointed out that the school was already stretched as regards pupil numbers, that there was financial support at present but what would be the future situation, and will the Scottish Government provide additional teaching support. The final decision was to take a neutral stance and leave it to members of the community to take such action as they wished.</p>	DM
13.	<p>POLICE REPORT A report had been requested but none had been submitted. It was noted that the local Inspector was absent due to ill-health.</p>	
14.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	<p>FILES FROM ONLINE CORRESPONDENCE – There were 2 items to consider, the SFRS consultation and the FLS consultation. GD undertook to respond to the FLS request and the CC agreed to take no action on the SFRS issue.</p>	GD
15.	AOCB	

a.	<p>DORNOCH BID GD indicated that the Dornoch BID project was up and running with a wide membership on the steering group. She gave an update on meetings of the Sutherland Resilience Group which had identified problems with staffing for local businesses, food and fuel poverty, and social housing opportunities for social enterprises.</p>	GD
b.	<p>DORNOCH SOUTH CAR PARK JB stated that the Car Park was now open, and people were finding it, and a Council Enforcement Officer would attend on occasion to direct coaches to this area. He reminded the CC that the Beach Car Park is Invitation to Pay, Motorhomes are prohibited, and the Overflow signage has been updated. He asked the CC to note concerns being expressed about overnight motorhome parking in the Camore Wood.</p>	JB
c.	<p>COMMUNITY COUNCIL AWARD PM has checked with Marian Swanson, and she is delighted to accept. JB proposed that the presentation take place at the end of a Community Market, and this was agreed and set for 12:00 noon on 13th July, being the date of the next market.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 20:55 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.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 20TH JULY 2022 LOCATION: HYBRID: ZOOM & THE DORNOCH HUB</p>		