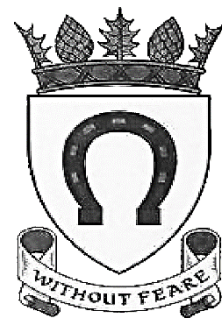


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE 2023
IN PERSON AT DORNOCH HUB & VIA ZOOM**



PRESENT

Patrick Murray – PM
Jimmy Melville – JM (by phone till Item 11)
David MacBeath – DM
Graeme Ross – GR (Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE

Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc
Mark Fraser (Zoom Director)
Caroline McMorran (Northern Times)

VISITORS

Kim Tewnion – KT (Allsorts)

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

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE JB, GD, MG, FG, LS	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None	
3.	ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (17/05/23) Prior to this item, the meeting moved to address Items 5 to 10 to ensure a quorum for decisions. The minutes of the last meeting here were then proposed by DM as an accurate account, and seconded by GR, and the meeting resumed at Item 4.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT))	
a.	20(a) then 4(b): Noticeboard – this is work in progress as difficulty in accessing a key.	JM
b.	6(c) Ambassador House – PM indicated that all letters had been sent as requested.	
c.	8: Provost's Robes – Item considered below at Item 8.	
d.	10: Airfield – PM stated that the letter had been sent as requested.	
e.	13: JMc indicated that these actions were still work in progress. GR wished to add for attention the overgrowth of bushes at Craigroyston.	JMC
f.	20: Apprenticeship Scheme – PM indicated that it was not possible to support this from the Common Good Fund, but Beinn Tharsuinn was an option. The next step is to talk to the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. Also, there is a need to identify local companies to become involved.	PM

g.	21(a) – Westfield tree branch – JMc took an action to get the visibility of the sign improved.	JMC
h.	21(b) – PM commended FG and MG for the work they had done clearing the Burghfield Steps.	
5.	<p>VISITORS here KT explained in depth the predicament which faces Allsorts, after 21 years providing After-School Care in the Dornoch area, resulting from the cut in revenue support arising from the recent Council budget. A substantial increase in lets charges (now at around £8,000) has made the financial outlook much worse, with a deficit of £7916 forecast for the present year till March 2024.</p> <p>To try to improve the situation, 2 grant applications have been made, one to the Cora Fund and the other to the Community Regeneration Fund, with decisions awaited on both. Any support funding from the Common Good will only be accessed should alternative funding not come forward.</p> <p>KT explained that there were other factors which might improve the situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A motion to the full Highland Council to reduce lets charges by 50% (b) The possibility of Allsorts moving to outdoor only which would require some capital support for a prefab building on site. (c) Allsorts could run on a reduced length of day with volunteers and remove the need to involve the Care Inspectorate. This might also need a re-arrangement of the school week with a morning session only on a Friday afternoon. <p>She remained confident that Allsorts has a sustainable future.</p> <p>PM stated that this application was a one-off expense and recommended support for an award of up to £8,000 from the Common Good. This was unanimously agreed.</p>	
	ITEMS FOR DECISION	
6.	PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS	
	here	
a.	23/02302/FUL – no comment 23/02599/FUL – support 23/02686/FUL – support	JB, PM
b.	Licensing Application from Dornoch Station Hotel GR stated that this was a commercial business obliged to make such amenity available to residents. JM wished it to be noted that the Hotel looks well, and that PM should write a letter of welcome to the new owners. PM agreed that no objection should be submitted.	PM
7.	FUNDING APPLICATIONS	
a.	Dornoch Academy French Exchange here – PM stated that the Common Good Fund could anticipate significantly enhanced income and that £650 was a minor request and should be supported. This was agreed unanimously.	

b.	Allsorts – covered under item 5 above.	
c.	Phase 7 here of the scheme of Maintenance Projects was discussed, involving Town Centre Benches (between 15 and 21 in number), refurbished welcome signage at Evelix and Poles Road (with suitably grammatical Gaelic), and a re-paint of the Fountain. This last item had an outline cost of £1,530 but was to be re-tendered as the original contractor was no longer available.	
8.	Provost's Robes and Chain: Historylinks Loan Arrangement PM introduced this item by stating he had taken legal advice on the matter of ownership versus insurance, had been assured that there need not be any connection, and that the loan agreement could proceed. GM agreed as long as the items were securely stored. The issue was unanimously agreed. PM took an action to ensure the letter from the Ward Manager regarding DACC ownership would be enshrined with the constitution on the DACC website.	PM
9.	Pinehurst Co-operative Agreement here The agreement as circulated was taken as read. PM indicated 2 amendments, highlighting a new Section 3 and a reworded Section 4. It was agreed that PM sign off the agreement. DM recalled the twinning with Zetel which petered out due to lack of funding. PM confirmed that only the golf clubs are involved, and no costs incurred by DACC. There was discussion around Donald Ross's connection with Dornoch.	
10.	Memorial Bench here Co-operation with the Dornoch Beach Group was recommended but members agreed the request in principle. DM suggested that more seating is required.	
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
11.	FINANCE UPDATE here The Treasurer's report was taken as read	
12.	PROJECTS UPDATE	
a	DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS here PM stated that the report on the Burn was still awaited. He added that the path at the second fairway was to be cut to 1.5m and that improvement of the path with Common Good money could be appropriate. DM asked if the Community Service team might help in some way.	PM, JMC
b	HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROJECTS JMc spoke to the attached report here . There was no great progress to report on any issue beyond what had been recorded at the last meeting.	JMC
c	DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS here	PM

	PM reported that the scheme of activity as circulated was work in progress.	
13.	ROADS & PATHWAYS (a) the roadside drains in Castle Street still required to be sorted. (b) Traffic Calming at Station Road – a resident had complained about boy racers and a full ramp was requested, agreed by DACC members. GR stated that the new North Street path might help. (c) DM pointed that a bench at the Memorial was corroded and needed attention, and that the site of the Jannie's House at the school needed to be tidied.	JMC
14.	PARKING IN DORNOCH The Council Parking Officer had indicated that work was taking place in Rosemarkie before coming to Dornoch. DM enquired about the section of road at the Masonic Building and it was confirmed that this was part of the plan.	
15.	SUTHERLAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY JMC gave a brief update of the work being carried out to try to instigate a pan-Sutherland transport schedule.	
16.	POLICE REPORT None received.	
17.	CORRESPONDENCE	
	Relevant correspondence can be found here .	
	PM raised the issue of security at the Station Wood and whether CCTV might be useful. The question of the legality of this was raised and advice was to be sought from the Police.	JMC
18.	AOCB	
a.	PM reported that Cameron Warren of Highland Broadband wished to update DACC on fast broadband in Dornoch. Date to be confirmed.	
b.	PM also raised the issue of the free Defib unit and suggested placing it somewhere in the Birichen area. There were various suggestions but no definite conclusion.	
c.	PM reported on the meeting with the Waste Manager with JB in attendance. Another bin had been requested for the overflow car park. There is to be a new system of collection with one general bin and two recycling bins, but same frequency of collection. Also, there is now a recycling skip and a grass skip available at The Meadows site.	
d.	The presentation of the Community Award will now take place on the evening of 3 rd July at The Old School in Embo.	
e.	The Depute Lord Lieutenant had asked about the siting of a King's Coronation Tree. GR suggested anywhere in the Square, but there was no definite decision.	

<p>THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 20:40</p> <p>WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE CHAIR EXTENDED HIS THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND CLOSED THE MEETING.</p> <p>THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS STATED BELOW.</p>
<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 19TH JULY 2023</p> <p>LOCATION: HYBRID: ZOOM & THE DORNOCH HUB</p>