



DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

AGM Minutes: 16.11.2024

1 Welcome & Apologies.

JB: Thanks to everyone for coming along today, both to the AGM but also to the prior meeting to launch the housing needs survey. Thanks to Communities Housing Trust and Jamie McIntyre from the Woodlands Trust.

Present:

2024 Committee Members: Jason Bold (Chair), Katy Lawrence (Vice Chair), Emma Jane Morrison, Liza Cleland, Sylvia Meyer (CC appointed)

Full Resident Members: Stuart Cullen (Nominated), Katie Mitchell Wright (Nominated), Emily Leonard, Joe Hockney, Lucy Salter, Ross Kerr, Miriam Ascher, Seumas MacLennan, John Laing (CC), Jean Slimon, Jack Atkinson, Rachel Nash, Tim Wallis, Mali MacLennan

Full Resident Members on Zoom: Sarah Bold

Full Resident Members by Proxy:

Leona Coull (Stuart Cullen nominated Proxy)

Melissa Mitchell Wright (Katie Mitchell Wright nominated Proxy)

Jo Morrison (Mali MacLennan nominated Proxy)

Peter Morrison (Seumas MacLennan nominate Proxy)

Non Members: Adam Salter, Paul Noyce, Edelina Noyce, Bryony Anderson, Michelle Sevoir SLCVO

Apologies: Anne MacAskill

2 Previous minutes:

Katy Lawrence Proposed, Emma Jane Morrison Seconded

Actions: LC will upload to the website.

3 Election of Trustees:

JB: The Trustees of DCT are volunteers - we oversee the business of the trust and the funding applications that come in. The committee meets about every 6 weeks and we have 1 trustee stepping down today, Liza Cleland, and 2 trustees that have been nominated in writing by 2 members each, Stuart Cullen and Katie Mitchell Wright. All trustees need to be nominated in writing prior to the AGM. Thanks to everyone who has stood on the committee over the last year - Liza Cleland, Emma Jane Morrison, Katy Lawrence, Sylvia Meyer who is our Community Council appointed trustee, and Paul MacAskill who stood down several months ago after several years of worth with the Trust.

5 Chairperson's Report:

- i) Mali MacLennan continues to fulfil DCT's Development Officer contract and has made a huge impact in driving DCT forwards, working across all areas to include project development, community engagement, funding and stakeholder management. Mali's inputs have produced the step change in the trust's outputs, which were crucially needed to best support an improved community environment here in Dunvegan. Mali will provide an overview of these initiatives later in the AGM.

- ii) DCT continues to contract Leona Coull as Community Admin Officer to support trustees and coordinate day to day operations. Leona's organised support has provided the level of consistency we craved and helped to take the burden off volunteer trustees.
 - iii) DCT has contracted Bryony Anderson as Project Officer for Gaeltec Community Hub, which is a demanding role, and one which Bryony is fulfilling on all levels.
 - iv) Liza Cleland will be stepping down after this AGM to fulfil a short-term contract for Dunvegan's Community Action Plan. DCT will be looking for Liza to return to DCT as a co-opted trustee after the contract is fulfilled to provide intelligent guidance on the community action plan, and DCT's wider scope of projects.
 - v) I will be stepping down as Chair after this AGM but continuing as a trustee to support this next stage of transition. Thank you to all the contributions past and present that have enabled DCT to get to this point of the journey.
- JB gave a brief rundown on projects over the last year. The playpark has been a great success, it is fully funded and currently being installed. Huge thanks to everyone for their hard work in getting this project over the line.
 - Gaeltec - This will provide some much needed community facilities when completed. DCT applied to SLF last year for funding to help to purchase the building and were successful. We are currently in the final legal stages and hope this will be finalised early 2025.
 - Cruachan - We are very interested in a section of woodland in Orbost which could potentially give us the option of creating 2 woodland crofts on that site.
 - Community Council & Dunvegan Primary School - We continue to work closely with the CC & DPS, and both groups receive funding from DCT to be used at their own discretion where they see the need.
 - CAP - this is a big project, starting to gain momentum, more from Mali.
 - Wind Farms - These are ever present, with lots of time being spent with consultations with developers and other neighbouring communities.
 - We have been looking at Broadford and Strath community company and Edinbane community company with a little bit of envy of how far these groups have come recently and how far behind we as an area were. But we feel that we have bridged that gap recently, with the continued help of our community.
 - We always value feedback from our members, so please do participate in our upcoming events and get in touch by email if you wish. We are always looking for volunteers to help out with various projects.

6 Treasurer's Report:

KL gave a brief run down on the accounts which are attached. 2023 accounts have been finalised, but the 2024 ones run from 1st January - 31st December, so are therefore still being updated.

- The bulk of the money spent so far in 2024 has been on the playpark, Gaeltec project, grants allocated and wages.
- We are moving to a new accountant, Mann Judd in Stornoway. They will be helping us in migrating to an online accounting software and helping us to write a new reserves policy.

7 Development Officer Report:

- MM: The last year has flown by and I think we've managed to get a lot done! I know I keep banging on about it, but the census data released this year for NW Skye was very alarming, and think everything DCT is working on is relevant to that.

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- Playpark - The Park project has been a delight, a bit challenging at times but it's been a great flagship project to be a part of - so many people were involved with fundraising and the manual volunteer days, and fantastic support from local businesses and the councillors, and we also managed to get the price of the equipment down by about 30k. We're planning an opening event once the handover is complete and the signage up. -If all goes according to the original time frame installation should be about 3 weeks - but when does it ever do that! We could do with a bank of volunteers who could perform occasional inspections of the park. We will have an inspection template - it's a basic weekly . inspection, mostly visual and common sense - and is in addition to the annual ROSPA inspection which will be performed by specialists.
- Cruachan - Moving Cruachan forward has been quite slow going-as a result of various elements taking longer than expected, and because we would hope to request as large a discount from HIE as possible and we need to justify that. There are still unknowns - for example where it would be possible to site the croft associated housing- but one thing is certain - we won't get too many opportunities to buy land at such a discount. We had 13 expressions of interest in a woodland croft tenancy, which speaks for the unmet demand for land locally and how population retention and regeneration could be addressed if we had access to more land. We had a very positive response to the survey on the project, and I hope we can pursue it.
- Minibus - Leona has been doing a stellar job of managing the minibus bookings and payments since we took it on. At our end, the process will be streamlined once we have online accounting software in place. The minibus and if/how community transport should be addressed is something which will be covered in the community action plan discussions and survey.
- CAP - The CAP project is HUGE and I'm really excited to be working on it - We've already had so much input and interesting conversations- people coming to drop ins and meetings and being willing to stick their neck out and say what they really think. This is going to be a really local plan, with minimal outsourced consultancy and I honestly think it might end up being the best bloody action plan ever. This stage is about researching and gathering lots of info about where we are and how we have arrived here. I've held several drop ins in the hall and we have now had the first 2 in the scheduled series of focussed events, Sports and Leisure, and Housing and Land today. There are several more focussed discussions like these ones planned over the next few months, which will help develop a comprehensive community survey. We have volunteers willing to read both the research and draft survey to ensure we haven't made any errors or omissions prior to distribution- it's important that we ask good questions which can't be done without the expertise of people who know individual issues intimately. The survey will be live towards the end of January - it is really essential we have a high completion rate to ensure we capture a range of views- to that end we'll be imaginative about how we encourage and support people to complete the survey, including offers of 1:1 assistance, use of a computer etc. I think we should also consider entering respondents into a prize draw - that is quite a common approach, because it's going to be a big survey! And ideally we would also drop hardcopies at as many households as possible. We are planning a major survey launch event in January 2018. The CAP is going to cover a wide variety of topics, so it will be a tool that all groups in the area can use, and it will contribute to the direction DCT goes with its projects in a very meaningful way. We hope to have the project completed by summer 2025.
- Housing Need Survey - It's Live! Please share and complete! The results of this will guide where we go next in terms of addressing the housing crisis in a locally relevant way!

8 AOB:

- SLCVO - Michelle Seviour addressed the room to discuss a project that SLCVO are working on just now . The Skye and Lochalsh Health, Wellbeing and Welfare Collaboration (HWWC) Project, being led by Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO), forms part of a larger 3 year programme:- Empower Skye & Lochalsh. It seeks to

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support co-production & collaboration between Third Sector and public bodies to improve the development and delivery of third sector health, wellbeing, welfare and social care support services. Leaflet attached.

- Vote on whether to proceed with Asset Transfer request from HIE to create 2 woodland crofts - Excluding committee members from the vote, the vote passed in favour, unanimous, with all members present, on zoom and present by proxy voting in favour of the motion.

Actions:

Meeting came to a close at 4.40pm

DRAFT