

# DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Present – John Laing (JL), Donna Campbell (DC), Sarah MacAskill (SM)

Apologies – Philippa MacRae (PM), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Tim Wallis (TW), Mandy Boswell (MB), Drew Millar (DM)

1	<p>Thanks to Bruce Hare – representing Kaly Group who gave an informative presentation on their proposals to establish kelp farms in Loch Bracadale.</p>
2	<p><b>Minutes of last Meeting</b> – committee agreed on minutes with amendment of spelling of Gaelic road names adjacent to the new primary school, as per Highland Council’s email of 10<sup>th</sup> September. The road names are now noted as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rathad Chailein (Colin’s Road)</li> <li>• Rathad Flòraidh (Flora’s Road)</li> <li>• Rathad MhicLeòid (MacLeod’s Road)</li> </ul> <p>The amended minutes of the last meeting (27/08/2024) were then approved by DC and seconded by SM.</p>
3	<p><b>Police report</b> – No police report however a letter was received from Chief Supt Robert Shepherd who has assured the CC that they have no plans to reduce Police presence in our area and that although they will not be using the police house the office will continue to be used until alternative facilities are available.</p>
4	<p><b>Treasurer report</b> – £3,964.23 in the bank. £1,393.80 received from the Highland council for signs/website.</p>
5	<p><b>Trust update</b> –</p> <p><b>Park</b> – The park installation has been pushed back to the 7th October, and we had a productive volunteer day removing brambles and gorse on Monday - it looks much better from inside and outside the fence, and should be a general improvement for that part of the village. We’ll be there again on Wednesday finishing off, and we’re looking at park signage, benches and thinking about suitable plants! We’re waiting on the final lease, which we hope will be reviewed at our meet next week.</p> <p><b>Gaeltec</b> – Conveyancing is proceeding slowly , still waiting on documents from the seller.</p> <p><b>Minibus</b> – The committee made the decision to increase the cost per mile from 65p to 80p from the 1st of October. The price hadn’t increased for many years, and this brings us to just under Minginish bus, which is 90p per mile, and will help the bus cover its costs.</p> <p><b>Cruachan and Cnoc nan Craobh</b> – The business plan for the purchase will be up on the website this week, which includes justification for requesting a substantial discount off the market valuation in an asset transfer. We plan to request the asset transfer, which secures the discount, and then following a further open event to discuss in the hall, a Stage 2 application would be submitted to the SLF for the purchase, provided the feedback we receive continues to be positive. All measures would be taken to prevent future speculation on this land, to see it kept in the affordable bracket for future generations.</p>

	<p><b>CRF Funding</b></p> <p>1) DCT received funding for a flood risk assessment to identify the best plots for the croft associated housing @ Cruachan.</p> <p>2) Part of this funding will also allow us to look at options for bringing publicly owned buildings into community ownership, for example the Police House (we have contacted the Police Authority and they have so far said they aren't intending to sell, but we are going to proceed with investigative work anyway) and the farm house at Orbost. Both of these buildings are eligible for asset transfer requests, so we could request substantial discounts on Market valuations provided we can demonstrate community Benefit.</p> <p>3) DCT is commissioning a trio of housing need survey from the Community Housing Trust, which will not only support the work on asset transfers and future housing projects but also will provide info for the Community Action Plan.</p> <p>4) DCT also reviewed funding for support in working on a Community Action Plan. The inception meeting last week went well and we will be contacting anyone who has expressed an interest in joining a working group this week. If you hear of anyone else keen to get involved please direct them to us!</p> <p><b>Toilets!</b></p> <p>We have been talking toilets with Broadford and Strath over the last couple of weeks - they have quite stark warnings about toilet projects! Some of the specific concerns: last year they had 45,000 people use the toilets, and only 19,000 paid. They cost £65 a day to run, and they get absolutely trashed – they have employed a cleaner and a handy person to keep on top of them, but Norma, the community engagement officer, gets messages 7 days a week, 24 hours a day about toileting problems.</p> <p>It's also creating a bit of acrimony between the Community Council and the Community Company. She did have some practical tips for things they could have done differently, but it would be wise for us to speak to other groups about their experiences.</p> <p>To clarify the process with funding for purchases like this (this would also be eligible for asset transfer) the first step is a Stage 1 application to the SLF. This funding covers a business plan, a valuation, and a community consultation to gauge support, and also architectural design work, whether we are renovating or building new. Following the successful application and completion of those works, a n asset transfer request is submitted , and following the outcome of that, a Stage 2 application to the SLF is submitted for the purchase price and legal fees, etc.</p>
6	<b>Council Update</b> – No report
7	<b>Grass cutting at St Mary's</b> – to be considered
8	<b>CAL Estates</b> – Progressing well with road and aim to break through during October holidays for turning circle. Design of school is progressing.
9	<b>25 Year Celebrations for Duirinish Stone</b> – Donald Budge will get back to SM before next meeting with thoughts re this.

10	<b>Windfarm Meeting</b> – Muirhall have reduced the number of turbines in proposed plan to 33. They held a public consultation in Dunvegan hall last Tuesday evening.
11	<b>AOCB</b> – Bench at St Marys – SM to enquire re price of replacing bench. Bottle banks - DC managed to get the bottle banks emptied. Grit bins – DC to liaise with DM re location of grit bins for this winter
12	<b>Next meeting</b> – Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm