

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Tuesday 28th April 2026 at 7:30pm

Present – John Laing (JL), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Donna Campbell (DC), Philippa MacRae (PM), Christine Brennan (CB), Mandy Boswell (MB), Drew Millar (DM), Mali MacLellan, Dunvegan Community Trust (MM)

Apologies –Tim Wallis (TW)

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 CB, seconded by SY.	
4	Matters Arising from Last Meeting (not covered below) Dentistry – JL said he'd no further word. MB said that she'd written to Fiona Davies asking for clarification of the arrangements made for Dunvegan which has been acknowledge and we are awaiting a response.	
	Coral Beach Car Park – DM said it was looking very good and that Ewan MacPherson (SRPID) is quite delighted. No toilets to be installed until probably next year. MB pointed out that the Community Council had asked for Portaloos to be installed temporarily – if only for the summer. DM said that Portaloos would not be provided. DC said that lack of toilets could be a problem – DM said it was a problem last year, MB pointed out that there'll be more people parked there now; DM said that 'we don't know that'! A discussion went on regarding the provision of toilets and DM pointed out that it is not the council's responsibility to provide toilets. MB said that she understood that county councils didn't have the responsibility to provide toilets but that the district councils, which have now been done away with, did have a responsibility. DM said that parking meters will be installed at some stage. DM said that there's a suggestion that like the setup at Staffin Pier there may be a commercial opportunity offered in regard to the toilet building, its full use, and cleaning of the toilets. There is talk that the old septic tank from The Storr will be used at the Coral Beach facility – it is being replaced at the Storr as it's too small. Ewan MacPherson has suggested to the township that people keep that area clear of livestock over the summer months and negotiations are ongoing.	

	DM went on to say that the Claigan Road 'is still to be done' and there are rock piles somewhere. Then there is to be discussion about whether there is to be overnight parking allowed in the Coral Beach carpark. MB said that she'd written to Andrew Bone, Mackenzie Sutherland's replacement, to thank him for the remedial work done on the Claigan Road.	
	Roads – JL said road continue to be a major issue. MB asked if any other repairs than those made on the Claigan Road had been made. The meeting agreed there were none. DM said there is a team working in Sleat and Waternish. The Waternish work being funded by SSSEN. Work is ongoing on the Hill Road. The schedule is in place. DM will be attending another roads meeting on Monday and asked for input. JL said that it was the number of potholes that get worse and worse. DM asked that we send him an email about the worst affected – Feorlig and Harlosh. MB pointed out that those were in her email of 18th April. DM said getting manpower is the problem. There's no word of white lining. Still waiting to get a machine. DC reminded DM about the state of the village public car park. DM said he'd speak to Traffic Enforcement who have a small white liner which can be used in carparks – but they're short staffed as well.	JL DM
	Cattle Grid – MB and DM confirmed that there's been no reply to emails about this. DM asked MB to send an email to Andrew Bone asking for further information. She pointed out that she'd done that yesterday – the day before the meeting asking for an update. DM asked that MB write again specifically about the cattle grid.	MB
	Christmas Lights – MB confirmed that she'd written to Highland Council and that Willie MacKinnon had replied referring to Stuart Bruce; Willie had asked us whether we'd discussed lights with our insurers and I confirmed the JL had spoken with them. Awaiting response from Stuart Bruce. JL explained to DM that last winter which was quite stormy one broke in the wind – the issue being that Highland Council fit them to the lampposts. DC said she's beginning to wonder if Dunvegan is the place for large light fittings on the poles.	
	Grass Cutting – JL said he thought Murdo had started the grass cutting and confirmed that Highland Council are to do two cuts at St. Mary's Church.	
	Dunvegan Traders – MB said that Dunvegan Traders are planning to install a nice map in the carpark (no reply to emails about permission required). They'd also like to take on the two display boards attached to the toilet block wall – does anyone know where the keys are – last minutes in the notice boards are from 2021? DM said he'd check with HC; we'd put out a Facebook post asking.	

5	Treasurer's Report – DC said we have £3,706.32 in the bank (£1856.32 available funds, £600 earmarked for hardship fund and £1250 for Christmas lights). £250 also promised to Let's Make Dunvegan Beautiful. Recent expenditure to MB for stationery £42.07. PM confirmed there is also still £400 in the post office hardship fund.	
6	Council Update – DM confirmed covered in matters arising.	
7	Trust Update – Playpark Inspection – MM said in collaboration with Portree and Braes we were due to have annual inspection which was planned to be w/c 6th April 2026 which has not yet happened. DM said that Highland Council is swamped and he'd try to ascertain when it is to be inspected. The Trust are to discuss at next meeting. Midas Assessment – This has been delayed until later in the year. MB asked if giving more details of the benefits might help getting more interest. Orbost Farmhouse – Plans from architect for planning permission should be provided within the next month. Trust funding this project up to planning permission stage, then will be looking for funding for building work. JL asked about the accommodation and MM confirmed that it will become a semi-detached two bedroom and three bedroom property. Housing Allocation Policy – MM discussed the draft allocation policy for Orbost Farmhouse. MM to email draft policy to CC for comment.	
8	Planning Matters – nothing to discuss.	
9	Let's Make Dunvegan Beautiful – SY said she'd been busy. Bedding plants have been ordered and are expected mid-May. An application has gone to Dunvegan Community Trust for additional/replacement planters. PM confirmed there is money at the post office. SY has been in contact for Community Payback help. MM confirmed that there may be help available for Clan Macleod volunteers. MB suggested asking on Facebook if anyone has spare bedding plants or bulbs, etc. SY said she'd set up a new Facebook user – Flora Dunvegan who's responsible for the Let's Make Dunvegan Beautiful page. JL thanked SY for her hard work.	
10	AOB – Defibrillator Map – The meeting discussed the map made by Dunvegan Primary School Students – what a great job they've done. MM confirmed that the defibrillator at the pier was now operational and she'll add that to the map. MM said that she's going to ask the Facebook page All Things Dunvegan to pin the PDF to their page, SY suggested sending to Jennie Chapman at Dunvegan Traders for sharing with businesses – especially accommodation providers.	
	Wrap Signs – CB has requested a replacement wrap sign (skye.scot) for installation at the pier. JL asked if we'd any spare. MB advised that, in addition to the two she'd bought, she's got the ones from the Claigan Road and Coral Beach Carpark. The ones on the road were removed before the start of LAST season in readiness for the promised extended and new passing places (which have yet to be done). The one at the car park had recently been rescued too. It was agreed that one of the Claigan Road signs would be allocated to the pier. MB to arrange.	MB

	Brown Tourist Sign – CB asked for a sign down by the junction outside The Dunvegan pointing to Dunvegan Village. This is to advise visitors travelling to/from Portree/Dunvegan Castle that the village is there. JL said he thought there used to be a brown tourist sign there. DM suggested ‘Village Centre – Car Park and Toilets’. DM suggested we contact Susan Andrews. MB said we’d asked for a sign at Coral Beach carpark advising that public toilets are in Dunvegan and it was agreed to ask Susan Andrews about this too.	MB
	Community Liaison Group – Skye Reinforcement Project – JL said that the group had met last Wednesday. This group deals with the new line that goes from Ft. Augustus to Ardmere – the bit affecting us being Edinbane Substation (up Balmeanach Road) wooden poles from there to Ardmere. Perhaps to start in June, significant number of lorry journeys to Dunvegan Quarry where the poles will be prepared and then helicoptered to the point of installation. In total two year’s work. A Traffic Management Plan is being prepared. Traffic will come up the A863 (from Struan), along Hornival, and then back towards the village on the A850 to the old quarry. The traffic will NOT pass through the village. Information should be visible on SSEN’s website soon. JL has asked that SSEN put on an information day in Dunvegan to explain what’s happening. SSEN has asked that we keep them informed of special events so that they can, if possible, work around them. JL pointed out that there is going to be significant traffic throughout Skye during the construction which overall will take five years. Please refer to https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/skye-reinforcement/ and sign up for project updates.	
	Extending 40mph Speed Limit on Dunvegan to Portree Road – SY said she’d been asked why the 40mph limit finishes so close to Dunvegan and suggested that it be extended. The Community Council discussed this and agreed it would be sensible for it to be extended to at least beyond the old quarry – especially given that the old quarry is to be used by SSEN for the Skye Reinforcement Project. DM said if we would like it extending we need to write to Andrew Bone – copy to John Finlayson and DM – mention the projected volume of traffic to use the quarry for the Skye Reinforcement Project. (After the meeting DM confirmed that he’d put in the request for the extension past the quarry).	
	Traffic Counts – MM asked DM if traffic counts have been ongoing. DM said there have been; JL said he wondered if it was part of planning for the Skye Reinforcement Project. MM and JL agreed they’d seen one at Balmeanach. MM said that although we don’t cover Glendale – all Glendale traffic travels through Dunvegan and Glendale hasn’t had an official summer count for something like 15 years.	
11	Next Meeting – Includes AGM – 26th May 2026 at 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge, Dunvegan Village Hall.	