

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 7:30pm

Present – John Laing (JL), Donna Campbell (DC), Philippa MacRae (PM), Tim Wallis (TW), Mandy Boswell (MB)

Apologies –Drew Millar (DM), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Christine Brennan (CB)

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 the last meeting were agreed proposed by TW, seconded by DC.	
4	Matters Arising from Last Meeting (not covered below) Roads – PM said that the Claigan Road was getting bad again. DC said that the Feorlig road is getting worse and worse. JL said that the Highland Council's capital spend for the next financial year was published and £3million is to be spent on roads – A roads mostly. DM had sent an email regarding the roads budget and asked that we let him know of minor roads that need attention as they will be captured under the revenue budget. JL said we need to highlight the roads concerned but that it's difficult to know as the Highland council use U road number and we refer to the road by name. MB to find list so that we can identify roads that need work. JL had investigated issue with cattle grid at Mill Road dating back to complaint in August 2025 of danger to tyres. The broken side of the grid was coned off and the remaining side is open. The grid was not in Highland Council's plans for replacement in 2025/26. Road Lines – DM said that the lining machine is due, and asks that we inform him of any junctions that need painting. JL said that all road junctions need attention. JL particularly mentioned the Roag Road junction and the junction outside The Dunvegan Hotel. TW mentioned, and all agreed, that road markings are particularly important because of the high numbers of visitors who are otherwise unaware. Dentist – JL said DM had looked into this and both he and we had had the same response, which we need to share. The meeting agreed that the lack of planning for the retirement of the previous dentist was poor – they knew he was going it was no surprise. DC brought up that previously we'd been advised that two people were interviewed and both were acceptable. The plan is for a senior dentist to be based in Dunvegan – but not yet advertised. MB to respond saying response unsatisfactory and very concerned.	JL/MB JL MB

Coral Beach Car Park – MB confirmed she’d had a response from Ewan MacPherson. Ewan confirmed that Highland Council’s contractor is making good progress with the carpark. Once it’s completed, which he assumes will be before the upturn in visitor numbers, it will be run by Highland Council on our (SCRIPID’s) behalf. Ewan confirmed that he has not had a recent update on the proposed building of the toilet block but it is not likely to be before the winter of 2026/27. He said he’d shared plans for the Broadford toilet block with the council as he thought them a cost effective design. The meeting discussed the problems we’d heard about the Broadford toilet block being a nightmare to maintain. MB to speak with Dunvegan Trust. Ewan confirmed that the ongoing work provides the footprint for the proposed block along with electrical conduit. The borehole is dug and capped. Ewan referred us to Highland Council in regard to extended and additional passing places. In regard to electronic signage Ewen and MB discussed the traffic ‘camera’ at Claigan and whether it could be used to monitor car park availability. Ewen went on to say that he does not feel the car park will fill to capacity, given its size. TW pointed out that if the road is improved with more and larger passing places and when there’s toilets there then the amount of tour mini busses will increase. Ewan said he’d contact Shane Manning (HC lead on car parks). TW asked about power to the carpark. MB said that she and Ewan had discussed this and he’d asked if it was “three phase” which she did not know. The plans show electric vehicle charging points, but there is no information about whether there is power ready to feed them. JL asked MB to express concern that there are no toilet facilities this coming year – with more people parking it is bound to be an even bigger problem. Banking – work is still ongoing to get SY added to the bank account. Defibrillator – MB to contact SCRIPID to remind them about one to be provided at Coral Beach. MB said that Dunvegan Community Trust want to do a map of defibrillator locations and that she’d advised them that DC said the school children are creating one. The Trust would like this to have a QR code on it as well as it being available in PDF format to be shared with all local accommodation providers. DC said she’s asked for the map to be done before Easter. Emergency Plan – MB said that she’d brought this up with Dunvegan Community Trust and resilience planning had scored highly as a priority in their Community Action Plan. It is hoped that a working group of community council, trust and public could be tasked with this. TW said he’s happy to be interested in being involved.	MB MB MB MB JL MB MB/TW
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	Wrap Signs – Ewan MacPherson said that he no longer wants wrap signs. Staffin are keen but we're not really in need of further signs at this time. Macleod Parliament – Young MacLeods – Dunvegan Trust will coordinate any volunteer work that may be available. Community Payback – MB confirmed that she and Dunvegan Trust had found details of the contact in Portree to arrange this work. SY's list will be used. Insurance – MB confirmed she'd checked with Dunvegan Trust. The Trust take out a separate event policy for each licenced event. Their standard policy will not provide events that we hold. MB suggested that any time we do hold any event we double check with Dunvegan Trust. The meeting agreed.	
5	Treasurer's Report – DC said there has been no change since last month. £3748.39 in the bank. PM confirmed that there's £400 still at the Post Office.	
6	Council Update – nothing that's not already been covered in matters arising.	
7	Trust Update – EGM – MB said that there's an EGM on 11th March 2026 to approve minor changes to the constitution to allow for the Trust to make an expression of interest on the police house. Volunteering Sessions – coming up at the woodland. Tidy up and bulb planting. Please encourage participation. Macleod Estate – Larch firewood available behind the Two Churches Walk – help yourself – but NO power tools to be used. Also some firewood available at Gaeltec – but NO power tools to be used. Music Night – The Trust are pleased that DC is arranging a fund-raising music night on Friday 5th June – funds towards the new sports pitch. Calum MacPhail. DC is keen on co-opting some of the local football players to help. Orbost and Cruachan – Still hoping to complete this financial year. The Trust advised us that HIE will shortly be putting the rest of the forestry up for sale at Orbost. MIDAS minibus assessment coming up at the end of April – this will be advertised. Playpark Inspection to be carried out soon in conjunction with inspection of Portree's playpark.	
8	Planning Matters 25/00878 - 18 Roag – the meeting discussed further correspondence received regarding this application and agreed to acknowledge receipt. 25/04761/FUL – Staff Accommodation – currently 8 objections with consultation noted on website as 23rd of February.	

9	North End Shinty – The meeting discussed the disappointing stance of the Camanachd Association in their decision to exclude, midway through the season, local children from combined schools from participating in competition. The Community Council made many representations to the Camanachd Association with copies to our MP, MSPs, and Marie Goujon (Highlands and Islands Minister) and to all local county councillors. Only Kate Forbes has responded; Marie Goujon has noted it for investigation – but that will be too late for the children. The Community Council wishes to thank both West Highland Free Press and Radio Skye for their support in covering this matter.	
10	BBC Alba – Charter Review – JL agreed he’d look into this and respond accordingly.	JL
11	AOB – SSEN – JL told of the meeting regarding community benefit coming for the new line. Approximately £10 million Skye-wide, and it will benefit the likes of the sports pitch. JL and MM (Mali MacLennan from Dunvegan Trust) will attend. There is also an SSEN Community Benefit drop in meeting on Wednesday 18th March 3-7pm open to public. SSE – MB said she’d heard on Radio Skye that they were putting in place a service where those who need medical equipment would be provided with a battery to provide some resilience in the event of a power cut. MB to find out more and refer to the Dunvegan Medical Practice to make sure they’re aware. https://www.ssen.co.uk/news-views/2026/SSEN-gives-20000-home-battery-packs-to-customers-who-need-the-most-support/ End of Community Council’s Financial Year – DC said she didn’t know if the current auditor would approve our accounts again. She is to find out and if necessary, find an alternative. MB asked for confirmation that the AGM is to be at our May meeting (26th May 2026).	MB DC
12	Next Meeting – 31st March 2026 at 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge, Dunvegan Village Hall.	