

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

**WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH – 7PM
MINUTES OF MEETING**



1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies were received from CM & AH.

2. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Previous meeting minutes: [Link here](#)

An amendment was made by CF to clarify an item. The amended minutes (as reflected in the February minutes) were then proposed by EDv and seconded by MH.

4. Visitors

- a. Isla Fullerton-Smith – Dornoch Beach Wheelchairs – Not present.
b. Rob Smith (RS) – Davochfin Farm

Regarding his previous application, it remains in the system. LR has contacted Dafydd Jones to request an update.

- c. Steve Farquharson (SF) – Junction Safety, Embo

MH welcomed SF to the meeting. SF raised concerns regarding the aerodrome site, noting that the former fire station is being leased and that a number of items, including trailers and pallets, have accumulated and are unsightly. He suggested that, in light of efforts such as Dornoch Town Tidies, the area should be cleared.

RG confirmed that he believed the lease applied only to the building. He advised that DACC would be within its rights to make a polite request for the items to be removed and, if this was not addressed, the matter could be referred to Highland Council.

Regarding the wider aerodrome site, SF requested clarification on ownership of the car park and noted that a portacabin had recently been erected. RG agreed to take this forward as an action and will confirm what is included within the airstrip lease.

CF added that he had spoken with the leaseholder, who indicated that details of the lease could be shared upon formal request, supported by meeting minutes.

SF also raised concerns about the condition of the airfield path, noting that high water levels have led to deterioration and the creation of unofficial alternative routes. He queried who funded the signage, and CF confirmed this was provided by the leaseholder.

SF also queried income generated from the site. RG advised that, as it is a private company, this information is not publicly available; however, RS noted that some financial information may be accessible via Companies House.

5. Matters Arising

None were raised.

6. Planning Applications

- a. **26/00978/PNO | Erection of agricultural shed (class 18) | Land 80M NE Of Davochfin Farm Dornoch – [Link Here](#)**

CF questioned the size of the proposed shed, and RS confirmed it would be similar to existing structures.

7. Funding Applications

- a. Tykes – In hand

8. Finance Update

AH provided the following update by email:

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“Dornoch toilets – awaiting a quote from Danfo (company installing disabled toilets at the beach) for automatic door locks. Highland Council has been chased regarding a top-up of the petty cash account which is currently at £20 following payment of annual insurance/public liability.”

RG confirmed that the original annual allocation of £350 has been increased to £700. There has also been an increase in the Ward Discretionary Fund.

9. Highland Council Updates

RG provided an update on potholes, noting that the roads team have recently carried out works within the village, including between the memorial and the school, and that this has now been completed.

Regarding yellow lines and wider road works, RG advised that there is a capital plan for Dornoch, including resurfacing of the C1019 and various areas in Birchen. He confirmed that there will be no impact on the A9. CF requested that yellow hatching outside the Council office buildings be refreshed ahead of the tourist season.

RG also advised that he will be retiring from the Council at the end of April. RG and members of DACC expressed their appreciation for his work.

10. DACC Projects & Assets

AH was not present to provide an update on the Scotland Beach Award.

CF advised that contracts are expected to be signed imminently by the landowner and NatureScot for release of the main funding. Work is likely to commence in April.

LR provided an update on the Local Place Plan (LPP). It was agreed that the preferred next step would be to invite the consultants to present to DACC.

A Boards – CF requested an update; none was available. LR asked RG who to contact regarding a list of licensed A-board holders, which falls under licensing. Once obtained, this information will be used to pursue enforcement through Trading Standards. MH noted that BID have made efforts to address this. LM suggested that maps highlighting businesses may be beneficial, and MH referenced the existing map near the bus stop. RS noted that updated maps have been produced.

Christmas Trees – MH reminded members that Mr Cameron is no longer on the Council, and responsibility for this will need to be reassigned in due course.

11. Roads & Pathways

CF noted that potholes have been well addressed by Highland Council.

CF raised that the grit bin in the Meadows car park has had its lid removed. RG advised that grit bins are likely to be reviewed in September but will arrange for this one to be repaired.

12. Local Issues & Community Matters

LM provided an update on the new Community Centre and encouraged members to participate in the vote, noting that the mail drop is expected this week.

EDv updated on the Cathedral clock face, noting that Mr Mackay is exploring potential funding, although this is likely to be at least six months away.

RS queried whether the remaining wind turbines on Struie Hill will have red lights; this was confirmed due to their height.

Regarding MCA Embo, RG will check the appropriate procedure, as an objection has been received but, as it is not currently a full planning application, there is no formal mechanism to object. A discussion followed regarding affordable housing and water infrastructure.

13. Police Report

This was discussed and DACC wished to express their condolences and sadness for the recent murder in the town.

Concerns were also raised about unsolicited letters being delivered to residents. It was noted that there is an increased police presence in the area.

14. Correspondence

CF agreed with one of the items of correspondence received regarding MCA Embo. LR will await clarification from RG on procedure before responding.

Regarding the Dr Ritchie update:

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CF noted that beach huts previously existed but were removed in the 1930s due to unstable ground conditions. MH queried potential locations and business types. CF was unsure whether there would be sufficient interest.

Concerns were raised about potential impact on existing town businesses and reduced pricing. It was suggested that development on the sands and dunes could detract from the natural environment. MH suggested that an area near Highland Larder may be more appropriate. EDv noted potential for increased vandalism.

Regarding communication about the beach, RG advised that Highland Council is unlikely to take this forward and that responsibility would likely fall to volunteers or local groups.

15. Any Other Competent Business

EDv hoped to see a boost for the new £2 bus fares and commented how the Ember buses have made a huge difference in Inverness.

A discussion was held regarding JMc's impact and EDv mentioned his intention to stand as an Independent Councillor at the election when Jim retires.

Meeting adjourned at: 20:27