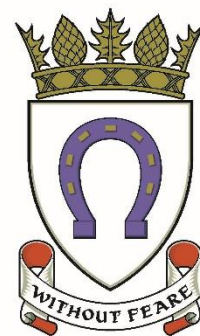


**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
DORNOCH AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (DACC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026
AT THE DORNOCH COUNCIL CHAMBER, CARNEGIE BUILDING**



PRESENT

Catherine Macangus – CM –Chair
Eric DeVenny - EDV
Chris Ferne – CF

IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Gale - RG – Councillor
Lou Rollason – LR – Secretary
Caroline McMorran – Journalist

VISITORS

Steve Farquharson – Embo resident
Neil Dalton – Dornoch Resilience Group Revival

	INTRODUCTION	
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE CM welcomed members and visitors to the meeting and informed them that Lucy Moir (LM) had resigned. The Chair and members of DACC expressed their thanks for her work with DACC throughout her tenure and stated she would be missed. Apologies were received from MH. AH was called away by ESRA.	
2.	DECLARATION OF INTEREST None were declared.	
3.	ADOPTION & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING LR made an amendment to the title, correcting 'Agenda' to 'Draft Minutes'. The minutes were then proposed by EDV and seconded by CF.	LR
4.	MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE COVERED IN AGENDA) All matters covered in agenda.	
5.	VISITORS SF raised the proposed traffic order, The Highland Council (Various Roads, Hilton of Dornoch) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 2026, and noted that it reflects what is already in place. He had emailed the officer and received a reply stating that the order was required to make the road signs enforceable. RG explained that a traffic order must be in place before certain works can proceed and that the team are currently reviewing unenforceable traffic areas. SF questioned whether there was any update on the portacabin on the airstrip. RG advised that he had looked into the shipping container located on Royal Dornoch Golf Club land. SF stated that the whole area was looking very tacky. CM confirmed that the matter had been reported, as the lease applies to the property itself and not the surrounding land. SF asked whether there was any update on the yellow lines in town. RG confirmed that the roads team is re-establishing costs and identifying the area's most in need. RG will report back.	RG
	ND gave an overview of the original Dornoch Resilience Group (DRG) and stated that he would like to reinvigorate it. ND then quoted the Highland Council (HC) statement about resilience groups. The members all agreed that the DRG ran well and was good for the community. ND would like the support of the DACC members, and this was agreed unanimously. ND will continue his discussions with the Chair of the current DRG and will revert.	

	ITEMS FOR DECISION	
6.	PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS	
a.	26/01628/FUL Erection of house and formation of access Land 135M West Of Breagha Steading Hilton Dornoch Noted and no comment required.	
7.	FUNDING APPLICATIONS	
	CM mentioned that there was a potential funding application from Historylinks. This was discussed, and CM will follow up and suggest that they speak to Voluntary Groups Sutherland (VGS).	CM
8.	FINANCE UPDATE AH not present to update.	
	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS	
9.	DORNOCH WETLANDS CF provided a run-through of the timeline and noted that there had been a delay, although the cause remains unclear. CF advised that one issue raised was that the landowner had been discussing concerns with other landowners regarding where water from the wetlands would run off, on the other side of the A9. CF confirmed that the proposed location is the correct area for the project, as several burns converge there. CF will continue to update members as the project progresses.	CF
10.	DORNOCH A-BOARDS RG advised that he had not yet had an opportunity to follow up regarding licensed A-board holders. LR will follow up on this matter.	LR
11.	DORNOCH PLACE PLAN CM and RG spoke about the LPP and the Dornoch Economic Masterplan, which was put together in collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). LR will speak to Phil Tomalin to obtain a copy and see if it would be better to update the previous masterplan rather than start afresh. Concerns were noted about the cost of tendering for a new LPP, due to the reduced amount of Common Good funding available following the large grant awarded to the new Dornoch Community Centre.	LR
12.	ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL (A&DCC) RG gave an update regarding A&DCC. He advised that members of Golspie Community Council will not stand as office bearers, meaning it will not be able to operate as a Community Council, in support of A&DCC following legal costs incurred due to a court case. RG stated that this is not a mass resignation of community councils; rather, no one is standing as an office bearer. RG is preparing a motion for Highland Council regarding the removal of indemnity from community councils, with responsibility instead sitting with Highland Council. CF stated that this needs to be addressed at a national level rather than locally. SF added his concerns regarding the situation and emphasised the importance of community councils. He asked whether there was anything the public could do. RG explained the timeframe and advised that once the matter enters the public domain, members of the public may raise their concerns if they wish. SF noted that fear of legal issues may discourage people from standing for community councils. DACC will decide whether to follow suit after attending the meeting organised by Golspie Community Council (GCC), which is due to take place the following evening, 21 May.	ALL
	MONTHLY DISCUSSIONS	
13.	HIGHLAND COUNCIL UPDATES RG advised members that plans are being made to arrange a meeting between representatives of the area Community Councils and Highland Council officers. He will send details once available.	RG
14.	ROADS & PATHWAYS RG raised the speeding concerns in Embo and advised that he had contacted the Safe Routes to School team regarding possible traffic-calming measures.	RG

	EDV mentioned concerns at Dean's Park, where there is a play park, as vehicles are cutting corners while children are in the area. EDV will speak to Pat Munro's regarding additional measures. RG questioned whether all conditions put in place when the area was built had been adhered to. EDV stated that this was difficult to know. SF questioned whether the 20mph signs in Dornoch are enforceable. RG confirmed that they are. SF suggested increased police presence and speed checks in town. There was also a suggestion of making High Street/Castle Street one way. This had been discussed previously and was discussed again, with no meaningful outcome.	EDV
15.	POLICE REPORT This was noted.	
16.	CORRESPONDENCE A query had been received regarding the possibility of beach huts at Dornoch Beach and concerns about erosion following recent stormy weather. Members discussed the beach hut suggestion and agreed that the position remained unchanged. It was noted that other stakeholders in the area would be unlikely to support development on the beach area, and that services, particularly water provision, would be an issue. Regarding beach erosion, members noted that Highland Council had confirmed this would not fall under their remit and that erosion is a common issue in coastal areas. It was further noted that Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs volunteers continue to put significant time and effort into maintaining the beach area where possible. LR will respond to the correspondent following the meeting.	LR
	John Murray had requested attendance at the next meeting. This was agreed by DACC, and LR will respond following the meeting.	LR
	Correspondence was received regarding the Building Designation Appeal for Torboll Farmhouse. Members were advised that the appointed reporter will carry out a site inspection on Thursday 4 June 2026 at 13:30, with interested parties invited to attend.	
17.	AOCB	
	RG congratulated EDV on standing for councillor. There was a discussion regarding a hustings, and EDV noted that he would welcome one.	
THE MEETING CLOSED AT: 21:03 WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE CHAIR EXTENDED HER THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED.		
THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 17TH JUNE 2026, AT 7 PM		
LOCATION: DORNOCH COUNCIL CHAMBER, CARNEGIE BUILDING		