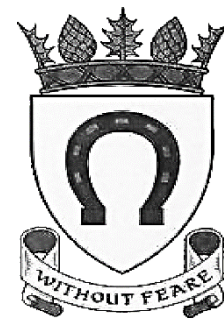


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF  
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024  
IN PERSON AT THE CARNEGIE BUILDING CHAMBER**



**PRESENT**

Angela Banks – AB – Vice Chair  
Andrew Cameron – AC  
Cath Macangus – CM – Chair & Provost  
Eric DeVenny – EDV  
Chris Ferne – CF  
Mike Harratty – MH  
Fiona Fraser - FF

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Lou Rollason – LR – Correspondence Secretary  
Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc  
Caroline MacMorran – Northern Times

**VISITORS**

Willie Mackay – WM – Dornoch Cathedral  
Paddy Murray – PM – previous DACC Chair & Provost

PLEASE USE THE LINKS IN THE HEADINGS (WHERE APPLICABLE) TO ACCESS CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTATION.		
<b>Introduction</b>	CM welcomed all to the meeting and asked for apologies.	
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Finlay Gibson – FG	
<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> CM declared an interest in the Beach Toilets funding application and indicated she would not take part in any decision on that item.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>ADOPTION &amp; ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (21/02/24)</b> The minutes of the last meeting <a href="#">here</a> were then proposed by EDV as an accurate account, and seconded by MH.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT))</b>	
<b>a.</b>	JMc provided a summary of progress on the actions assigned to him at the previous meeting.	
<b>Visitors</b>	WM spoke on various issues affecting Dornoch Cathedral. Amongst topics covered were: Fabric issues at the Cathedral, with Church HQ in control of any upgrade work, and challenges around damp, water ingress at windows and roofs, and nail rot on slates. Dornoch now main centre for a number of churches in the area. To help with financial issues arising from insurance and power costs, the plan is to open up the tower as a source of tourist income, but emergency lighting required.	

	<p>The various anniversaries which are pending especially the 800<sup>th</sup> this year. The importance of attracting revenue from visitors of any kind, especially from cruise liners cannot be underestimated.</p> <p>The governance of the Church at national, district and local level, with Church of Scotland a registered charity, and the Cathedral a Category A listed building with HES.</p> <p>The emerging need to balance worship with income from tourism, and the importance of the Cathedral to Dornoch Tourism as a whole.</p> <p>As such, a request will be made to the Common Good for funding to assist with emergency lighting and safety issues (stairs and bannisters) at a cost of £4,330 inc. VAT and establishing as History &amp; Heritage Centre on the First Floor of the Tower, estimated to cost £7,103 in all.</p> <p>MH asked about the charge for access to the Tower and CF enquired whether there would be a reduced charge for locals. WM indicated charge planning was work in progress but Elgin Cathedral charge £13 for access to their tower.</p> <p>DACC Members were content that an application to the Common Good would be received positively.</p>	
	<b>ITEMS FOR DECISION</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>PLANNING &amp; LICENSING APPLICATIONS</b>	
	Licensing – None	
<b>a.</b>	24/00846/FUL – unanimous decision, no comment to be made.	
<b>b.</b>	24/00688/LBC – unanimous decision, no comment to be made.	
<b>c.</b>	24/00577/PNO – again, no comment to be made.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>FUNDING APPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	<p>Dornoch Trust for Beach Toilets. Total request from Common Good £4,991. Members noted the income which comes to the Trust from donation boxes and unanimously approved this application as a continuation of practice from the previous Council.</p> <p>CM took no part in this item.</p>	
	<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>7.</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FINANCE UPDATE</b></p> <p>AH provided a summary report of the funds available in the DACC account, and also an update on the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund. He provided an estimate of the current reserves in the Dornoch Common Good Fund, and suggested that should these reserves ever exceed £300K then some thought should be given to an investment schedule.</p> <p>The situation regarding the Cathedral invoked general discussion, and the decrease in the number of weddings in recent times was noted.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>PROJECTS UPDATE</b>	

(a)	<b>DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS</b> No action arising from this item. DACC Members will take on board such initiatives as can be instigated as more experience gained.	
(b)	<b>HIGHLAND COUNCIL PROJECTS</b> JMc updated DACC Members on Council activity in the area. Prompted by CM, there was discussion around the new Parking on Pavements legislation, with a blue car parked at Elizabeth Crescent being cited in this context.	
(c)	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</b> No action arising from this item, as per Item 8(a).	
9.	<b>ROADS &amp; PATHWAYS</b> Members noted the long-awaited tarring activity taking place on High Street, Station Road and the Square. The potential damage to vehicles of raised ironwork was emphasized by the Chair, with contributions from other Members.	
10.	<b>DORNOCH BURN</b> The work done to clear the mouth of the Burn was noted, and the immediate fall in water levels in the Burn itself and across the flooded areas of the Struie Course and Caravan Park was cited as the success of this excavation. JMc reported that Highland Council had cancelled the Ranger service due to budget cuts but that the Caravan Park proprietors were considering appointing a part-time Ranger of their own.	JMC
11	<b>TOWN TASKFORCE</b> Deferred in the absence of FG.	
12.	<b>PARKING IN DORNOCH</b> The plans for the 18-month trial period of yellow lines had been circulated for Member's attention. After discussion of alternative options, it was agreed that there be no further action at this time and await the outcome of the trial.	
13.	<b>DORNOCH PLACE PLAN</b> CF opened discussion by suggesting that there was no need for a consultant to produce such a plan, and he could, if asked, follow up to see what might be involved. EDV suggested that LR might be involved in such a project.	
14.	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> EDV reported that he had been in touch with a locally resident Police Officer and reports should now appear on a more regular basis.	
15.	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
	Relevant correspondence can be found <a href="#">here</a> .	
a.	Cycle Tourism – It was advised that this would be a BID responsibility.	
b.	End of Year Procedures – Members were directed to this document and advised to have read it.	

<b>c.</b>	Advertisements for Road Works – LR advised that this was a general report for information.	
<b>d.</b>	EDV highlighted a report from the Beach Wheelchairs Group. Amongst future ambitions the group aspired to having disabled toilet provision on the beach, shower facilities, and more waste bins. Members commended the group on what had been achieved so far.	
<b>16.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	CF voiced his criticism of the design of the new RDGC Clubhouse, having only just had opportunity to view the plans. The meeting noted his comments.	
<b>(b)</b>	PM suggested that members of the Dornoch Trust attend the next meeting to advise Members of the work of this community body.	
<b>THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 20:20</b> <b>WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE CHAIR EXTENDED HER THANKS TO THOSE WHO</b> <b>ATTENDED AND CLOSED THE MEETING.</b> <b>THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS STATED BELOW.</b>		
<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024</b> <b>LOCATION: TO BE DETERMINED</b>		