

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 7:30pm

Present – John Laing (JL), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Donna Campbell (DC), Philippa MacRae (PM), Tim Wallis (TW), Mandy Boswell (MB), Drew Millar (DM)

Apologies – 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 PM, seconded by SY.	
4	Matters Arising from Last Meeting (not covered below) Dentistry – We've received a letter of response from NHS Highland saying looking for Senior Dental Officer. It explains cover until end of June 2026. MB to write mid-June to ask for intention for rest of year.	MB
	Coral Beach Car Park – MB confirmed that we've been advised that we aren't going to get temporary portaloos. DM said that there's the intention to use the septic tank previously at Storr (which was too small) but he's asked the council to double check it will be sufficient for the need.	
	Cattle Grid – nothing further to report – no reply to email to council of 6 th May.	
	Christmas Lights – nothing further to report at present.	
	Wrap signs – a replacement sign was requested for the pier. MB confirmed that the sign previously used at John MacSween's croft in Claigan has been moved there. MB said that we're probably going to need some more signs next year so she'll work towards getting the artwork updated later this year ready for some new signs next year. TW said he'd been in the castle café recently and heard visitors comment on how useful the signs are. JL commented on how well they've stood up to the weather.	MB
	Brown Tourist Sign – MB confirmed that she'd written to Susan Andrews at Highland Council and had yet to receive a reply. MB will chase.	MB
	Extending 40mph Speed Limit on Dunvegan to Portree Road – DM said he's awaiting a reply.	DM
	Traffic Count – MB asked DM who we have to contact at the council in regard to getting realistic traffic counts. She pointed out that Dunvegan Community Trust have been, for a considerable period of time, for realistic traffic counts.	

	MB asked DM to get someone from Highland Council to liaise with Mali at Dunvegan Trust about summertime traffic counts in the Community Council area. DM said that he'd ask Susan Andrews to contact Mali.	DM
5	Treasurer's Report – DC said there was no changes since end of April. We have £3,706.32 in the bank (£1856.32 available funds, £600 earmarked for hardship fund and £1250 for Christmas lights).	
6	Council Update – DM confirmed the school project is proceeding as planned and other topics are covered elsewhere within the minutes.	
7	Roads – JL confirmed that he and MB had attended the online Highland Council Ward Forum the previous evening. JL said it was interesting that Highland Council said that when they were working on A roads that they'd look at the U roads that if there was excessive tar they'd try and work on them. JL went on to say that the Feorlig Road was bad. DM said he'd had contact about the state of the Ard Roag Road and had passed that on to Andy Bone. JL said the Feorlig Road needs to be done from end to end and that he occasionally fills in the potholes himself, but wonders if this is counter productive as he worries when council staff visit they think the road's not as bad as it has been! DM asked that when writing to the generic email address about roads to copy in councillors. DM said that they'd like to deal with the potholes properly. He also went on to discuss that getting the workforce is a problem. DM said that years of underinvestment were being dealt with in the last year and current year and that in October this year we need to highlight roads that need to be covered in the next financial year. The meeting discussed the need for better placed notification of road closures – well before you get to the closure. The meeting also discussed that we need to remember that many visitors do not have a good command of English and may not understand signs. JL suggested that the Community Council pursue Andrew Bone and take him on a visit of the minor roads in our area which need attention. DM agreed and said that this would be useful for next year's programme of works if repair not able to be done this year. JL went on to say that he'd been trying to make the point at the Ward Forum that Skye needs another £3.1million next year to continue the good work.	
8	Trust Update – MB <u>Gaeltec Building</u> – application has gone in to the Islands Fund for the first phase of renovations. Some remedial window work has been completed to make watertight before renovation.	

	<u>Orbost Farmhouse</u> – the Trust have applied to Highland Council for an exemption waiver for the council tax on the unoccupied property. It is hoped that the planning application will go in soon. <u>Minibus</u> – passed its inspection. <u>Playpark</u> – new bolts have been ordered for ride. MB asked DM about the inspection backlog, he said Highland Council were aware of the backlog and that the inspection would get done. <u>Traffic Counts</u> – MB reminded DM about the Trust’s need for meaningful traffic counts.	
9	Planning Matters – MB said only application in is for the temporary buildings, including accommodation, opposite the Gaeltec Building. The meeting discussed this and that it was very much what had been there before. The meeting agreed that we should note no objection and acknowledge the necessity for the application. The meeting also discussed the additional documentation associated with the application for staff accommodation and campervan spaces for Macleod Estate.	
10	Let’s Make Dunvegan Beautiful – SY said that she’d applied to Dunvegan Community Trust for a grant for £1000 for planters and it was successful. SY has appealed for 9 pavement slabs and has yet to source them. SY has negotiated with Highland Wood for 9 planters with lining. DC asked about the planters we already have and SY said many were beyond repair. Bedding plants are on order. Rachel Jackson asked if Calum Campbell is able to make some new blue planters for near the surgery. SY has had a call back from James Bates regarding Community Payback – and the pavement at Lonmore is to be the priority. Apparently, those providing Community Payback can’t clean signs – but they bring their own tools and clean up the debris created. The meeting discussed whether some of this work might be carried out by Macleod Parliament volunteers too. The path to St Mary’s is on their list. SY went on to say that Rebecca from GE Vernova and a team were coming on 2nd June to tidy the carpark. Volunteers are from SSEN, RJ Macleod, Balfour Beatty. There is still £275.08 in hand for this project. The meeting asked whether Highland Council might have some surplus – even broken slabs that could be used. DM said he’d ask. JL thanked SY for her hard work and for the great job she’s doing.	
11	Keys for the notice boards at the public toilets – nobody’s admitted to having keys.	
12	AOB – Lonmore Pavements – MB said a Facebook message had been forward by CB about the pavement at Lonmore (as already noted by SY – see above). SY said that she’s meeting the coordinator of Community Payback during first week in June. MB asked if the Community Payback participants aren’t going to be available promptly whether the Macleod Parliament volunteers would be used and SY confirmed. JL went on to say he thought it might be Highland Council’s responsibility; DM said he’d check. The council has since said it is the tenants’ responsibility.	
13	Next Meeting – Includes AGM – 30th June 2026 at 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge, Dunvegan Village Hall.	