

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON TUESDAY 27th AUGUST 2024

Present – John Laing (JL), Donna Campbell (DC), Sarah MacAskill (SM), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Tim Wallis (TW), Mandy Boswell (MB), Drew Millar (DM).

Apologies – Philippa MacRae (PM), Fraser Stuart, Fire Officer.

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| 1 | <p>Minutes of last Meeting – Minutes of last meeting (30/07/2024) were approved by MB and seconded by SY.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Fire Officer – Fraser Stuart – Unfortunately Fraser Stuart was unable to join us and is to be rescheduled for a future meeting, if required.</p> <p>DM confirmed that Dunvegan is to keep its Fire Station.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Police report – We did not receive a police report for this meeting.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Treasurer report – We currently have £1718.69 in the bank. There have been a lot of expenses – we’ve paid out £4883 with income of £1505. £583 was paid to Donald Budge for the signs at St Mary’s. We agreed that there should be a Vote of Appreciation for Dunvegan Trust who have subsidised the grass cutting at St Mary’s.</p> <p>DC said she’s expecting past bills for DCC’s use of the village hall, dating back years. JL expressed concern in regards to this new reformed council being liable for previous years’ charges.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Council report – DM was pleased to confirm that our application for funding towards the wrap signs and skye.scot has been successful from the Ward Discretionary Fund (£1393.80).</p> <p>DM went on to say that £3million had been found for work on Skye roads and it is hoped a similar sum for next year (up from £500,000). DM also said that there were now two extra drivers for gritting lorries for the forthcoming winter.</p> <p>DM asked that everyone logs details of potholes using Highland Council’s portal. https://self.highland.gov.uk/service/Road_maintenance?FaultType=RoadSurface&RoadSurface=PotholeRoad (or search for “highland council roadside problems”). He also asked that any reports made by DCC are to be copied to him too. DM also mentioned to get a list from DC where the grit bins should be.</p> |
| 6 | <p>DCT report – SY informed the meeting that the play park installation will start 30th September. Dunvegan Trust asked for MB to be thanked for the skye.scot website and that the trust would be adding a link to their own website to skye.scot. In regard to bringing Dunvegan public toilet and car park in to community ownership, an application should be prepared early next year.</p> |

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| 7 | <p>Grass Cutting – Keep St. Mary’s Tidy – Murdo’s done one cut and we’re waiting for Highland Council (THC) to do the second one.</p> <p>JL said it was quite unlikely that the THC could spare the staff to do the next cut. It was agreed that JL would check with Murdo and that a “Community Cut” would be arranged for Saturday 14th September. DC to do some posters and SM to seek volunteers via Facebook.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Extension to Cemetery – DCC welcome the news that the extension to the cemetery will now go for planning.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Wrap Signs / skye.scot – MB informed the meeting that only a few signs were left. DM said Skeabost Community Council would like two and MB said there was an expression of interest from Sconser too.</p> <p>Website work is ongoing to improve our search engine optimisation. SM has agreed to help with Facebook promotion. JL will store the last few signs for use next year.</p> <p>Later in year need to involve all interested community councils to plan for additional topics for website. MB particularly mentioned newer Road Traffic Act rules.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Road markings + grit bins – JL advised all organised for the coming winter. MB advised that we’ve heard nothing more from THC about painting lines in the public car park and at the junction outside The Dunvegan Hotel.</p> <p>DM explained that there is only one road marking machine for the whole of THC and getting it to Skye is problematic!</p> |
| 11 | <p>25 year celebrations for Duirinish Stone – SM talked of the film which needs a new voice over. Once dates are confirmed further plans will be made (now confirmed as 21st and/or 22nd June 2025). The event will probably spread over two evenings – film one night and torchlight procession the next.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Ecology Strategy - The meeting agreed that this was duly noted.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Road Names Adjacent to New Primary School – THC asked that we confirm the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rathad Cailean (Colin’s Road) formerly School Orchard Lane • Rathad Floraidh (Flora’s Road) formerly Thistle Lane • Rathad MacLeod (MacLeod’s Road) formerly Macleod Close <p>The meeting agreed and JL is to inform THC.</p> <p>At meeting on 24th September 2024 these names were corrected and are noted in the minutes of that meeting.</p> |
| 14 | <p>Planning – THC has informed DCC that an application is being prepared by Dunvegan Castle Estate for the siting of 13 static caravans and 5 spaces for mobile home (staff accommodation)) at the Old Campsite. It was agreed that DCC had no objection and JL would advise THC; SM will ask residents via Facebook to make comment direct to THC.</p> |

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| 15 | <p>Cal Estates, School Housing, Sports Facility Update – SY said that at 4th September meeting it was confirmed that things are progressing and working hard with SSEN to see if the price for connection can be reduced.</p> |
| 16 | <p>20mph survey – TW confirmed he’d completed the survey. MB said that previously she’d felt the 20 mph limit from the Portree Road towards the Castle was unnecessary, but she’s received an email from Sandra at the Alpaca shop in Lochside who says that many disobey the speed limit and they she feels her staff take their lives in their hands when crossing the road there. She also expressed concern for those who park outside the shop and the Community Café – because their car doors open directly on to the road. It was agreed that PC Darren Reid would be asked to visit Sarah and discuss.</p> |
| 17 | <p>Windfarm Meeting – DM said he’d lodged an objection to both the windfarm public enquiries at the Highland Council North Planning Application Committee Meeting on 7th August 2024. . One in regard to the extension of Ben Aketil and the other in regard to the modified plan by Muirhall Energy in regard to Glen Ullinish II Wind Farm. He said there’d been audible gasps when “visuals” of the planned wind farms were shown to the meeting.</p> |
| 18 | <p>AOCB – A local resident has approached DCC with concerns about the future of a police presence in Dunvegan and the north west of Skye. JL is to write to Police Scotland’s Highlands and Islands Divisional Commander to seek reassurance that we will continue to have a police officer stationed and living in Dunvegan.</p> <p>Another concerned resident has asked whether the catering trailer now present just outside the village on the Portree road has all the necessary licences. DM said he would check. Both JL and DC said they’d asked the trader and had been told all relevant permissions and licences are in place.</p> <p>JL and DC will attend the next Community Benefit meeting in Struan on 9th September.</p> <p>We talked of the SSEN Community Resilience Fund and how DCC might progress with an application. The meeting went on to discuss emergency planning in general and agreed this needs further consideration.</p> <p>National Care Service (NCS) Island Communities Impact Assessment Survey – SY agreed she’d complete the survey.</p> |
| 19 | <p>Next meeting – Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7:30. This is to be a closed meeting.</p> |