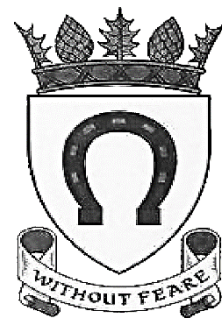


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF  
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025  
IN PERSON AT THE CARNEGIE BUILDING CHAMBER**



**PRESENT**

Andrew Cameron – AC  
Chris Ferne – CF  
Eric DeVenny -EDV  
Mike Hanratty – MH  
Cath Macangus – CM – Chair & Provost

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Lou Rollason – LR – Correspondence Secretary  
Jim McGillivray – Cllr – JMc  
David Anderson – DA  
Liam Clancy – LC – HC Officer.

**VISITORS**

Inspector Douglas Livitt - DL

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

<b>Introduction</b>	CM took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting.	
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> AH, LM	
<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> CM – closure of Dornoch Service Point as a Council employee directly affected.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>ADOPTION &amp; ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (18/06/2025)</b> Item 9: MH asked that the stone in question be identified for re-use and not disposal. This was agreed.  Thereafter the minutes of the meeting <a href="#">here</a> were proposed by EDV as an accurate account, and seconded by MH.	
<b>Visitor</b>	<b>POLICE</b> The Chair welcomed DL to the meeting, the main issue being the forthcoming Beer Festival. EDV stated that the main concern was crowd dispersal; MH added that businesses intended to close early. DL said that this event was very much on Police radar, and if there were serious concerns then the licence could be cancelled. AC said that this was not necessary, but was hoping for a strong Police presence. DL confirmed the enhanced Police commitment to the event. EDV again picked up on crowd dispersal. DL admitted it would need time for complete dispersal but best to see how it goes this year then speak to organisers. DA mentioned that buses were coming from Lairg whilst MH suggested it would be better called a Music Festival than a Beer Festival. CF requested bollards on Eaglefield Road should SFRS be called out, and that the organisers be reminded of this.	

	CM reminded DL of the need to received Police reports on a regular basis and thanked him for his attendance and re-assurances.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT))</b>	
	CM asked Members to agree the co-option of DA. This was formally proposed by CM and seconded by AC, with full agreement of all Members.  Closure of Dornoch Service Point: CM left the room for the duration of this discussion. It was reported that both DADCA and the BID were to submit letters of objection to this decision. LR agreed to set up an online public petition to promote community objection. CF pointed out that Dornoch had a larger population than Golspie yet Golspie gets the retained Service Point, and this was yet another example of Highland Council centralisation. DA agreed that this meant fewer and fewer services available in Dornoch. MH spoke to the social aspects provided by the Service Point. The decision of the Community Council was to send out an urgent appeal for senior figures in the Highland Council hierarchy to attend an immediate meeting to listen to these grievances. JMc undertook to pursue this.	<b>JMC</b>
	<b>ITEMS FOR DECISION</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>PLANNING &amp; LICENSING APPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>a.</b>	25/02565/FUL – Extension to 31 Gate Street, Embo. No objection.	
<b>b.</b>	25/02530/FUL – Developments at Brae, Torboll. After discussion about the gritting of the Loch Buidhe road, the Council had no objection.	
<b>c.</b>	25/02435/PNO – Agricultural Shed, Lednabirichen. No objection.	
<b>d.</b>	25/01616/FUL – Enhanced boundary wall, Craigroyston. No objection.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>FUNDING APPLICATIONS</b>	
	Historylinks to Common Good Fund for £960. AC stated that Historylinks were to be commended for the work they do. The award was proposed by CM and seconded by EDV with unanimous approval.	
	<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>FINANCE UPDATE</b> Item held over in view of the absence of the Treasurer.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>HC PROJECTS UPDATE (INCLUDING ITEM 9)</b> In view of the scheduled Council work to attend to the trees on Cathedral Green, CF asked if any removed trees would be replaced. AC suggested that saplings could come from the Station Wood, and that might be a task for the Community Justice Service. MH highlighted the chestnut trees at Burnside in need of attention and JMc agreed to bring this to the attention of the Council Arborist.	<b>JMC</b>

3.	<b>DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS</b> LR reported that the suggestions spreadsheet was available online.	
4.	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</b> Refer to the Item on Dornoch Wetlands below.	
5.	<b>ROADS &amp; PATHWAYS</b>	
a.	Please see further Item on Parking & Traffic in Dornoch	
6.	<b>PARKING &amp; TRAFFIC</b>	
a.	JMc reported that he was awaiting revised costings for the work on Yellow Lines from the Parking Manager. Members again emphasized the issues at the Co-op and St Gilbert Street generally.	JMC
7.	<b>AIRFIELD</b>	
	It was reported that the prospective lessee was prepared to pay for a bench on the new path which had been created. CF voiced his opinion that, at an increased level of activity, the CAA may insist on the whole airfield being fenced. AC raised the issue of insurance liability arising from enhancing the existing paths, and MH agreed with this point of view. CF stated that the lessee had limited funds for any further works, and EDV suggested that the proposed path enhancement be cancelled for the time being. JMc was asked to find out if other funding sources might be available.	JMC
8.	<b>DORNOCH AREA PLACE PLAN</b> LR was finalising the draft document and investigating options for leaflet distribution. CF suggested looking for a discount for postcode sorting. LR mentioned the overlap between the DACC boundary and the IV25 postcode area. EDV updated Members on progress with Sport Group initiatives.	
9.	<b>TREES ON CATHEDRAL GREEN</b>	
a.	Covered under Item 2 above.	
10.	<b>DORNOCH BURN</b> EDV mentioned the Duck Race on 8 <sup>th</sup> (9 <sup>th</sup> ?) August. AC asked whether this would proceed if there was green algae present. DA suggested SFRS be contacted for assistance if this would be a problem.	
11.	<b>TORBOLL HOUSE</b> CF confirmed the Demolition Consent had been refused, and that HES may list the building. LR stated that listed status would continue until HES give full consideration.	
12.	<b>DORNOCH WETLANDS</b>	

<b>a.</b>	CF summarised work to date and listed the interested parties, being SAC, Beaver Trust, Highland Council, Naturescot, SEPA and not least the landowner. SEPA were to do a site survey. A CAR licence would be required but no charge as an environmental project, and further advice would be provided. Some landscaping could be needed. The “leaky dams” could provide a reservoir for times of drought, and a conservation lease might be required from the landowner. Members agreed to take further steps after more input from SEPA.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>TOWN OFFICER</b>	
<b>a.</b>	Now a BID Project, and there was a question raised about the outcome of the BID Common Good applications. LC explained the decision process for such applications.	
<b>14.</b>	<b>CPO CO-OPERATION</b>	
<b>a.</b>	AC provided a brief update on current activity in the area.	
<b>15.</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> Following on from the Visitor Item, CF stated that he hoped the Beer Festival went well, and EDV thought it was a sell-out. AC said the initiative of the organisers deserved support.	
	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
	Relevant correspondence can be found <a href="#">here</a> . There were no items of any great significance.	
	<b>AOCB</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	MH conveyed his best wishes to the forthcoming County Show.	
<b>(b)</b>	EDV summarised proposed events at the Cathedral for the coming months.	
<b>(c)</b>	CF mentioned that the Parish Magazine needed more information about such events.	
<b>(d)</b>	AC raised the issue of Saltire Awards for under-25's to encourage volunteering.	
<p align="center"><b>THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 20:30</b>  <b>WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE CHAIR EXTENDED HER THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND CLOSED THE MEETING.</b>  <b>THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS STATED BELOW.</b>  <b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 20TH AUGUST 2025 AT 7:00 PM</b>  <b>LOCATION: TO BE CONFIRMED</b></p>		