

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 7:30pm

Present – John Laing (JL), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Philippa MacRae (PM), Tim Wallis (TW), Christine Brennan (CB), Mandy Boswell (MB) – Members of the public present Filip Krejci and Klara Krejci.

Apologies –Drew Millar (DM), Donna Campbell (DC),

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 TW, seconded by PM.	
4	Matters Arising from Last Meeting (not covered below) Dentist – JL said he was delighted we have a locum dentist, although some people have been told we don't! We think it may be that he's not taking on new patients but MB is to write to NHS Scotland and ask for clarification situation, and also express our disappointment that we hadn't been told. The dentist is John Jolly who was working in Dunvegan 19 years ago and patients are delighted to see him again. We understand that he's going away again at some point and then coming back to us again. Coral Beach Car Park – MB said that they're busy working on it and that she suspects that they're about to start to tar it. She went on to say that the road is abominable. PM and SY confirmed that they'd travelled on the Claigan Road recently and it was, in places, very poor. JL went on to say that the condition of all our roads are deplorable, getting worse and worse. TW stated that many of the last lot of 'mends' were falling to bits already. JL said that the next Community Council Ward Forum is on roads and will be our opportunity to make our displeasure known to Highland Council. He went on to say that our MP, Angus MacDonald had been in Portree and had posted of Facebook about a pothole in Portree – he was reminded by many that there's more to Skye than Portree – and our roads matter! JL asked MB to write to Mackenzie Sutherland saying that we need some maintenance carried out – copy to DM. CB said that the cattle grid on Mill Road was still marked off with bollards and that two new signs with speed limits on had been recently put up. One has already been damaged as it's too close to the road. Bank Account - JL still working on getting SY added to the bank account.	MB MB

	Emergency Planning – MB said she’s hoping that the Trust will be the instigator for this.	
5	Treasurer’s Report – DC is away; JL said that he thought there’d been no expenditure since last month. DC has let us know that Alasdair would check the accounts for us again this year.	
6	Council Update – nothing from DM.	
7	Trust Update – Orbst and Cruachan – MB confirmed that the purchase is now complete and work is in hand to turn the farmhouse into affordable housing. Playpark Inspection is next week. MIDAS Minibus Assessment coming up on 29th and 30th April (assessment is one day only). This is a voluntary session for anyone who might be considering driving the minibus. Constitution – The Trust’s constitution has been amended and sent to OSCAR. Roads – Census and Speed Check – Mali’s been on to Highland Council but hasn’t had a reply. However, it is noted that Highland Council are doing some checks now – but the Trust, understandably, wants them doing when we’re busy. MB mentioned that we’d been contacted by someone from outside our area who’s using traffic counter which may be of interest if Highland Council won’t do as we ask. Skye Wide Community Benefit Fund – The Trust attended a meeting in March (along with the Community Council) where a decision was made to form a steering group made up of community councils or if not community groups/organisations. We have requested that community organisations be defined to ensure that they are groups with a residency requirement. See also below item 12. Scottish Government Rural and Island Childcare Round Table – The Trust were pleased to be invited to this group along with other groups from Tiree, Ardnamurchan, Shetland and others to discuss child care issues with Scottish Government ministers, Highland Council, HIE, CALA (Care and Learning Alliance) and others. We hope this will result in an openness to pilot and testing the current legislation, as well as looking at making changes or rural exemptions to some legislation in the long term that makes little sense in a rural and island setting.	
8	Community Benefit Funds – JL clarified that the Skye Wide Community Benefit Fund is a Muirhall initiative coming from the Struan Windfarm (if it comes off). This will be divided up 40% for Struan, 40% for near neighbours and 20% for the Skye Wide Fund and the question is who is going to manage this Skye Wide Fund. There is a fund in Shetland that works well, and may be used as a template for structure and administration. A proposal is that each Community Council area would get £10,000 to carry out good works (of the overall proposed fund of approximately £300,000) and the balance would be in a fund for formal project bids.	

	JL suggested that the SEN community benefit money might also be fed into Skye Wide Community Benefit Fund – rather than sit as a separately administered initiative. Community Councillors are not able to sit on this group – it would need to be a member of the Trust. Nothing has yet been decided – there are many rules and regulations which need to be investigated.	
9	School Update – There was a meeting last week about the new school. There's been some slippage caused by slight delays with the Broadford project. It is hoped that Dunvegan's new school should be open for Easter 2028. TW said that the head teacher is upbeat and feels like 'it's real' and has been approached about choosing fittings and fixtures.	
10	Planning Matters Land 45M SE Of 18D Roag 18 Roag - JL welcomed Filip and Klara Krejci and said that he was pleased they'd got permission to build their agricultural shed. Klara went on to say she too was pleased, but was disappointed that it had taken 9 months and that the building was not ready for the impending lambing season. She said that she felt the Community Council's representation to Highland Council had influenced the council's decision. TW pointed out that the Scottish Minister's recorder's response to their appeal addressed issues with Highland Council's Planners and its Planning Department's handling of the application. JL said that he wished that FK and KK had presented one master plan for their croft's development rather than the piecemeal approach which makes it difficult for anyone to ascertain the intended end result. There was a lengthy discussion. FK asked if we would automatically object to any further applications he and KK might make and they were assured that that would not be the case. SY reminded FK and KK that the Community Council are elected by the members of the community to represent them. and to do what the majority of the community wants. 25/04761/FUL – Staff Accommodation – MB stated apart from the Forestry Team's request for a Tree Survey, Tree Protection Plan and a 'robust' Tree Planning Plan there were no further updates available on this application's process. Guide to the Planning System for Community Councils – The meeting discussed the new guidance received. JL said we should continue to deal with the weekly list and not become a statutory consultee. CB asked if we felt the Highland Council were trying to pass the buck!	
11	New Guidance for Community Councils – These have been shared for all members.	
12	Insurance – Christmas Lights – The meeting discussed the implications should Christmas decorations blow down and cause damage or injury. JL said he'd spoken with our insurers, Zurich, who said that a risk assessment would be required. Complications	

	are that the Highland Council hang the lights from the council's lamp posts and connect them to their mains electricity supply. JL asked that we check Willie Macrae in regard to cover for Christmas lights. Defibrillators – JL went on to ask what about liability should a defibrillator fail to save someone's life. The matter is complicated because the Trust provided the funds – who owns the defibrillators? JL is going to refer to DC in regard to who owns them. MB asked JL to also ask DC about the map of defibrillator locations. A map, drawn by the primary school children, was expected around Easter.	MB JL
13	Let's Make Dunvegan Beautiful – The meeting agreed thanks were due to Mayanne MacGregor and Kathryn MacLeod who have decided to step back from this project and pass it to the Community Council and Trust. SY has agreed to coordinate the efforts of all involved. SY to liaise with Mayanne for handover. The name was discussed and PM said she thought the name should stay as it is as everyone knows it. JL agreed. SY is also to liaise with Mali in regard to using Community Payback to carry out some tasks.	
14	Grass Cutting – JL said that Murdo is happy to provide same cuts as last year, at the same price. JL said he'd chase up Highland Council to make sure we got a couple of cuts.	JL
15	Flooding Consultation – JL had received a consultation from SEPA about flooding. Skye is lumped in with Wester Ross and Lochaber. The questionnaire very much expected the respondent to be replying about the whole area – rather than our bit of it. TW pointed out that flooding was generally only caused due to Highland Council not clearing ditches.	
16	Dunvegan Traders – Lochside Shops – MB said she'd met with Jennie Chapman from Dunvegan Traders and the shopkeepers at Lochside shops. Mostly to do with parking. The Community Café have agreed to be more proactive at asking people not to park outside for long stays (with the exception of parking for disabled people). The traders, assisted by the Dunvegan Traders Association, are also using social media to ask the community for help. The Church are very happy for their carpark to be used (excepting Sundays and during services). MB said it was surprising how often the church carpark is full. She wondered if there's scope for additional parking at that end of the village one day. Signage – MB said she'd contact DM regarding signage that the Dunvegan Traders would like to put in the main village carpark – she has yet to receive a reply. JL said that there used to be a sign at the bottom of Hall Road – below the Village Hall. It was very attractive and pointed to the campsite. PM remembered it too.	
17	Next Meeting – 28th April 2026 at 7:30 in Dame Flora Lounge, Dunvegan Village Hall.	