

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Monday 24th March 2025 at 7:30pm

Present – John Laing (JL), Donna Campbell (DC), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Tim Wallis (TW), Mandy Boswell (MB),
 Apologies – Philippa MacRae (PM) Christine Brennan (CB), Drew Millar (DM), Mali MacLennan (MM).

1	Chairman's Welcome – JL opened the meeting, welcomed those present and gave apologies.
2	Declaration of Interest – None to note
3	Minutes of last Meeting – In regard to Kaly Seaweed and the planned kelp farm at Loch Bracadale TW asked if The Marine Directorate actually consider plans or just pass them. JL said he thought that they'd refer to SEPA other interested agencies. Unfortunately, due to timing, none of the committee had been able to attend the recent event. JL said that he'd not yet purchased the replacement "Milburn Barrel", but he will. JL commented that he'd seen quite a few barrels around the village and wondered if they were originally provided by "Keep Dunvegan Beautiful", DC said they were present before then as she'd helped fill some with flowers before then. SY proposed the minutes and DC seconded. MB asked for clarification of when minutes should be officially published. It was agreed that until such time as they were officially approved by the Community Council they should carry the watermark "Draft" even if they were shared on the notice board or by social media. Only the final, officially accepted versions, should be uploaded to Dunvegan Trust's website – or our new area on skye.scot and additionally provided to Highland Council.
4	Police Report – none forthcoming.
5	Treasurer 's Report – DC – £7587.23 – the only expenditure last month was payment for a tardy bill from Carole's Florists. Of the £7587.23, the Community Council have £3237.23 – the balance is Dunvegan Trust money ring fenced for community support payments. The meeting discussed how to increase awareness of the assistance that can be provided without opening ourselves up to fraudulent applications. It was agreed DC would put a notice on the board in the surgery and make staff in the Community Café aware. It was agreed that CAB are well aware of the available funding as are local health visitors.
6	Council Update – DM is away but had sent an email with updates from the last meeting. DM confirmed that the Council were discussing, and DM was supporting a Skye Community Council Forum via Teams. That is on the agenda for first week in April and John Finlayson is arranging. DM confirmed that the Dunvegan School video would be available soon.

	DM said that the Road Marking Enforcement Team can carry out small road marking jobs – like lining car parks. The Council’s Roads Manager is still trying to identify a company willing to come to Skye to mark roads. Work on the Claigan Road passing places and passing place extensions should start in April. DM provided the email address of the contact in regard to Community Payback. JL said that in the past small teams had been able to “Snowcem” halls and generally tidy up. TW to email and investigate our possible use. JL asked that an email was sent to Mackenzie Sutherland thanking him for the road repairs in Dunvegan village and the meeting discussed progress out to Orbst. MB was tasked with sending the email and also sought the committee’s approval to remind Mackenzie about the need for full “please don’t park in passing place signs” on the Claigan Road. Some are missing from the most important passing places. MB showed the meeting a photograph taken that morning of a campervan and a car parked in a passing place – on a blind bend – where there is no passing place post or sign. A large tent was pitched just a couple of metres from the vehicles. MB went on to say that she wished some authority, be it Highland Council, Visit Scotland Nature Scot would categorically say that parking in a passing place (or at the roadside) and pitching a tent is NOT wild camping. TW said they try and put a positive spin on the issue by saying what wild camping is, but not what it isn’t. JL said it was confused by the “Right to Roam”. JL said that he’d heard that Highland Council’s Rangers are to be reinstated. TW agreed he’d heard that they were, and that discussions were being had about where they were to be located. JL confirmed that the committee will take up with DM that if rangers are to be reinstated that we aren’t forgotten. JL will contact DM and specifically request Gordon Willoughby, who was extremely well thought of, should he apply and be re-appointed. JL also said he’d attended the Visitor Levy Meeting at Isle of Skye Candle Co and that no one attending was in favour of the levy. There was a limited support for a flat rate levy or no levy at all. It was widely made clear to Highland Council that if a visitor levy did come in it would drive even more people into wild parking and camping, exacerbating an already fraught situation. Highland Council are in discussion with Holyrood about a different method of levy.
7	Trust Report – Mali MacLennan was unable to attend SY gave the Dunvegan Trust’s report. <u>Minibus</u> – There have been issues with the minibus door and the Trust has been advised it’s time to look for a replacement. The Trust is hoping to apply to Community Regeneration Fund. The Trust are also looking into the possibility of training someone locally as a minibus instructor who could provide MiDAS training to drivers in our area and beyond. <u>Gaeltec</u> – The conveyancing has been held up, but the Trust is hoping this will be resolved in the next few weeks. <u>Play Park</u> – The Trust are delighted to confirm that the park is complete. Two DCT trustees are performing mandatory weekly inspections, and it looks like it's very well used so far!

	JL said how marvellous it was to see the playpark open and it's being used everyday. Well Done to all concerned. <u>Cruachan</u> – Woodland - following the recommendations of the arboricultural survey, and seeking quotes for work to act on those, Dunvegan Trust are going to continue to negotiate hard for minimal outlay on the acquisition. Farmhouse – The Trust have an SLF stage one application to look into dividing Orbost Farmhouse, which has been vacant for over a year, into 2 x 2 bed or 1 x 2 + 1 x 3 bed units. <u>Community Action Plan</u> – The trust are planning to have an event to share the findings of the survey, and really struggling to find a weekend that doesn't have a community event on already! The survey's prize draw will be held at this event. <u>Pitch</u> - The Trust have a rep from Struan CC, Dunvegan NWSkye FC, Gary Wilson Boys Brigade and the head teacher of the primary school willing to join a subcommittee for the pitch. At the meeting DC agreed to be Dunvegan Community Council's representative on the committee. Representatives are also wanted from Waternish CC and Glendale too. It's essential we present a professional and united front to Sports Scotland in particular, so we really need to communicate as a partnership of as many of the local stakeholders as possible. Stakeholders include Dunvegan and Northwest Recreational Group- with DCT, DCC, SCC, NW Boys Brigade, Dunvegan Primary School, and NW Skye FC. The Trust needs to formally decide on the pitch surface based on the evidence that will be presented by the sports pitch consultant we have engaged, and the experience of the football club, but after that it will really just be a waiting game. DCT will work on planning and funding applications. We'll have a (hybrid) meeting in the next couple of weeks to decide on a surface, and then we are going to try to have the full planning submission in before the 2nd of May. DC agreed to keep the community council update. MB asked that consideration be given to Skye Rugby who travel twice a month to Inverness in order to play "home" games as there's nowhere on Skye they can play. <u>School</u> – JL said that it was intended that on Thursday the Highland Council would approve plans to build Dunvegan's new primary school for completion by end of 2027. JL said the pitch would go on the left side of the school, behind John Macleod's house there. It had been hoped that the "spoil" from the building would be placed at the pitch's location to provide drainage but that there'd been a delay in decrofting and this might not be possible. DC queried whether the football pitch was going to be elsewhere – as she'd heard following a football club meeting. JL said he believed that by the school was the intended location with changing room at the school being used. MB asked whether it was already decreed that it's a "football" pitch and not a multi sport field.
8	Planning – Nothing to note.

9	25th Anniversary of the Millenium Stone - Saturday, 21st June 2025 (summer solstice) - Calum McPhail is booked. The meeting discussed licensing for the event and CB is to be asked to see if she can help. DC said she hoped we'd get supplies on sale or return from Johnathon. JL confirmed that the Skye Pipe Band would be happy to come and we're planning an afternoon tea. JL said he'd approach the archive to see if they would be prepared to attend. MB asked about decorating the hall for the afternoon tea and evening event. It is thought that we may have bunting stashed away somewhere.										
10	Any Other Council Business <u>Make a Difference Awards</u> – the meeting discussed this. DC to make an application. <u>Grass Cutting at St Mary's</u> – JL had spoken to Murdo Maciver and he's happy to continue cutting the grass in the village this year. A fee of £350 a cut was agreed plus £750 for St Mary's. JL has spoken to Kevin Gordon at HC and he's agreed they'll do two cuts at St Mary's – including the first cut of the year (the most onerous). The meeting discussed using the discretionary fund to help pay for the cuts and MB is to provide the application form to JL. JL said we need to speak to Dunvegan Trust to ask about the agreed increase to our grant. <u>Other Roads</u> – DC has been asked to bring to the community council's attention the state of the Aligro Road (from Mr Latto's home at 1 and 2 to the end) – last done in 2016. Council says road not adopted but it was adopted in 1988. DC said she'd spoken to DM and he'd forwarded an email to the roads department. MB asked if this was the same situation that the disabled resident's living in the road opposite the old cemetery is in (Mrs Gentleman), JL agreed it probably is. MB was asked to include a request for both of these to be attended to when emailing Mackenzie Sutherland as previous action.										
11	Next Meeting – Next meeting is 29th April at 7:30pm. It was confirmed that our meetings for the next financial year are at 7:30pm on Tuesdays: <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>29th April 2025</td><td>30th September 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>27th May 2025 (also AGM)</td><td>28th October 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>24th June 2025</td><td>25th November 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>29th July 2025</td><td>27th January 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>26th August 2025</td><td>24th February 2026</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	29 th April 2025	30 th September 2025	27 th May 2025 (also AGM)	28 th October 2025	24 th June 2025	25 th November 2025	29 th July 2025	27 th January 2026	26 th August 2025	24 th February 2026
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