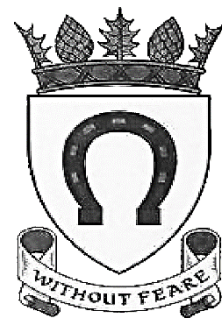


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF  
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025  
IN PERSON AT THE CARNEGIE BUILDING CHAMBER**



**PRESENT**

Chris Ferne – CF  
Eric DeVenny -EDV  
Mike Hanratty – MH  
Antony Hope – AH  
Lucy Moir – LM

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

**VISITORS**

None

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

<b>Introduction</b>	In the absence of CM, MH took the Chair and welcomed all to the meeting. He asked Members to note that the AGM had been postponed and will now take place prior to the July business meeting.	
<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> AC, CM	
<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b> JMc declared a transparency statement for the Embo FC Beinn Tharsuinn funding application.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>ADOPTION &amp; ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (28/05/2025)</b> Item 3 referring to Item 30 of 16/4/2025; Police Report: CF wished to replace the word “commitment” with “comment”. This was accepted. He also asked for a correction in Item 25, the name being Roisin Campbell-Palmer (RCP). This was agreed.  Thereafter the minutes of the meeting <a href="#">here</a> were proposed by EDV as an accurate account, and seconded by CF.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA – (NUMBERS RELATE TO THE LAST MEETING POINT))</b>	
	All relevant issues covered in the rest of the agenda.	
	<b>ITEMS FOR DECISION</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>PLANNING &amp; LICENSING APPLICATIONS</b>	

<b>a.</b>	25/01756/FUL – House demolition and erection, Bracadale, Hilton of Embo. Members were not minded to object.	
<b>b.</b>	25/01693/FUL – Erection of house, garage, stables and riding arena and paddocks, Eaglefield, Lonemore. EDV expressed surprise that there were no objectors to this application. A 15-horse livery would mean at least 15 additional vehicle movements on this road. MH asked if this was for personal or business use; LR replied that it may be for a riding school. MH asked that the applicant be contacted to confirm type of use of the premises. Members generally expressed concern about the state of the road and additional traffic and wished to defer any final decision until further clarity had been achieved.	
<b>c.</b>	25/01979/FUL – structural adaptations, 3 Argyle Street. Members had no objection to this application.	
<b>d.</b>	25/01980/LBC – covered under 25/01979/FUL above.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>FUNDING APPLICATIONS</b>	
	Embo FC to Beinn Tharsuinn Fund. AH reported that there were sufficient funds in this account to cover the application. Members agreed the application, proposed by MH and seconded by AH.	
<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>7.</b>	<b>FINANCE UPDATE</b> AH stated that the Beinn Tharsuinn account held £1,700 with £1,200 due in January. The DACC account held £1,342. He asked Members to note that the annual Common Good limit had been raised from £25K to £35K, with around £300K in the Common Good Fund. There was discussion over the BID awards from the last meeting, and it was agreed that the relevant Council Officer be asked to confirm the actual amounts ratified at the recent Ward Business Meeting.	<b>AH</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>HC PROJECTS UPDATE</b> JMc asked for some minor Common Good Funding to support the Fire Skills Course to be run at Dornoch Academy in August by SFRS. This was agreed in principle as a worthy event to support. EDV asked if this could be extended to Hotel Staff. JMc took an action to ask the local Fire Manager if this was possible.	<b>JMC</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>DACC MAINTENANCE PROJECTS</b> LR reported that the suggestions spreadsheet was now available online. MH reported that the large stone removed from the Burn now lay at the back of the library to be moved back into the wall on Shore Road.	
<b>10.</b>	<b>TREES ON CATHEDRAL GREEN</b> JMc reported that the schedule for the work to be done on Cathedral Green and St Gilbert Street, as prepared by the Council Arborist, had been circulated to Members.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</b> Refer to the Item on Dornoch Wetlands below.	

<b>12.</b>	<b>ROADS &amp; PATHWAYS</b>	
<b>a.</b>	Please see further Items on Yellow Lines and Parking & Traffic in Dornoch	
<b>13.</b>	<b>YELLOW LINES</b>	
<b>a.</b>	<p>JMc reported on his recent site meeting with the Council Parking Officer, and summarised the proposals for the Experimental Traffic Order as follows:</p> <p>Castle Street: Sutherland Road to Eaglefield Road – No Waiting 10am to 5pm on north side – single yellow line.          Castle Street: Deans Lane to Castle Close – No Waiting any time – double yellow lines.          Castle Street: Castle Close to Cathedral House – No Waiting any time on north side and as far as Castle Hotel on south side – plus Loading Bay at Hotel.          Castle Hotel &amp; Jail &amp; Craigroyston – Limited Waiting 2 Hours, 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 10:00am to 4:00pm.          St Gilbert Street at Co-operative Store – No Waiting at any time restricted to actual corners of junction.          Cathedral North Transept – No Waiting at any time; 2 additional Disabled Parking Bays on High Street.          Station Road: High Street junction to Coach-house – No Waiting at any time on Burn side at Masonic Hall but no restriction on opposite side of road on this stretch          Golf Road junction with Church Street – No Waiting at any time around the junction.          Shore Street to Health Centre – No Waiting 8:00am to 6:00pm          Beach Road from Witch's Stone to Beach Car Park – No waiting at any time except designated parking bays.          Access to rear of Library – No waiting at any time.          Butchers on High Street – partial No Waiting at business hours to allow for resident parking and parking for shop staff.</p> <p>CF asked that consideration be given to Eaglefield Road as a bottleneck for the Fire Engine heading to emergency callouts. JMc undertook to consult with SFRS on this issue.</p> <p>With that caveat, Members were minded to support the proposed experimental traffic order as stated above.</p> <p>Reference was made to a recent email from the General Manager at RDGC about the Road to the Beach. CF referred Members to his suggestion for an alternative route which would re-direct traffic from Golf Road down on to the low road.</p>	<b>JMC</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>SPRINGFIELD ACCESS</b>	
	No update, but Site Manager still available to meet with DACC Members.	
<b>15.</b>	<b>DORNOCH BURN</b> DACC Members to commence operations on 2 <sup>nd</sup> July with Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July proposed for general public involvement. EDV proposed starting at the Library at 6pm on that date.	

<b>16.</b>	<b>TORBOLL HOUSE</b>	
<b>a.</b>	CF asked the meeting to note that the application to demolish had been refused.	
<b>17.</b>	<b>PARKING IN DORNOCH &amp; BUSES</b> As per Item 13 above.	
<b>18.</b>	<b>DORNOCH AREA PLACE PLAN</b>	
	<p>LR reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> draft was ready to be refined and updated, and suggested a meeting with JMc for this purpose. CF stated that the next stage would be public consultation on this draft. MH suggested that Academy pupils might volunteer to distribute copies around the IV25 postcode area to go towards Saltire Awards.</p> <p>CF suggested that there might still be a one-off Royal Mail discount for distribution. LR to investigate this.</p>	<b>LR, JMC</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>AIRFIELD</b>	
<b>a.</b>	CF reported on a meeting held with the prospective lessee. With reference to work needed to upgrade part of the new footpath route, some funding may come forward from the leasing group but budgets are tight.	
<b>20.</b>	<b>TOWN OFFICER</b>	
<b>a.</b>	Now a BID Project.	
<b>21.</b>	<b>CPO CO-OPERATION</b>	
<b>a.</b>	In the absence of AC, no update was available.	
<b>22.</b>	<b>FLOOD MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>a.</b>	<p>CF produced a map which showed the proposed area of wetland, and emphasized that this had the full support of the landowner. The site visit with RCP was scheduled for 26/6/25 commencing at 3pm at the house of CF, thereafter to the Chamber. Members agreed the sum of £32.06 from the DACC account as expenses for the map.</p> <p>In response to questions, CF explained that the process required leaky barriers to allow ground soakage, though such barriers need regular maintenance, and beavers provide this naturally. EDV pointed out that beavers go through a lot of trees, and water flow must be considered if they create a dam. CF agreed, but stated that where beavers are present, there can be a 70% reduction in brucellosis in cattle.</p> <p>Members agreed that henceforth this be considered a Development Project.</p>	
<b>23.</b>	<b>VISITOR ENQUIRY</b>	

	LR informed the meeting that a request for information about historic steps up from the High Street had been received. Members could not provide a definite response to this enquiry.	
<b>24.</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> No update.	
<b>25.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	
	Relevant correspondence can be found <a href="#">here</a> . There were no items of any great significance. LR informed Members that the Highland Larder lease document was now available to view on the One-Drive.	
<b>26.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
<b>(a)</b>	LM asked about the Sauna business initiative and JMc replied that the people involved now saw a site at Embo Pier as being a preferred location.	
<b>(b)</b>	MH asked Members to note the Charity Air Ambulance event taking place at the Social Club on 28 <sup>th</sup> June from 10am to 5pm.	
<b>(c)</b>	EDV informed the meeting of incidents of social misbehaviour he had witnessed in recent weeks and expressed his concern at the limited way in which they were dealt with by Police. He also expressed concern about crowd dispersal from the Beer Festival being held in July as around 1,300 tickets had been sold for this event.	
<b>(d)</b>	MH raised the issue of the number of DACC Members and whether recruitment could be encouraged by having a presence at the County Show (suggested by CF) or having an open evening to publicise the work of the Community Council.	
<p align="center"><b>THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 20:30</b>  <b>WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE VICE-CHAIR EXTENDED HIS THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED AND CLOSED THE MEETING.</b>  <b>THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS STATED BELOW.</b></p>		
<p align="center"><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – AGM: 16TH JULY 2025 AT 6:30PM</b>  <b>FOLLOWED BY GENERAL MEETING AT 7:00PM</b>  <b>LOCATION: TO BE CONFIRMED</b></p>		