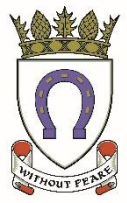


**GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
AT THE CARNEGIE BUILDING CHAMBER, DORNOCH**

**WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY – 7PM
MINUTES**



1. Welcome & Apologies

CM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that apologies were received from JMc and LM.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by CM and seconded by MH.

4. Visitors

Rob Smith (RS) – Davochfin

Alan Munro (AM) – Cyderhall Farm

Richard Gale (RG) – Ward Councillor

Mr Smith asked whether there was any update on his previous application, which he stated had stalled. CM suggested that RG respond, he then provided an update that the planning team were backlogged with applications.

5. Matters Arising

(Actions or issues from the last meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

6. Planning Applications

- a) No planning applications were available for review due to the Highland Council website being unavailable at the time of the meeting. One became available on the night but there were no objections. LR will send round the application for further comments.
- b) The BID Lights application has been withdrawn, this was noted.

7. Funding Applications

(Common Good Fund & Beinn Tharsuinn)

LR advised that this would need to be included as a future agenda item for formal decision; however, a preliminary discussion was appropriate. AH noted that limited funds remain within the Common Good Fund. It was suggested that the Robertson Trust and Christine Ross at Voluntary Groups Sutherland may be alternative sources of advice or funding.

8. Finance Update

(Current financial position, approvals, or notable changes: Update to website)

AH is awaiting confirmation from Fiona Richardson regarding the amount the Community Council may receive this year towards insurance, staff payments, and other expenditure incurred by DACC.

9. Highland Council Updates

(Updates from Highland Council members or officers: Yellow Lines)

RG advised that although he had not yet had a full handover with JMc, he was happy to take on new issues. RG will seek clarification on whether the yellow lines are scheduled to be completed by Easter.

10. DACC Projects & Assets

(DACC-led projects, Scotland Beach Award, Wetlands, Airfield, LPP, A-boards, Christmas Trees)

Following his resignation from DACC, Andrew Cameron has handed over responsibility for the Scotland Beach Award. CM and AH will investigate when the application is due. It is not yet known who will take on responsibility for this project. An application has been submitted for 90% of the required funding. CF is awaiting confirmation, which is expected in February. RG confirmed that he was aware of the application following a presentation by Hannah, the project consultant, and stated that the proposal appeared positive.

AM requested that a member of DACC explain the Wetlands project. CF provided an overview. AM expressed disagreement with the potential introduction of beavers. A discussion was held regarding the potential use of beavers and the concerns of those opposed. CF reiterated that this proposal is a long way off and would require wider public consultation. AM questioned whether tarmacking, concreting, and housing development in the area is the true root of the flooding issue. CF agreed that this is likely a contributing factor. CF explained that securing the funding grant would involve SEPA, providing access to additional tools to help address the flooding issue. RG stated that the introduction of wetlands would increase biodiversity, which he viewed as a positive outcome. RS noted that Perth Council had experienced issues clearing fallen trees and debris associated with beavers, resulting in additional costs.

Date of Next Meeting: 18TH March 2026

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Regarding the airfield, CF reported having had a discussion with John Sutherland, who raised concerns about the removal of trees and queried whether the windsock was within the airfield boundary. CF explained that the land is leased and that the leaseholder permits members of the public to use the designated pathways. AH advised that another airfield had confirmed that obstacles within operational boundaries would need to be removed.

11. Roads & Pathways

(Roads, pavements, paths, parking, access issues, and ongoing concerns: Grit Bins)

CM asked whether there were any issues. The main concern raised was potholes. RG provided an overview of works currently taking place in Golspie and advised that he would pass information on to CM. He noted that there are approximately 250 jobs on the list, but only around 50 are likely to be completed, based on priority. Items lower on the list may move up in priority due to deterioration.

AM expressed thanks for the recent resurfacing work on the Low Road. A discussion followed regarding tarmacking.

12. Local Issues & Community Matters

(Other community issues not covered above – Dornoch Cathedral Clock Face, MCA Embo)

Regarding the Dornoch Cathedral clock face, EDv stated that replacement works are estimated at approximately £2,500–£3,000. LR reminded members that applications to the Common Good Fund are strengthened where additional funding has been secured.

CM asked whether any members had attended the community engagement event relating to the proposed Coul Links housing development. CF stated that he believed the development to be genuine and noted that the housing proposal was said to be linked to the new golf course proposal. CM and MH also attended and reported that Mr Able Smith had stated that most comments at the engagement event were positive.

A further community event is scheduled for 5 March. RG raised concerns that individuals with limited mobility may struggle to attend and could therefore be relying on rumours. RG will raise this issue with the organisers. CM will contact them regarding the display of posters.

13. Police Report

Noted.

14. Correspondence

(Items received since the last meeting requiring noting or discussion – in the OneDrive)

Noted.

15. Any Other Competent Business

(Urgent items only – not for introducing major new topics)

MH raised the issue of the public toilet key and advised that responsibility for this requires to be transferred. He further noted that the toilets are expected to be open for the 9am bus and the final service of the day at 6:30pm. RG suggested contacting wider community groups to assist with a shared rota. LR and CM will follow up with this.

RS suggested contacting Highland Technical for a solution for the key. AH will follow up.

CM advised that the annual award has lapsed and suggested that it be reinstated in the spring. CF queried whether voting could be conducted by email. CM agreed.

Meeting closed 19:56.