

# MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 2th FEBRUARY 2024

Present – Laura Shirley, Donna Campbell, Philippa MacRae, Sarah Allan, Sylvia Meyer, Tim Wallis, Mandy Boswell, Helen Tayler.

Apologies – Lana MacIntosh, Councillor Drew Miller

1. Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of last Meeting** – approved by SM and seconded by DC
3. **Treasurers update** – DC updated everyone. Currently £1347.40 in the bank. We are still to receive money from Dunvegan Trust and Highland Council. No grants have been applied for as yet.
4. **Council update** – Councillor Miller was not at the meeting so no update available.
5. **DCT update** - 26/02/2024 Update on Active Projects • Playpark - We were delighted to have a positive outcome for the CRF funding bid for Dunvegan Community Park, with an award of £37500. The project has really gathered momentum, and we are hoping to have all funding secured by May. There are several more fundraising events planned, we will advertise nearer the time! • Gaeltec- We should be hearing back from the Scottish Land Fund about our application for the funds to purchase the buildings within the next 3 weeks. We held a successful open afternoon at Dunvegan Hall to gather more feedback on the preliminary plans for the space, so in the case of a positive outcome from the SLF we will be able to hit the ground running. • Cruachan Woodland- We successfully secured funding from the Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 to cover the cost of a valuation of Cruachan Woodland and for a feasibility study to look at the creation of 2 or 3 woodland crofts. Jon Hollingdale, former head of Community Woodland Trust, and Jamie MacIntyre, director of the Strontian School Company have visited the site and will be submitting a report in the next month. • Community Minibus- The Dunvegan Community Minibus Association has requested that the minibus comes under the umbrella of DCT to help with the administrative burden of running this sort of community asset. Permission has been sought from Edinbane Community Company and Struan Community Council/Trust, as they have funded the bus in the past, and the process of winding up the old charity and the transfer of assets to DCT should be complete by the end of March. The booking system is going to stay as is for the time being at least, but we are going to look at upgrading the bus and making sure as many people in the community can drive the bus as possible, and looking at the options of changing insurers, providing minibus license training, etc. • Community Action Plan- 2 of our trustees and our DO visited Lochalsh and Kyle Community Trust to find out more about how they manage their assets, but also to discuss their extremely comprehensive and successful community action plan. Their action plan was based on a comprehensive survey, with the questions tailored by a local group of people. The survey asked 34 questions, which range from questions about access to land/housing, access to the childcare, recreational facilities, running a business, climate action, transport, local democracy, health and wellbeing- the list goes on. They have a population of 2500, and received over 600 responses, which is an extremely good level of return. They enlisted outside help to analyse the responses, because there was much space for individual comment. The resulting report and subsequent action plan is an invaluable resource and allows the trust and other groups to be more nimble and responsive, because they have the comprehensive evidence of the needs and wants of the community at their fingertips. The next DCT committee meeting is on 5/3/24, and this is on the agenda but support from local groups, and the Community Council will be essential to

make the project a success. It will be a big job- but very worthwhile if we can engage as many people and groups as possible. If anyone from the Community council would like to have a chat about this please get in touch, and we have copies of the LKCT Survey report and the final action plan. • Shared Ownership in Ben Sca windfarm - DCT , along with Struan Trust and Edinbane Community Company, are looking into the options for Community Shared Ownership in the already consented development at Ben Sca (Wind2) . We have sought quotes for legal advice to clarify exactly what would be involved, how to protect ourselves from financial risk Prior to any decision being made by DCT on this matter there would be a consultation of our members, but we are gathering the necessary info first. • Signage- We are meeting with the Dunvegan Traders Association next Wednesday to discuss concerns they have about the poor signage in the village and what we can do to help. • DCT Website and CC minutes- Last year we created a page on our website for Community Council Minutes - we are happy to carry on with this and share on FBjust let us know, or if we can develop a Community Council page on our website

6. **Roads (grit bins/pavements/signage)** – There is no money for repairs on roads or pavement and it doesn't look like that is going to change!

We do need to decide where we want grit bins to be situated, we will revisit this issue in August and will start to hassle the council for bins and grit to put in them!

TW mentioned that the pavement next to the Fruit and Nut was being impeded by the overgrown bushes at the MacPhersons house. LS will get in touch with Sandra Campbell (co-owner of house) to get permission to cut the bushes back.

Signage – DCT and DTA meeting as mentioned above. MB spoke of corrugated plastic signs that can be wrapped around the passing place signs. It was suggested that sponsors could be approached to advertise their business on one side of the sign plus info for tourists concerning roads and how to use passing places. The road to Coral Beach is in dire need of something to make it safer. MB will research the cost and availability of these signs.

7. **Grasscutting** – Murdo to cut the grass again this year. His price is still the same £300 per cut.
8. **Bench for cemetery** – Need to check how many benches are up at the cemetery already.
9. **Co-opting** – As we have a full complement of councillors we are not allowed to co-opt any other members, we are however allowed to have associate members. It was agreed that DC would ask John Laing to be an associate member to continue his work regarding windfarms.
10. **Webpage for CC** – Paul Boswell is quite willing to make a webpage for DCC. He suggested that it would be sensible financially to consider sharing a page with other community councils. It was suggested that we get in touch with Willie MacKinnon so that he could put this suggestion to other local councils. If there is an interest we

could take it further. For now we will continue as we are posting minutes onto DCT webpage

**11. Recycling** – MB will make inquiries into getting a recycling bin for cardboard. She will also ask the council about getting a large skip for the community a couple of times a year. DC suggested that a skip could be placed in Harlosh one month, Roag another month and in Dunvegan after that – paid by the community council.

**12. Millennium stone** – SM suggested that a celebration be organised for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Millennium stone in June 2025. Start on Friday showing the film and having photos on display, a dance on Saturday etc. Fundraising will be necessary.

**13. National Park** – The application has now been cancelled.

**14. Windfarm** – SM will look into starting a poll on FB to gather peoples opinions on the windfarm at Meadle – planning permission applied on 22/2/2024

**15. Lets make Dunvegan beautiful again** – They currently have £60, this is after paying for plants/bulbs. We will donate money to them. SM suggested that MayAnn get in touch with the Viewfield collective.

**16. AOCB** – Helen Taylor has expressed concern regarding Japanese Knotweed that is around the village – the houses at Lochside, down at the shore which has now spread to the playpark and also round the Community Hall.

Also, the streetlights from The Dunvegan down towards the Castle are no longer working, LS will send an email to Drew Miller concerning this.

**17. Date of Next Meeting** – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March.