

DUNVEGAN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 21st February 2023

Present – Donna Campbell, John Laing, Sarah Allan, Lana MacIntosh, Laura Shirley, Philippa Macrae

Apologies – PC Wynne, Jason Bold, Mali Messant, Kenny Nicolson, Cllr Munro

1. **Declarations of Interest** – None
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Approved by PM and seconded by SA
3. **Matters Arising** – all covered in Agenda
4. **Police Report** – AW not in attendance but has since provided the following info –
 - 1 x fraud
 - 1 x road traffic
5. **Treasurer's Report** – DC updated the group with the following –
 - £1600 spent on Hardship Fund
 - PM still has £450 worth of vouchers left at the Post Office
 - DC re-issued a cheque to Murdo MacIver as he had it for over 6 months
 - DC advised that the closing balance is £7337.18
6. **Hardship Fund** – LS to investigate as to whether accepting a hardship voucher would affect someone's benefit entitlement. DC to put up a poster in the Dunvegan Medical Centre advertising that funding is available. Gilly Alston (Nurse) to be advised of the funding available.
7. **Councillor Munro update** –
 - has prompted the school transport section for a response to concerned community member's email.
 - Roads – the priorities are the main roads (A863, A850 and A855) which are the higher speed sections, you will have seen the Skeabost and Crossal resurfacing and hopefully on a day like today more resurfacing is being carried out on the A855 at Toravaig. In terms of township roads, it is frustrating, but we (elected members) can't order the officers to perform specific improvements on specific sections of roads. All we can do is highlight the needs and the correspondence which comes our way.
 - A couple of slightly hopeful notes. HC budget still makes roads a priority so (without seeing figures yet) I expect the same amount as the last 2 years to be coming to areas again. This gives Skye and Raasay £1m+ of capital plus the c£1.4m of revenue funding for cyclical maintenance and the winter maintenance. Also, there is discussion on a 'Hit Squad' being formed specifically to resurface roads and to target the worst spots across Highland. Obviously Skye has some of the worst sections so we would expect a reasonable share of the 'Hit Squad's' time. And when they are

here that frees up the local teams to go on to other priorities (which for example could be patching and ditching other township roads).

8. **Turkey Appeal** – DCC to donate £250 to Disaster Emergency Committee via the Post Office

9. **Trust Update** –

- Proposed Wind Farms: Have been in discussions with all wind farm developers with proposals for north Skye. Talks with Falck/Renantis have been disappointing with no real commitment to provide enhanced community benefits or support ongoing projects.
- Playpark: Have now met with Doug Miles from the council to get feedback on the playpark plans and advise on our next steps. Understanding that the council do not have any budget to either support a redevelopment of the park or adequately maintain the existing/redeveloped park. Doug advised that the existing plan from Kompan is too ambitious for the Dunvegan site and that we need to reconsider what equipment is most essential and how we can save on costs. The figure of £80,000 was given as a reasonable budget for the site, the existing quote is for £150,000 + VAT (although we can save on the VAT). We can save on costs by appointing local contractors to level the site, install the new equipment and play surface, and design and build certain equipment. All other purpose-built, long-life equipment can be purchased from Kompan. Thereafter, the council can train somebody local to undertake safety inspections and the council themselves can perform the annual risk assessment. Have been continuing to investigate funding options for this. Promising options at this stage include the Isle of Skye Renewable Co-op's Community Fund; the council's Coastal Communities Fund; and Mowi's Community Support Fund.
- Gaeltec Building: We had a successful meeting with the owners of the Gaeltec building regarding a potential community purchase. They are currently getting the building valued and we shall resume discussions once this has taken place.
- Minibus Training: Willie McLeod from HighLife Highland can undertake the MiDAS minibus testing. Standard MiDAS is £120 per person, adaptive is £60 extra. Minimum booking is 4 people and maximum is 6 per day. Need to book this ASAP so that it can be scheduled before the schools break for summer.
- Cruachan Wood: Have received an updated draft business plan for a potential community purchase of Cruachan Wood, from the same consultants as the original Orbost Forest feasibility study. DCT shall follow up with the recommendations of the business plan once consulting with Orbost residents and gauging community support.
- SCIO Rebranding: Work is currently ongoing with the rebranding of the trust now that it has become a SCIO. This includes a new website, logo and members' newsletter. The new SCIO can also form sub-groups to focus on specific projects, it is hoped that volunteers will come forward to join these sub-groups to develop community projects. As the play park project is the project furthest ahead, priority is to finalise a list of names on this sub-group.
- Next DCT committee meeting: Tuesday 28 February

10. **Dunvegan Playpark** – covered in Trust Update

11. **Grass Cutting** – Murdo MacIver to continue grass cutting for the community. THC have agreed they will do two cuts for St Mary's Cemetery.
12. **King's Coronation** – DCC would like to hold an afternoon tea party on Monday 1st May in Dunvegan Village Hall (PM to book hall) to celebrate the King's Coronation. More information to follow after plans and discussions take place.
13. **Windfarms** – covered in Trust Update
14. **AOCB** – PM mentioned a resident in the village had enquired about putting a mirror at the end of her drive. The DCC's position is, if she wants to do it, she can do it, but we cannot approve it.
15. **Date of Next Meeting** – 14/03/2023 (interim meeting to discuss King's Coronation Tea Party)