



DUNVEGAN COMMUNITY TRUST

Committee Meeting Minutes: 12 March 2026

1 Welcome & Apologies:

- Present: Jason Bold (JB), Stuart Cullen (SC), Amanda Boswell (AB), Angela Wallis (AW), Colin Ewing (CE), Mali MacLennan (MM), Bryony Anderson (BA), Caroline Bruns (CB)
- Present on Zoom: Liza Cleland (LC), Jenny Hey (JH)
- Apologies: n/a

JB to chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Conflict of interest

- CE to sit out on consideration of Karen Davies grant application due to attendance of art classes and conversations about project
- SC to sit out on consideration of Dunvegan and Struan Christmas Dinner Club grant application due to relation to one of the organisers

3 Adoption of previous minutes: CE proposed, AW seconded

4 Financial Report

- Profit and loss. Community benefit from Ben Aketil hasn't been received yet, this is confirmed as expected to be late. A portion of the income will be included in last year's accounts as it is grant payments for work carried out in 2025.
- Transactions lists for January and February 2026 circulated for viewing by trustees. Signed by treasurer, SC
- Insignis. DCT's accountant recommends money is deposited via Insignis to protect funds, allowing the reserves to be split between different financial institutions to gain banking protection while reducing admin.
 - JB proposed an in-person meeting to consider Insignis more in depth before committing to anything. SC to check dates and arrange this
- Audit. BA confirmed the audit timeline, drew attention to the Audit Planning Letter and Statement of Going Concern, which was approved by trustees.
 - MM and BA gathering the requested documentation now, speaking to accountant later this month, and audit work is planned to begin from week of 20th April
- Financial Policy. Introduction by MM of proposed changes to update policy considering the Trust is now a registered employer, Trustees to be sent a final draft for email confirmation.

Actions: SC to schedule Insignis review meeting, MM to circulate financial policy update and trustees to confirm

5 Statutory Inspections.

Dunvegan Community Trust SCIO (SC052078)

www.dunvegantrust.co.uk

- Community Play Park. MM to distribute QR codes for inspections to Trustees to ensure there's a broader pool of people able to do inspections.
- Minibus. Will need to be inspected at Highland Motors (ramp at Kenny's isn't big enough), next inspection is due at the end of April.
 - Quote for repair of damage to rear of bus is £1,068 (including VAT) from Highland Bodyshop. Excess £250, premium has gone up a bit due to new value of minibus. Insurance has suggested we just pay for the repair to avoid losing the no claims discount. SC to seek secondary quote
 - Breakdown cover, consider seeking this
 - Decision needed on what to do with the old minibus which is currently parked at Dunvegan Fire Station, MOT is due on the 13th April, taxed until the end of the month, it would need a lot of repairs to put it through another MOT. Trustees decide to offer it to Broadford and Strath Community Company for £500 with a list of the suggested repairs, as they have previously expressed interest
- Midas Assessments. DCT has been awarded funding to offer Midas assessments to community members who use the minibus, planned for the end of April. There is also funding to train a new driver assessor, 3 day training in Edinburgh. No assessors based nearer than Inverness currently
 - The driver assessor could be freelance and manage their own work or contracted by DCT with the Trust covering the admin. JB suggests our priority is facilitating community members becoming qualified and comfortable to use the minibus, Trustees agree it is best to avoid taking on the administrative burden of contracts.
 - Agreement from Trustees to facilitate training for someone to then work freelance, with the stipulation they do five driver trainings for free to people of the Trust's choosing, annually for three years
- Block booking of minibus. Issue raised by MM for consideration and attention of Trustees. AW expressed that this is at odds with the intended use of the minibus as a community asset, general agreement from Trustees - staff to check the purpose of a booking before approving it.

Actions: SC to seek secondary quote for minibus repair, MM to action disposal of old minibus

6 Membership Updates

- 185 members, 147 full members (79%). 4 new associate members since 17/01 meeting, all connected to minibus hires. 1 new full member.

7 Gaeltec Project Officer Update

- Summary from BA on works to date on Gaeltec buildings to bring new trustees up to date.
 - EICR for office building, Fire Risk Assessment for both buildings, plumbing assessment and maintenance/repair, timber survey.
 - Solar PV instal earlier this year - 771 kWh generated to date, 14% of power consumption has been covered, only this low due to storage heaters drawing down power at night
 - Timber survey. SW side of office building, quite a lot of water ingress especially around windows. SW gable end of workshop building some water ingress
 - Discussed solutions to make the windows watertight prior to full refurbishment
 - SLF money could cover industrial de-humidifiers

- Plumbing work. Kitchen sink had been draining into the subfloor, now fixed. One toilet has been leaking for a long time, now fixed, chipboard flooring rotten through in the toilets and half of the storeroom. Joiner in next week to quote repair work.
- Floor coverings - Harris Home Furnishings or Skye Floors. SC inquired as to the exact location of where floor coverings will be installed, and inquired as to whether they can be reused. BA confirmed all downstairs areas except the entranceway, carpet tiles will be able to be reused. Trustees prefer Harris Home Furnishings quote
- Blinds - 1 quote, suggestion to seek another from Trustees
- Grass cutting quote approved by committee
- Architect - building warrant should be received by mid-March. Rural Design to start putting together drawings for the tender process - produced by early May. Bill of quantities by end of June. Timing fits with potential funding opportunities
- Meeting coming up with Rural Designs re: finishes. Committee members will feed in on this. BA to pin down dates and propose to committee
- Strengthening Communities Fund grant approved - will fund BA's job role for 3 years. Requirement for line management for the role, important that someone is designated BA's line manager, can be a single trustee.
 - BA to circulate application submitted for view by trustees.
 - Trustees to look at whether it makes sense to implement reviews for all employees in line with requirements for BA

Actions: BA to schedule meeting with Rural Design and trustees, BA to circulate SCP application, BA to follow up regarding quotes

8 Woodland Project Officer Update

- JH multi-month work plan - this has been shared with Trustees, general approval
- Tree felling - contracted to start in September, need to apply for a felling licence now
- Community engagement - just had a group of three at the first woodland engagement event. Survey created asks what the community would like to be done in Cnoc nan Craobh. Cruachan is a more complex, working on how to approach community engagement understanding that this will be crofts in future
- Woodland management plans - Cnoc nan Craobh, straight forward and of a small enough size to not need to be registered with Forestry Scotland. Cruachan will be more involved, JH working on the legislative requirements.
- Invasive species recommendations - wants committee thoughts on how we want to approach this, should it be contracted work? Tree safety plan for Cnoc nan Craobh
- Need a Trustee to register with SGRPID, and then pass this on to JH - AB volunteers
- Deer management - for potential funding it's likely we need to consider deer in the community at large and management in a broader sense across a larger area.
- Woodland crofts - has spoken to Glengarry about their model, the overarching theme was that woodland crofts are very complex and they've passed along a bunch of contacts. JH to compile recommendations and planning off the back of this conversation
- LC expressed support for invasive species recommendations, JH noted that without using chemicals it'll be a very long term project

Actions: AB and JH to register with SGRPID

9 Development Officer Updates

- Orbest Farmhouse - sale to go through in the next few weeks. MM reviews notable title conditions. MM has organised lifting of restrictions around use of garden/land around Orbest to ensure there's the ability to build etc in this space in future. Fencing requirements are our sole responsibility, stock proof fencing needs to go up within 6 months of purchase. All trustees happy with this
- Working on housing policy, using that of Staffin Community Trust and other publicly available models. Have reached out to local stakeholders regarding their priorities
 - MM sharing draft allocation policy for comments from committee
 - CE expressed interest in an overarching housing policy to use as a guide in future
- CAP - lots of people want a physical copy. SSEN, Archive Centre, councillors etc have taken some. Approved to print 20 more, £4 a copy + paper purchase.
- Printing for other community groups - 10p a poster charge for groups to print their posters. 300 page ink subscription approved
- MM informs Trustees about Just Enterprise working on a case for investment for future trust business opportunities to take to funders.
- Childcare Roundtable Meeting, Ullapool, 25th March. MM wants to attend and report on challenges and where we're at with this, put through mileage. Approved
- Let's Make Dunvegan Beautiful Again, haven't applied for funding with Trust at the moment, but reached out regarding a project. SSEN want to help fund their car park tidy up, trustees approved SSEN passing the money to us to pass along to LMDBA. Asked if we will make a contribution. Contribute use of tools to this project, they will go into the tool library and also we can use these in community projects. Approved in principle, Trustees to receive details of tools list and costs
- SLCVO update delayed due to ongoing conversations

Actions: MM to share housing policy draft with Trustees

10 Funding applications

- Initial discussion on grant funding, the amount available to use for grants annually, and allocation of funding. Half of community benefit is allocated to grant funding, so £38,000 in 2026
 - Trustees discussed possibility of a cap on educational grants and other similar grants that are recurring
 - Plan to start a running tally in financial reporting of grant funding allocation
 - AB raised whether educational grants should require an insight into how the person requesting funding will benefit the community
 - CE suggests asking for a testimonial from those receiving grants to add to our website. Also request photos. Approved by all Trustees.
- Rosie Salter educational grant - £1000 approved
- Small project application - Karen Davies, Eunoia Studios, Listening to the Land event - £1000 approved. CE left the room.
- Large project application - Dunvegan and Struan Christmas Dinner Club - £2000 approved. SC abstained from commenting
- Small project application - Skye Board Games Club
 - £864.00 approved, but require evidence that the group is growing in terms of its reach and engagement as well as ability to support itself if they apply again in future
- Small project application - Dunvegan Community Sessions

- £960.00 approved, but will be paid out in two tranches based on evidence being presented following initial 3 events, with evidence of success in terms of engagement and educational value
- Needs to be promoted in an educational context, Cae's session at a venue, rather than a Waystone Books entertainment. Some discussion about funding where applications could benefit a commercial venture
- Large Project Application - Dunvegan School Gardening Club
 - Suggestion to part fund, £2,000 pounds approved. Match fund what Dunvegan Castle & Gardens has funded, point them in direction of Windfarm Co-op for remainder and stress they'd need to get that in soon

Actions: CB to contact applicants with decisions

11 DCC Update from AB

- Approached by Dunvegan Traders Association regarding signage, and have reached out to Drew Millar
- Have also been in touch with councillors regarding speeding warning signs

12 AOB

- Request for more discipline regarding evidence that grant funding has been spent by applicants on what they have applied for
- Contingency and Emergency Planning - Community Council have been discussing this. One of the top community concerns in the action plan was resilience, look at organising a conversation about this
- Skye Wide Fund Establishment Update - community councils are nominating a representative to this

Date of Next meeting: 16 April 2026

Meeting closed at 10:15pm