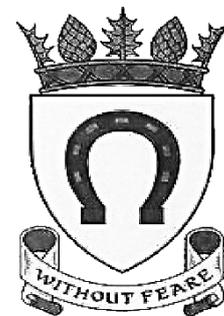


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF  
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2022  
IN PERSON AT DORNOCH HUB & VIA ZOOM**



**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc  
Caroline McMorrان – (Zoom)  
Jay Wilson – John O’Groats Trail – JW – (Zoom)  
Thomas Shaw & Freda Scholz – members of public

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

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were tendered on behalf of DM	
<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> None	
<b>3.</b>	<b>ADOPTION &amp; ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (21/9/22)</b> The minutes of the last meeting <a href="#">here</a> were proposed by JB as an accurate account of the meeting and seconded by JM. Prior to this, the meeting moved to cover Item 5 (Visitors)	
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT)</b>	
<b>a.</b>	Provost’s Robes and Chain – PM stated that the Ward Manager had been contacted and developments are awaited.	<b>PM</b>
<b>b.</b>	Free Parking Sign at The Eagle – GR enquired 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.	<b>JMC</b>
<b>c.</b>	Item 6 – Planning: JB informed the meeting that all Planning decisions from the December meeting had been conveyed to the Planning Service	<b>PM</b>
<b>d.</b>	Cost of Living Crisis – it was reported that some Warm Hubs are not well attended. JB undertook to advertise these further.	<b>JB</b>
<b>e.</b>	Coronation – PM reported that Ms Rollason had undertaken to lead a local event to commemorate this occasion, and that she envisaged a replay of the successful Jubilee celebration. GD had spoken to the Equerry and understood that the format was under development with an expected input from schools.	

<b>5.</b>	<b>VISITORS</b>	
<b>a.</b>	<p>JW informed the meeting that the Trail was going from strength to strength with more users and more new funding. He was confident about the project and planning applications for signage had been submitted. The signs were large and were in storage but would require volunteer support to get erected. There were problems contacting landowners and he asked assistance in how to communicate specifically with the owner of relevant land around Embo. JMc undertook to help with this.</p> <p>PM thanked JW for his attendance and informing the Council about this project.</p>	<b>JMC</b>
	<b>ITEMS FOR DECISION</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>PLANNING &amp; LICENSING APPLICATIONS</b> There were none submitted which required the attention of the Council.	
<b>a.</b>	<p><b>PLANNING RESPONSE POLICY</b> <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>PM spoke to the report he had submitted, and asked members present to agree this policy, which would be the third protocol in the Council's portfolio. This was agreed unanimously.</p>	<b>PM</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>FUNDING APPLICATIONS</b> None had been received	
	<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>FINANCE UPDATE</b> <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>JB asked that his report be taken as read. There was £4,458 in the account of which £673.59 was reserved funding with a balance thereafter of £3784. PM raised the issue of the Common Good Fund, which was depreciating in value in the face of increased inflation. He proposed the establishment of a sub-committee to work more closely with Highland Council in the management of the Common Good Fund, with the aim of creating a structured 5-Year Plan to reduce the capital sum in favour of supporting community initiatives with long term benefits to the Burgh. This was agreed by DACC members.</p>	<b>JB,PM</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>PROJECTS UPDATE</b>	
<b>a</b>	<p><b>DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS</b> <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>JB stated that all projects had been fulfilled. He went on to cover other current issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) He requested £378 for the Beach Award, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, and this was agreed.</li> <li>(ii) £606 had been diverted from the Rose Bushes cost and put towards the community Xmas Trees. This left £352 for rose bushes, but there was a need to ensure they would be planted in</li> </ul>	<b>JB,PM, JMC</b>

	<p>the right season. JMc to co-ordinate with the relevant Council staff to see what is possible.</p> <p>(iii) Work needs done at the entrance to the overflow Beach Car Park, and he will check with Gunn's to see what can be done</p> <p>(iv) The area at the Food Larder needs re-seeded, and he suggested that RDGC be contacted for advice. PM undertook to do this.</p> <p>(v) The verges at the Beach Playpark need attention before the season starts and this should be followed up with the Council Roads Squad. PM to follow up on previous email trail and JMc to contact Roads Squad.</p> <p>JB concluded by putting out a request for more maintenance projects.</p>	
<b>b</b>	<p><b>HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROJECTS</b></p> <p>JMc spoke to the attached report <a href="#">here</a> which updated the situation as regards Council projects which still needed attention, but highlighted that much Council resource was prioritised to road blading and gritting in the present weather conditions. He explained the situation at Proncy Cemetery where work on the extension was progressing. The west wall is being moved because of subsidence problems, and all neighbouring headstones had been relocated from the head of each lair to the foot to allow this work to proceed. JB asked that contact be provided for the Planning Officer involved with the Haul Track from the Springfield development out on to Poles Road to try to ensure progress with this.</p> <p>There was also a concern raised about substantial fallen leaves lying on the footpath from Allan Gardens into Station Road.</p> <p>JMc concluded by stating that the points raised under AOCB at the last meeting had been dealt with, though the issue of parking at the school had no easy answer.</p>	<b>JMC</b>
<b>c</b>	<p><b>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</b></p> <p><a href="#">here</a></p> <p>PM stated that the new lease with RDGC had been completed. JB proposed a vote of thanks to PM for his part in concluding a satisfactory arrangement. The issue of motorhomes at the Beach was raised and the Council was directed to emails on the one-drive. Issues around dog fouling and the state of the Dornoch Burn were raised but would have to await the return of DM. JB asked about progress with buildings at the Meadows Park and GR replied that this was work in progress. PM said that he had spoken to the Architect involved, and it seemed that, despite flooding issues, the project was still live.</p> <p>(i) Dornoch Place Plan: <a href="#">here</a> GD reported that she had attended the recent BID meeting and it had been agreed that a Place Plan was appropriate for the town. She then provided an update on the current status of the BID process. When PM suggested there may be some pessimism about resourcing this Plan, she replied that although HIE have no funding for an initiative like this, she had received positive signals from the Ward Manager and the relevant Planning Officer. PM thanked GD for her work on the Place Plan, and noted that the next action would be to scope out a Housing Survey,</p>	<b>PM, GD</b>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>ROADS &amp; PATHWAYS</b></p> <p>GD pointed out that St Gilbert Street needs resurfacing with obtrusive tree roots a particular problem, not helped by the recent time of snow and ice, and she has lodged this complaint with Highland Council. She then asked about the road to the airfield and described a minor vehicle collision in the airfield car park due to ice, asking if RDGC might be invited to do some gritting on these surfaces. PM undertook to make the invitation. JB cited case law</p>	<b>PM, JMC</b>

	<p>involving the general public doing gritting work on any scale, and suggested a request be made instead for grit bins.</p> <p>JM raised the matter of ice in the new Car Park at Dornoch South and it was explained that this is not a Council responsibility, but that DACIC have procured a grit bin to address this issue.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>SEAGULLS</b>	
<b>a.</b>	<p>LS explained that the meeting with the contractor had been postponed due to weather conditions, and that he is holding his price. A future meeting is to be arranged.</p> <p>JB asked about which organisation is handling the contract and that the VAT element needs to be given consideration and asked which businesses might contribute to the cost.</p> <p>GD suggested that the DACIC Manager, who is also driving the BID process, might be able to help with local business contacts, and that the BIDs organise the programme in Inverness and Nairn.</p> <p>PM agreed that in future this is an issue which could be addressed by the Dornoch BID should it be established.</p>	<b>LS, PM</b>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>PARKING IN DORNOCH</b>  <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>GD spoke to this issue. The first screen featured the situation at the Co-op which had been the subject of several complaints. GR stated that this area was a problem for the elderly. The proposal is that neither the parking bays nor the Cathedral area will be restricted, but the pinch-point at the corner will be improved. It was agreed that all the Parking Officer's proposals be put to public consultation.</p> <p>JB suggested that 2 of the Co-op bays be put to disabled parking. LS agreed but only one bay to be reserved.</p> <p>GR expressed his opinion that the new Shore Street parking area is a disaster and the removal of parking at the Public Toilets will negatively impact on tourism.</p> <p>JB disagreed with these comments and cited several reasons why the new car park is a significant benefit.</p> <p>LS stated she fully supports the overall parking management proposal as there are now around ten times as many tourists and cars coming into town and improved vehicle management plans need to be progressed.</p> <p>The proposed parking plan was approved for public consultation by all members present except GR who asked for his opposition to be recorded.</p>	<b>GD</b>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>POLICE REPORT</b></p> <p>None had been received.</p>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
	<p>Relevant correspondence can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>PM referred to the email from Giles Huby concerning the Cromarty Firth Freeport with the suggestion that he be invited to address a future DACC meeting. This was agreed.</p> <p>GD referred to an email to PM from a local resident, which in her opinion he had handled with grace and goodwill.</p> <p>GR indicated that he was unable to access the Correspondence file but would persevere.</p>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	

<b>a.</b>	JM raised the matter of the traffic cone in the Burn at the Old Surgery. PM to remove.	<b>PM</b>
<b>b.</b>	GR raised the issue of tree planting to provide screening at Mackay St. JMc to liaise with Pat Munro staff to confirm plans.	<b>JMc</b>
<b>c.</b>	GD raised the issue of DACC vacancies. She suggested two names and undertook to discuss this further with them, with an invitation to attend the next meeting. JM suggested that more effort be made to recruit local people and this was agreed by GR.	<b>GD</b>

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 20:40  
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 – 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023  
LOCATION: HYBRID: ZOOM & THE DORNOCH HUB**