

**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH AUGUST 2025
IN PERSON AT THE CARNEGIE BUILDING CHAMBER**



PRESENT

David Anderson – DA
Andrew Cameron – AC
Eric DeVenny -EDV
Chris Ferne – CF
Mike Hanratty – MH
Cath Macangus – CM – Chair & Provost
Lucy Moir – LM

IN ATTENDANCE

Lou Rollason – LR – Correspondence Secretary
Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc

VISITORS

Terri Gibson – TG – Crossing Patroller
Luke Watson – LW – DACIC Chair
Paddy Murray – PM – Dornoch Trust

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

Introduction	CM took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting. She noted that Ewan Chisholm (Highland Larder) and Kenny Mackay (Dornoch Beer Festival) had been listed as visitors in the agenda but could not attend for various reasons.	
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AH	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None	
3.	ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (16/07/2025) The minutes of the meeting here were proposed by CF as an accurate account, and seconded by AC.	
Visitors	TG stated that she was so concerned about the speed of vehicles on Evelix Road and Poles Road and the danger to pupils going to and from school that she had made a special effort to attend this meeting. She suggested that speed bumps and cameras be installed asap to make these roads much safer for pedestrians. CF pointed out that emergency vehicles would not benefit from too many restrictions, but Members agreed with the points raised by TG. JMc to follow up with Safe-Routes-to-School and Roads Officers.	JMC
	LW spoke about the DACIC application to the Common Good on behalf of the new Dornoch Sports Development Association for funding towards a feasibility study into the sports facilities needed by the IV25 community. Existing facilities are very poor and the study will assess multiple sites including the school. It had been put out to tender and Allan Jones Associates selected to do the work should funding be forthcoming. The	

	request is for 50% to come from the Common Good and 50% from Pot 170. DACIC, being VAT-registered, was the preferred body to lead on this initiative, the feasibility report to be ready for end of year. After discussion, the motion to support the application was proposed by CM and seconded by MH and became the decision of the Council.	
	PM spoke about the funding application to the Common Good for proposed work in the Station Wood. The recent storm had caused considerable damage and remediation had to take place with urgency in the interests of public safety. The application was for a once-off sum of £9K. The motion to support this application was proposed by EDV and seconded by CF and became the decision of the Council.	
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT))	
	None.	
	ITEMS FOR DECISION	
5.	PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS	
a.	25/02750/PNO – 400kV OHL, Loch Buidhe: no objection.	
b.	25/02841/FUL – Dormer, 4 Gate Street, Embo: no objection	
c.	25/02797/FUL – Extension, West Dune, Golf Road: no objection	
d.	25/02720/FUL – Wall & Lean-to Roof for solar batteries, RDGC: discussion centred on the ongoing Golf Road closure, but no objection to the Planning Application.	
6.	FUNDING APPLICATIONS	
a.	DACIC Transportation Costs: CF started the debate by insisting that the Common Good was only for capital projects and revenue running costs were not acceptable. Discussion ensued with the outcome being that more information be obtained and a future vote be held by round-robin email.	LR
b.	BID Query: Several Members voiced their opinions about supporting marketing and tourism applications, and discussion moved on to consider the role of the BID as a whole. The outcome was that a request be made to Highland Council to explain the rules around those things that can or cannot be supported from the Common Good.	JMC
c.	DACIC Feasibility Study: This had been previously agreed under Visitors item.	

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
1.	FINANCE UPDATE Item held over in view of the absence of the Treasurer.	
2.	HC PROJECTS UPDATE (INCLUDING ITEM 9) JMc had already circulated the schedule of work on the Cathedral Green and West Church Hall trees.	JMC
3.	DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS Ongoing.	
4.	DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS Refer to the Item on Dornoch Wetlands below at Item 13.	
5.	ROADS & PATHWAYS	
a.	EDV raised the issue of the Deans Park factors and households claiming that factoring bills have not been split accurately and there is confusion over the roles of Albyn Housing and the factoring company. The dispute continues. Following on from the plea by TG under the Visitors item, AC reported that a pedestrian had been knocked over by a vehicle whilst walking on the pavement between Camore and Dornoch. JMc to follow up along with TG complaints,	JMC
6.	PARKING & TRAFFIC	
a.	JMc reported that the staffing issues in the Parking Service had not been fully resolved and he awaited updates to his various email enquiries about the status of the proposed Yellow Lines. AC suggested that more use be made of cones if the yellow lines were to take much longer.	JMC
7.	AIRFIELD	
	JMc undertook to confirmed whether the lease had been signed or not, and what was happening with the blue barriers at the western approach. He also raised the matter of an improved footpath to the new path on the inside of the airfield, that this would be very much welcomed by the dog-walking fraternity, and that it might be possible to fund this work under Common Good maintenance and improvements. DACC Members were happy that this be pursued.	JMC
8.	DORNOCH AREA PLACE PLAN LR had investigated other place plans, many of which dealt mainly with low level issues. The public questionnaire was almost ready as an A5 flyer, and that an online version was also in preparation.	LR
9.	TREES ON CATHEDRAL GREEN	

a.	Covered under Item 2 above in Items for Discussion.	
10.	DORNOCH SERVICE POINT CLOSURE	
	MH provided a summary of the recent meeting with Highland Council management staff where the objections of the Community Council to the proposed staffing changes was forcefully put forward.	
11.	DORNOCH BURN Part of the Burn had been cleaned for Festival Week. AC undertook to deal with a broken branch at the Surgery.	
12.	TORBOLL HOUSE	
	Ongoing.	
13.	DORNOCH WETLANDS	
a.	CF provided a detailed update of progress to date. He and PM had met with consultants Lockett Agri-Environmental since SEPA had requested consultant intervention. The site is eminently suitable as a Wetland to assist with downstream flooding and would accommodate a beaver population. The Lockett representative will meet with SEPA staff to co-ordinate progress. The landowner would have to personally do funding applications. There is a “quick and dirty” operation involving dams of fallen trees at around £25K, and 90% support available for a more extensive project involving the whole Burn basin. The next step is to consider the outcome of the Lockett-SEPA meeting.	
14.	CPO CO-OPERATION	
a.	No update.	AC
15.	DORNOCH SKIP	
	JMc undertook to request a recycling skip for The Meadows waste collection area.	JMC
16.	POLICE REPORT No report received but will be forthcoming for future meetings. There were several complaints about vehicle speed in the area and JMc to follow this up.	JMC
	CORRESPONDENCE	
	Relevant correspondence can be found here . There were no items of any great significance.	
	AOCB	

(a)	MH suggested holding DACC surgeries to which the public would be invited. LM also suggested at stall at the Community Markets.	MH
(b)	EDV raised the issue of the garden fence at Bishopfield Road. AC provided a justification for this.	
(c)	CF complained about the litter on the A9 and the banalities on the road signs on this route. JMc to raise both issues with Bear.	JMc
(d)	DA stated a complaint from a neighbouring householder about the whins at Ambassador House. JMc provided assurance that this matter was in hand.	
THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 21:00 WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE CHAIR EXTENDED HER THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND CLOSED THE MEETING. THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS STATED BELOW.		
DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 15TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 7:00 PM LOCATION: TO BE CONFIRMED		