

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON Tuesday 30th September 2025 7:30pm

Present – John Laing (JL), Donna Campbell (DC), Tim Wallis (TW), Christine Brennan (CB), Mandy Boswell (MB), Mali MacLennan – Dunvegan Trust (MM), Breda McCarthy, Colin Halley, Filip Krejci, Karen MacSween, Kim Beaton, Klara Krejci, Mark Francis, Peter John MacSween, Roz Macaskill

Apologies – Philippa MacRae (PM) Sylvia Meyer (SY), Drew Millar (DM), Jason Andrews (ranger)

1	Chairman's Welcome – JL opened the meeting, welcomed those present and gave apologies.
2	Declaration of Interest – None were declared.
3	Planning – The meeting heard from Klara Krejci about her and her husband's planning applications at 18c Roag and then went on to hear from Karen MacSween and Peter John MacSween about his planning application at Claigan. The committee agreed that it was useful to hear from the applicants and thanked them for attending.
4	Minutes of last Meeting – The minutes of July's meeting were agreed. They were proposed by TW and seconded by DC.
5	Treasurer 's Report – In the bank at the moment we have £4,519.44. Approximately £2,500 of that is fund money. Since the last meeting £1398 has been paid out – primarily for grass cutting with other costs for Dunvegan Hall and a membership fee for SLCVO. There have been no further applications to the hardship fund.
6	Council Update – JL explained that DM is away on holiday.
7	Trust Update – MM confirmed that the trust had secured funding for a new 16 seat minibus which should arrive towards the end of the year or early next year. She said that a driver assessor is required for Midas assessments and that the Trust were hoping to train someone locally and will be advertising for the post in the near future. MM explained that there is to be a community transport workshop and asked for interested parties to attend. She went on to say that funding has been provided by The Scottish Land Fund to purchase Orbost Farmhouse and Cruachan Woodland. This will create two woodland crofts as well as two affordable homes in the farmhouse. Gaeltec is still trundling on through the legal process. MM asked the committee if plans to have additional bottle bank facilities for the village whether we'd only want bottle banks in the new location – the meeting agreed that the existing bins should stay and additional ones be placed elsewhere. MM also said that the plans for the playing field were still in progress.

8	Speeding in Dunvegan – JL said that DM has been taking this up with Mackenzie Sutherland at Highland Council. JL had also met with some of the shopkeepers Mackenzie Sutherland says that additional parking cannot be provided at the shops and that hopefully the carpark at the church could be utilised more. However, that leads on to the concerns about speeding, especially with children crossing the road. JL said that Mackenzie Sutherland suggests that the Road Safety Team install some of the pneumatic speed measuring systems so that the extent of the speeding can be ascertained. Mackenzie Sutherland says that we need to pursue to the police to take more action. JL said that he'd asked Mackenzie Sutherland to install the measuring devices to gather data; TW reminded the meeting that if the data is to be gathered out of season – then it should also be reassessed during the season. The meeting went on to discuss the concerns of the shopkeepers that traffic just passes them by and that the building could do with a spruce up and signage. But discussion returned to the safety of children visiting the playpark and the possibility of a zebra crossing between the church carpark and the playpark entrance.
9	Coral Beach Car Park and Claigan Passing Places – JL asked MB if she'd heard anything. She confirmed that she had not; she'd seen DM about a week ago and he'd intended to send an email update before the meeting. MB referred to Peter John MacSween, he confirmed that a digger has been there, and they'd hit blue rock. Peter John MacSween confirmed that he's been approached by the council to provide material to build up the carpark area as they can't dig down through the rock. He's also to supply hard core for the additional/extended passing places.
10	Dunvegan School – JL asked TW if there was an update. TW confirmed plans are moving ahead "at pace" and that Broadford's due to start with Dunvegan six to nine months later. JL said completion was expected to be autumn of 2027. The discussion moved on to SSSEN and the cost of providing service for the new homes to be built near the school. The issue is only with the power supply for the housing as the new school will be seen as a straight replacement for the existing school (although being more energy efficient consumption will be less). MB mentioned concern that initially Broadford and Dunvegan Schools were somewhat linked – with Dunvegan following Broadford closely but that Highland Council's latest press releases did not mention Dunvegan. The meeting discussed that there may have been some 'slippage' but there was still the intention Dunvegan's school be completed in 2027.
11	Calum MacPhail – Booked for Saturday 29th November. TW agreed to help out on the door. MM is arranging the licence and volunteered to help man the bar, as did MB. MM said that there was a gig in the hall the night before so suggested we ask that the stage and the bar are left in place. DC said that the proceeds from the event she'd like to suggest are spent on a community Christmas party.

12	Grit Piles – The meeting discussed the existing grit piles and it was agreed existing piles should be topped up and that additional piles be provided at Ard Roag and Claigan.
13	Streetlights in the Crescent – DC said the streetlights in the Crescent aren't working, and there's an elderly resident who is concerned.
14	Christmas Lights – The meeting discussed the poor state of the Christmas lights. JL asked if they were worth repairing. Peter John MacSween offered to help with repairs. The meeting thanked him. DC went on to say well at the Calum MacPhail concert – perhaps we could be buy some more lights. It was suggested that local businesses might sponsor some lights and it was agreed that we would try to get sponsorship.
15	AOB Community Climate Conference – Inverness – it was agreed we will not attend. Dunvegan Trust Community Transport Workshop – MB and SY to attend SLCVO – AGM in Broadford – TW agreed to attend Skye and Lochalsh Rivers Trust – it was agreed we will not attend CAL Estates – TW and JL to attend NHS Highland Review – it was agreed we would not attend Crofting Commission – Reminder for annual notice in 2026
16	Next Meeting – Next meeting is 28 th October at 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge