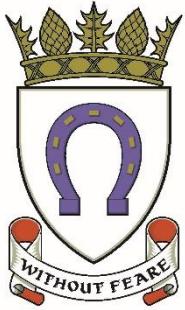


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF  
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025  
IN PERSON AT THE CARNEGIE BUILDING CHAMBER**



**PRESENT**

Catherine Macangus – CM  
Anthony Hope - AH  
Eric DeVenny - EDV  
Chris Ferne – CF  
Lucy Moir – LM

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Lou Rollason - Minutes

**VISITORS**

N/A

**INTRODUCTION & WELCOME**

	CM welcomed all present to the meeting.	
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from JMc & MH.	
2.	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> None declared.	
3.	<b>ADOPTION &amp; ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 26 <sup>th</sup> November were proposed by CM, seconded by EDV, and adopted as an accurate record.	
4.	<b>MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA)</b> None.	
5.	<b>VISITORS</b> None.	

**ITEMS FOR DECISION**

6.	<b>PLANNING &amp; LICENSING APPLICATIONS</b>	
a.	25/04260/FUL   Erection of house   Land 115m NW of Balvraid Steading, Skelbo, Dornoch Comment in OneDrive – No comment.  Regarding correspondence received from a member of the public opposing the development, DACC discussed the application and could identify no reasonable grounds for objection. The proposed development was not considered obtrusive in nature and was therefore not objected to.	
7.	<b>FUNDING APPLICATIONS</b>	
	None	

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

8.	<b>FINANCE UPDATE</b>  AH reported that £280,000 had been submitted for approval and DACC are awaiting the outcome.	

	<p>AH further advised that DACC are due to receive rental income from Royal Dornoch Golf Club; however, the amount will not be known until a decision is made by the Sutherland Committee.</p> <p>The Christmas trees have been paid for from the Beinn Tharsuinn account (£600).</p> <p>AH suggested that DACC should aim to maintain approximately £2,000 in the petty cash account.</p>	
9.	<b>HC PROJECTS UPDATE</b> JMc was not in attendance to provide an update.	
10.	<b>DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS</b> No new matters were raised.	
11.	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</b> No matters raised.	
12.	<b>ROADS &amp; PATHWAYS</b> No new issues were raised; only ongoing discussions continue.  CM noted that Golspie appears to be receiving a pelican crossing.  Concerns were again raised regarding speeding on the low road. This matter has been discussed previously and will be raised with JMc upon his return, noting that it has previously been stated that no changes can be made due to the road's design and size.	
13.	<b>PARKING &amp; TRAFFIC</b> No new matters raised; parking and traffic remain ongoing concerns.  LR raised the issue of overgrown brambles on the route to the Fairy Glen. This area is not under the jurisdiction of the Dornoch Trust. CM will investigate whether this land falls under Common Good ownership.	CM
14.	<b>AIRFIELD</b> JMc was not in attendance to provide an update and no new matters were discussed.  It was noted that half of the railings have been replaced, and Hugh Urquhart has been laying sleepers on the putting green.	
15.	<b>DORNOCH AREA PLACE PLAN</b> A provisional public consultation date has been set for 10 January 2026.	LR
16.	<b>DORNOCH SERVICE POINT CLOSURE</b> JMc was not in attendance to provide an update.  DACC members reiterated ongoing concerns regarding the downgrading of the service.	
17.	<b>HIGHLAND LARDER</b> AH reported that Fiona Richardson will speak with Phil Tomalin regarding the panelling. It was confirmed that rent payments are up to date.  EDv raised the possibility of renting out the remaining two-thirds of the site.	
18.	<b>FOOD HUT</b> The food hut has been permanently closed.	
19.	<b>BEACH TOILETS</b> No update.	

20.	<b>TORBOLL HOUSE</b> Heritage designation has now confirmed the farmhouse as a Category B listed building.	
21.	<b>DORNOCH WETLANDS</b> CF reported that the application has been submitted to Fiona Richardson for consideration by the Sutherland Committee in January.	
22.	<b>CPO CO-OPERATION</b> No update.	
23.	<b>DORNOCH SKIP</b> Highland Council have confirmed that they will not provide a skip for the town.	
24.	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> The report was noted and no comments were raised.  LM advised that the school had circulated an email regarding a stranger attempting to engage with a pupil. Increased vigilance was encouraged, and advice was given to avoid back routes to the school where possible.	
25.	<b>COUNCIL SURGERIES</b> MH was not present to provide an update.	MH
26.	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
	Relevant correspondence can be accessed via the OneDrive. No items of significant concern were noted.	
27.	<b>AOCB</b>	
a.	AH raised the issue of hosting a civic reception for the King's Award. Due to ESRA's charitable status, funding cannot be provided directly. A potential format was discussed, starting at the boat shed and moving to Royal Dornoch Golf Club. EDV will work with AH on this.	
b.	EDV queried whether there had been an official invitation for DACC to view the new clubhouse. While there had not been, CM advised that an official opening is planned for the spring. AH commented positively on the quality of the building and interior.  EDV advised that the lease for The Eagle is due for renewal in March and will not be renewed. He expressed hope that a new operator will take it on. This led to discussion around the challenges facing the hospitality sector in Dornoch, including disparities between businesses paying full rates and those benefiting from rates relief.	
c.	CM noted that the proposed tourism levy has been postponed, prompting discussion on whether this delay is beneficial.	
<b>THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 19:58.</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 – 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7:00 PM</b>		
<b>LOCATION: CARNEGIE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DORNOCH</b>		