

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 7:30pm

Postponed from 28th October 2025

Present – John Laing (JL), Tim Wallis (TW), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Mandy Boswell (MB), Klara Krejci, Filip Krejci, Jan Wright, , Mick Wright

Apologies – Donna Campbell (DC), Philippa MacRae (PM), Christine Brennan (CB), Drew Millar (DM), Mali MacLennan – Dunvegan Trust (MM),

1	Chairman's Welcome – JL opened the meeting, welcomed those present and gave apologies.
2	Declaration of Interest – None were declared.
3	Minutes of last Meeting – The minutes of September's meeting were agreed. They were proposed by TW and seconded by JL.
4	Treasurer 's Report – SY referred to DC's report prepared for the postponed meeting. Bank balance £4169.44. £350 has been paid to Murdo. Tickets are on sale at the Dunvegan Post Office and Filling Station for the dance. The license for the dance has been obtained.
5	Council Update – DM unable to attend, away in Inverness. He sent email to JL saying he's waiting for word on the retail units at Lochside. We do not know Mackenzie Sutherland's plans for the monitoring of speeding in the village. The meeting discussed the merits of monitoring speeding out of season vs during the tourist season. MB said she feared if we wait until April or May to monitor speeding then it'll be this time next year before anything's done. JL commented that the Police don't seem to be doing much to deter speeding. MB said she'd heard from PC Darren Reid and he's hoping to be able to attend our next meeting.
6	Trust Update – SY confirmed that the Gaeltec Building transfer has gone ahead. There's a tool library day on Saturday 8th November for anyone keen to donate or maintain tools. Bryony is putting in place health and safety and insurance has been arranged and an application has gone in for installation of solar panels. Orbost – waiting on Highlands and Islands Enterprise to appoint a solicitor to handle conveyancing. Minibus purchase to be made imminently – once there's a delivery date then safety assessments and training to be arranged. Community Transport – following the recent workshop a report is due by the end of November. Playpark has new fences.

	The Community Action Plan (CAP) is print ready. First print soon and an event on 22nd November is being organised. The CAP will be used to develop a strategy plan of work for the next few years, improving the signage in the village is something we'd like to work on next year. The Trust has only just been made aware of a fund "Pride in Place" – North West Skye is eligible. UK wide there's £20 million funding. MB agreed to forward all documents to DM and Willie Mackinnon (Highland Council) asking for their help presenting an application before the deadline on Friday 7th November. TW pointed out that the Trust's CAP means that the information required is already prepared and "evidenced". The "Neighbourhood" is North West Skye and includes Dunvegan, Struan, Glendale, Waternish, right the way up to Uig. It's bigger than our community council area – but hopefully we can get the application started. Mali and Bryony applied for Highland and Island Enterprise – Community Right to Buy, Highland Council Ward Discretionary Fund, Highland Council Sustainable Development Fund. The Trust's AGM is January 17th 2026. JL said he'd heard from MM confirming that the Trust are willing to fund some new lights.
7	Planning – MB confirmed nothing to note. SY said that Kaly Kelp have submitted revised plans. JL said that it significantly reduced area from original plans. We have not been asked to comment on this application. SY has been asked about a shed that's been built and whether planning application is needed; it was agreed the best course of action was for the resident to query this with the planning department.
8	Lochside Retail Units – JL has been in email correspondence with Katy Lawrence at Dunvegan Trust because the occupants of the units would like the building painted and improved signage and he will take this up with DM. JL pointed out that there is residential accommodation underneath the shop units. MB suggested restricting parking outside the units to 30 minutes to help the shop keepers. JL said that he feels the tenants need to get together and agree who's to park where and for how long. MB also asked if anyone's ever asked 'The Church' if it's OK to use their carpark. JL said that he's planning to speak with the Minister, but that he doesn't think it's a problem because it was Dunvegan Estate who enlarged the carpark.
9	Speeding – As already discussed no update on monitoring (which has to be done before consideration of flashing signage). We look forward to a police officer attending the next meeting.
10	Coral Beach Car Park – Claigan Road – JL asked MB if any information. MB said no update on the carpark but pleased to report that the very pothole ridden end of the road at Doune Cottage has just been repaired.
11	Remembrance Sunday – JL has obtained a wreath and the service is to be on Sunday 9th November. The silence is usually part of the church service at 11:30 and then the ceremony at the monument afterward.

12	Christmas Lights – £1500 is required and the Trust has been approached. Highland Council have been approached about a connection date. SY said that the Trust were obtaining some LED lights opposite the hall.
13	SSEN – Skye Reinforcement Line – the high tension line that comes Fort Augustus via Glenelg, underground from Luib to Sconser, then above ground again to Ardmore. There will be disruption and SSEN are looking to create a community liaison group so that they keep contact with the community who can then inform the residents. JL said he thinks the biggest hurdle will be the increased traffic. SSEN will try to keep disruption to a minimum. There is to be a fund to help local groups providing the liaison. The community council are to approach Dunvegan Trust as they need to deal with any funding that may be forthcoming. SSEN are also willing to provide some voluntary work and the meeting felt we might be able to find plenty for them to do! SSEN – Distribution – this is a second project. The underwater cable from Ardmore to the Outer Isles. JL had been asked where maps could be placed for perusal by residents and it was agreed that the Community Café is the ideal place. JL happy to continue to be liaison.
14	Tesco – MB said an email's been received summarising the survey taken at recent meetings in Broadford and Portree. The meeting discussed the plan and the impact of a petrol filling station. 96% of 103 responses said they wanted the Tesco store to be built.
15	Increasing Community Engagement – MB said she'd spoken with Suzy at Radio Skye about youth involvement. Suzy said that Radio Skye might be able to do a piece with us in the new year if we wanted to try to recruit some younger members Zoom – The meeting discussed Andrew Kiss' suggestion for the community council's meetings to be broadcast via Zoom. MB said that the use of Zoom at a recent Trust workshop had been problematic due to poor reception. Software licencing was discussed and it was suggested that we might be able to use Dunvegan Trust's licence. SY confirmed that the signal is weak. It was agreed that we'll carry on as we are and will reconsider if there's an improvement in signal strength. Klara Krejci asked what involvement of younger members might involve. JL said it's been felt for a long time that youngsters of school age would broaden the appeal of the community simply by being involved and represented, but that it never seems to work. TW suggested that perhaps the one or two members of the community council might go to the school on a monthly or termly basis. Maybe someone from the Trust too – and explain to the children what the community council and Trust are doing in the area – maybe just a ten-minute slot at assembly. JL said he thought that was a good idea. TW said that with the Trust there's a lot going on and that the children turn up at events for them – Millenium Stone Celebration, play park, etc. Fundamentally their learning how these things come about is important. JL said worth discussing with head teacher and with the school progressing it might be a good time.

16	School – The contract with Morgan Sindall is expected to be signed soon and it is still hoped that the school will be ready for handover in 2027. JL said it would an excellent time to discuss it then. JL said he’d speak with the headteacher.
17	Next Meeting – Next meeting is 25 th November 2025 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge