

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 7:30pm

Present – John Laing (JL), Donna Campbell (DC), Philippa MacRae (PM), Tim Wallis (TW), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Christine Brennan (CB), Mandy Boswell (MB),

Apologies –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 the last meeting were agreed. They were proposed by SY and seconded by TW.	
4	Treasurer's Report – DC said we've £5,337.44 in the bank, after receipt of Dunvegan Community Trust's contribution of £1,500 towards Christmas lights. £58 had been paid out for the Remembrance Day wreath and a gift for the piper. £274 had been spent on outdoor Christmas lights for general use.	
5	Council Update – DM had a planning meeting in Inverness today and tomorrow so is unable to attend tonight's meeting, but sends his apologies. DM confirmed that he has raised the issue of Dunvegan losing our dentist. Speeding – DM said he'd spoken to Mackenzie Sutherland who has spoken with the Roads Safety Team in regard to speeding up to the castle and we should get census figures (speeding) with the possibility of enforcement. DM is to get more information on that and let us know. MB said that the couple who'd emailed us in July about the Coral Beach carpark and public toilets – a copy of the email DM took away with him at our July meeting have still not received a reply. MB chased this up in October. MB said she thought it shameful that nobody has responded. MB is to chase DM.	JL/DM MB
6	Trust Update – SY explained the Trust had visited ILM Highland and learned of the great work that they do refurbishing and recycling white goods and also supporting local people. The minibus has been ordered.	
7	Planning – Nothing to discuss	
8	Dentist – DC said that there have been two have been interviewed it is hoped the position will soon be offered to one of them.	DM

9	Young People – JL said that there's a Festive Afternoon Tea at Dunvegan School on Saturday 6th December and asked if the Community Council should attend. MB agreed to prepare display board. CB said we could borrow Dunvegan Traders' display board.	JL/MB
10	Dunvegan Stakeholder Meeting – JL said he'd attended the recent meeting and that agreement had now been reached with Morgan Sindall for Broadford School and it is looking favourable that they will also be doing Dunvegan School. There are one or two minor planning issues to be addressed for Dunvegan School and it is hoped that there'll be a turf cutting ceremony on 12th December 2025. JL said that there had been an issue with the electrical connection of the new houses but after intervention of local MSPs and others it had been resolved. It is hoped that the project will go out to tender next year. CB asked how many houses were planned and JL confirmed the original intention was 16, but that building costs and funding may mean that this number is reduced. DC asked if they're to be privately owned or housing association and JL said it would be a mix of social housing and shared ownership, perhaps even with some sites for self-build. MB said she hopes that the homes can be designated for residential homes – and cannot be used for Airbnb rental. TW said if we've got concerns about the homes staying in local rental/ownership we should raise it with the housing association. JL said that we've time enough to express our concerns when the project is further along. The next meeting on 21st January 2026.	
11	Christmas Lights – MB said we'd had an email from one of the shops at Lochside requesting Christmas lights. DC said the big lights were going up on 3rd December. We've received £1500 from Dunvegan Trust. DC said she'd looked at replacement and additional lamppost lights which vary from £300 to over £400 each. DC, PM, and CB had looked at some strings of lights and smaller decorations. £270 has been spent on battery powered, solar and plug in lights to be used throughout the village. The Christmas tree for outside the hall will be coming in time for Light Up the Highlands. The need for storage of Christmas lighting was discussed.	
12	Coral Beach Car Park – MB said she'd nothing official to report but could confirm that for a couple of weeks there's been work ongoing which sounds like rock being broken. The neighbours are keen to find out when the toilet block is going to be built. TW asked if there's water and power there. MB said not at present, but there are eight EV charging points planned. TW noted that lack of power cannot be used as reason not to build the toilet block. MB said she is concerned about the mains electricity infrastructure – she fears that every time someone puts their car on to charge that the locals' lights will go dim! DL asked if there'd been any road repairs. MB confirmed that much needed repairs up at the castle end of the road had been made.	

13	Roads – DC noted that no repairs have been made on the Feorlig Road, JL confirmed it was in a sorry state.	
14	Grit Bins – SY confirmed not one seen in Vatten. The meeting discussed the small grit piles just wash away. JL said he'd speak with DM about it.	JL
15	Admin Tasks – It was agreed that our minutes should include an action column and that first draft minutes should go to all members, not just those who attended the meeting. MB asked for first draft to be approved by those who attended as quickly as possible. MB asked for confirmation it was OK to claim for stationery expenses.	MB / All
16	Access to Bank – Vice Chairman – The meeting discussed banking and the need for a contingency plan in the event of the chairman or treasurer being away. MB proposed SY as vice chairman; TW seconded. The meeting agreed.	
17	Calum MacPhail Evening – The meeting discussed ticket sales, a float, the bar, staffing, raffle, etc. MB suggested it was advertised that it was a cash bar only.	
18	Community Café – MB said that she and SY had decorated a Community Council Tree at the café that morning. She also asked that it be passed on that the café have a couple of spare artificial trees if anyone might like one.	
19	Emergency Medical Care – DC said that someone from Dunvegan had fallen. She was taken to Portree Hospital where she was told that there was a four hour wait. They were told to go to Broadford; where the wait was three and half hours. The meeting went on to discuss the dire state of hospital facilities on Skye and the poor provision of what should be standard medical procedures. Why has a new hospital, like Broadford, not got a scanner? JL reminded the meeting that surgery used to be carried out at a hospital in Edinbane!	
20	Dunvegan Car Park – SY brought our attention to a complaint she'd received about an extremely large pothole in the car park and the poor state the carpark's surface, the parking bay lines, and the fencing around the car park. After discussion JL said he'd discuss with DM.	JL
21	Next Meeting – Next meeting is 27 th January 2026 at 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge	