

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Thursday 29th January 2026 at 7:30pm

Rescheduled from Tuesday 27th January 2026

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

Apologies –Drew Millar (DM), Philippa MacRae (PM)

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 with one alteration – to remove Roag from the reference to grit bins. With that amendment TW proposed SY seconded.	MB
4	Matters Arising from Last Meeting (not covered below) JL – said that there were many issues outstanding with DM, and after this meeting he'll refer to DM. JL said he and MB had before Christmas attended the Festive Afternoon Tea at the primary school.	JL
5	Dentist – The meeting discussed the dire need for the provision of dental services in Dunvegan. CB said she'd been asked about the matter. DC said she'd asked today if anyone has been appointed and there's no word of anyone having been or about to be appointed. MB is to contact NHS Highland (TW will see if he can find the name and email address of someone in charge).	MB/TW
6	Stakeholder Meeting – JL said that it was all pretty positive. Broadford is underway. It looks like Morgan Sindall who are building Broadford will be appointed for Dunvegan. JL says rock breaking will begin later this year. Hopefully good news about the football pitch too. JL went on to say that it is hoped that the building of the new houses will go out to tender in May or June. DC asked when the school is hoped to be finished. JL said hopefully end of 2027. She said that when her daughter was at school the new school was being talked of (her daughter's now in her late 40s!).	
7	Christmas Lights – We tried to buy additional lights to hang from the lampposts, but had left it too near to Christmas. Four more of the existing large commercial light fixtures broke this past Christmas. The lights are four years old and it's the first storm	

	damage they've suffered. MB asked if it was felt that the damage was due to them being four years old and in a storm, or if that amount of damage should be expected if they were new. JL said they really aren't very substantial. Some from Braes are better quality, but the ones made of tubular metal were not. MB asked if it might be a possible to get a simple – but strong – frame made locally from which easily replaceable lights could hang. MB to bring forward in June meeting. We had bought some relatively unexpensive domestic type external lighting which withstood the season.	MB
8	Coral Beach Car Park – JL asked MB if there was any news. She said work was ongoing, many lorries a day delivering rock. She said she'd been told that the cattle grid nearest the beach had been broken and has been filled in. She'd been asked by a resident to find out if this was a permanent solution. She confirmed that there was no straight answer from anyone official about what's being done. The couple at 1 Claigan have still not had a reply to their letter last July. There's local gossip about whether the toilet block is to be built now; depends on who you speak to and who they last chatted to on site. JL asked that MB email Ewan MacPherson at "the department"/SCRIPID and ask for an update and a copy of the project plan.	MB
9	Roads – JL said some repairs had been made to the Feorlig Road, but it's still pretty shocking. DC said she'd very disappointed. JL to take up with DM.	JL
10	Bank – We're trying to get SY added as a signatory. JL is to try and get this done.	JL
11	Defibrillators – DC said that there'd be a problem with one of the defibrillators and she'd spoken with Inverness. They said they weren't concerned about the battery (which is showing 50% charge). DC was told that if a replacement battery is required in the first four years then it's free, thereafter we'll have to pay approximately £200. The pads were replaced. They are located at: - Atholl Filling Station - Community Café - Harlosh - Roag DC said that the school children are to do a map for us. MB asked whether when Coral Beach carpark works were completed one could be provided there. JL confirmed that one had already been promised by Peter Macdonald. MB to remind.	MB
12	Village Car Park – JL confirmed that he'd brought the large pothole to DM's attention.	

13	Planning – Having worked through matters arising from last meeting it was agreed to discuss planning so that Jaine Mahon could leave the meeting if she wished. <u>25/04761/FUL – Land 85M East of 22 Kilmuir</u> – Jaine explained her numerous concerns about this planning application as published in her comment on the Highland Council’s Planning Application portal. TW said that he was concerned that the bat survey has not been published on the planning portal and that the procedure may not have been adhered to in regard to dates for consultation. He affirmed that all documents should be present in order that the public could make educated comment. DC said she wished to abstain from comment. JL said he felt it was a very good use of a brown-field site and has no objection. CB said she could not comment. SY said she objected. MB said she felt the amount of accommodation this small site is proposing to support. Why, for staff accommodation, does it need campervan hookup points? Without the hookup points the cabins could be further away from the boundary. Additionally, she felt it should be stipulated that the accommodation should only be for staff/workers – either of Macleod Estate or for other employers within the village and that the employers must take responsibility for the behaviour of the occupants. TW said his concern is lack of transparency and poor processes which is not local democracy. After much discussion it was agreed that the Community Council would comment – but not object – bringing to the planning officer’s attention the accepted concerns brought to our attention. <u>25/04856/PIP – Erection of house (renewal of Planning Permission 23/00984/PIP)</u> – it was agreed that no comment of any sort needs to be made.	JL/MB
14	Treasurer’s Report – DC said we’ve spent £5,050 on the hardship fund although PM may still have a small amount at the post office. £3,748.39 in the bank, but £1,250 is earmarked for next Christmas’s lights. Profit from the dance was £405.15.	
15	Trust Update – JL thanked SY for her time as the Trust liaison with the Council and welcomed MB into the role. <u>Minibus</u> – should now be here; DC confirmed she’d seen a photo. <u>Orbost and Cruachan</u> – Conveyancing is hoped to be completed by the end of February. <u>Staff</u> – two part time staff have been appointed to start during February. One part funded by the Scottish Land Fund and is working on the woodland. The other new employee is working on administrative functions. <u>Sports Pitch</u> – the land purchase is ongoing and hopefully imminent. There’s some deep peat there which has to be handled and removed in a responsible way. The Trust are investigating an environmentally friendly way to achieve an all-weather pitch. <u>Website</u> – the website is about to be redesigned and the Trust are asking the Community Council if we’d like a page, do we want to upload minutes and do would we	MB

	like a newsletter/what's on area?. It was agreed we would like a page, and for the minutes to reside there and for and the Community Council to have a newsletter type page (which must be distinct from The Trust's Newsletter). <u>SSEN</u> – The Trust are looking into possible funding applications. <u>Macleod Parliament</u> – is 1st to 7th August. Kevin Tolmie (who'd been in contact with JL in 2024) has contacted the Trust about Young Macleod Volunteers. Apparently, there are 12 volunteers and we might be able to get between zero and three mornings only. Not knowing how many volunteers would be provided for how long makes it difficult to gauge or commit to the jobs that need doing. It was agreed that the Community Council would leave it to the Trust to manage whatever volunteers available. SY said she was disappointed about how little time might be granted; she's been compiling a large list of jobs to do! SY has asked that I forward to MM the list she'd compiled. <u>Gaeltec Building</u> – SY pointed out that the solar panels are being installed on the Gaeltec building.	
16	Council Update – JL said DM had asked if there was anything pending and JL had said he'd inform him after this meeting. The list so far; roads, carpark and dentist.	
17	Insurance – It was agreed the existing Zurich policy was sufficient for our needs. JL said the one thing we should be mindful of insurance at "events" – but we're to confirm whether the Trust's insurance would provide cover for joint events.	MB
18	Emergency Plan – JL and MB attended the first of the Skye and Raasay Community Council Forums. The topic was emergency planning which Chrissie Gillies has been given to encourage. Highland Council would like all community councils to set up an emergency plan. The meeting felt that there is an element of buck passing from the council. JL said that there's a lot of good in it – but a lot of thought and work would have to go in to the task. TW said he feels emergency planning is the remit of the Highland Council, fire and rescue and health. JL said he thinks there's an SSE fund for emergency planning and perhaps we could work together with the Trust to make a subcommittee to get a plan made. MB said her greatest concerns were what if we lose telephone and internet communication due to an event like a storm – think of Tiree's recent problems, or if there were an attack on the UK's internet infrastructure just about every lifeline service, transportation, healthcare as well as food shops, fuel stations would be affected. It must be remembered that there might also be 100s of non-residents in the area. The meeting also discussed what the immediate local response might be if there was an environmental issue – for example an oil spill.	MB

19	Wrap Signs – They’ve held up well. JL confirmed the quality was good. DC asked if we thought people read them – JL said he think they do. MB is to try to contact as many community councils as possible and if there’s sufficient interest she’s to go ahead with an update and reprinted signs – but there’s no point if it’s only us and Kilmuir. MB pointed out that if we haven’t got a consensus to proceed by mid-March there’s no point. Kilmuir contacted us enquiring about some more signs. I wrote to Ewan Macpherson to see if he still wants some as he’d asked last year. Highland Council have said what changes they want to be made. It really isn’t cost effective to have less than 50 or better still 100 at a time. MB had wanted to bring this up at the ward forum but had been unsuccessful.	MB
20	Community Engagement – The meeting discussed this and there’s to be no further action at this time.	
21	Macleod Parliament Jobs and Village Clean Up – This had been discussed with the Trust Update above. MB to give list to MM. JL said he thought SSEN might fund this work. JL said the path up to St Mary’s was in need of a tidy up and some additional gravel. There so much that could be done to make Dunvegan look a bit better. JL wondered if we could get funding to get this done by local workmen during the winter. DC asked if those who are on community service might be able to be used for clean up. MB to make enquiries.	MB
22	Any Other Business MB said that she’d heard from PC Reid who’d sent apologies for this meeting and we’re to let him know if there was anything we’d like him to do. MB to contact him to ask him about dealing with speeding in the village. CB asked that we enquire what’s happening with the cattle grid at Mill Road. JL said he’d enquire.	MB JL
23	Next Meeting – Next meeting is 24th February 2026 at 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge. It was agreed that in the coming financial year meetings would take monthly except in August and December with the AGM forming part of the May meeting.	