

DUNVEGAN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING ON THURSDAY 31st October 2024

(postponed from Tuesday 29th October 2024)

Present – John Laing (JL), Donna Campbell (DC), Sylvia Meyer (SY), Tim Wallis (TW), Mandy Boswell (MB), Drew Millar (DM), Christine Brennan (CB)

Apologies – Philippa MacRae (PM), , Sarah MacAskill (SM)

1	<p>Chairman’s Welcome – JL opened the meeting, greeted those present and noted apologies.</p>
2	<p>Declaration of Interest – MB advised that she’s now involved with Skye and Lochalsh Food Link which is being resurrected for 2025. Highly unlikely to cause any conflict – but interest noted.</p>
3	<p>Minutes of last Meeting – The minutes of the last meeting (24/09/2024) were approved by SY and seconded by TW.</p>
4	<p>Matters Arising - Most items are have their own agenda item.</p> <p>OU Training for Community Councils TW to investigate.</p> <p>Toilets – The Trust’s update (via Broadford and Strath) about the perils of taking on community ownership of the toilets was surprising. JL and TW have both noted about ten people going in to the Broadford toilets on one payment. MB mentioned that Kyle has a turnstile. These are things to be considered if we progress with community ownership of Dunvegan’s toilets.</p> <p>School - progressing with road. DM - nothing to report.</p> <p>Windfarm/Community Benefit – JL attended meeting 30/10/24 in Struan around community benefit distribution including a Skye-wide fund. JL mentioned and DM confirmed there’s to be a public enquiry in regard to Ben Aketil windfarm.</p>
5	<p>Police Report – none forthcoming. MB to contact PC Reid for update.</p>
6	<p>Treasurer ‘s Report – DC confirmed there’s £3,724.23 in the bank. In the last month paid £300 to Murdo for last cut and £45 for belated thank you for Laura.</p> <p>Emergency Financial Assistance – Presently there are no funds available to provide emergency financial assistance. Applications have been made for funds, but so far none have been forthcoming.</p> <p>There was a discussion about raising funds to allow us to allocate up to £250. SY will discuss with Dunvegan Trust whether they may be able to fund and administer this. Sarah to be asked to make application to Loch Duich to see if they’d be prepared to contribute to a fund for this purpose.</p> <p>The committee discussed the difficulties many may face following the removal of the Winter Fuel Allowance and “spreading the word” in regard to applying for Pension Credit and to make sure everyone is getting the benefits to which they’re entitled. DC going to speak with Morag to see if help could be offered at an event like the Christmas Fair.</p>

7	<p>Council Update</p> <p>Roads - DM confirmed Highland Council (HC) are on schedule to spend all the roads money by the end of the financial year (end of March 2025). Some work is ongoing in Dunvegan – there’s been a delay waiting for the “hot patcher”. HC hope to have the same amount of money again next year, just over £2.5 million.</p> <p>If anyone has complaints about the roads – including potholes and road markings, please log them via the Highland Council’s portal. https://self.highland.gov.uk/service/Road_maintenance?FaultType=RoadSurface&RoadSurface=PotholeRoad</p> <p>Dunvegan – DM noted the state of the road in Dunvegan and was to highlight the urgency with the roads team.</p> <p>CB mentioned that the road where the resident can’t use her wheelchair on the road surface and confirmed the road was adopted. DM said he’s to check and will contact roads.</p> <p>Road Markings – DM said that HC are in discussion with Markon about road markings and he’s aware of the need for the junction at The Dunvegan and also for the Dunvegan to Portree road to be properly marked.</p> <p>DM said that HC have only one machine which can only be used about 4 months a year – so it never gets to Skye! Hopefully Markon will be contracted to mark Skye’s roads.</p> <p>Grit Bins – will be put in place shortly and will be left in place through the summer.</p>
8	<p>Trust update and Community Action Plan – Mali Maclennan (MM) was unable to attend but SY had been briefed.</p> <p>Community Action Plan – work has started and drop in sessions are arranged Dunvegan Hall. The Committee are pleased that Mali and the Trust have taken on this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports and Leisure – 13/11/24 at 7pm • Housing and Land – 16/11/24 at 2pm (with Communities Housing Trust) • Transport, Paths and Getting around – 19/11/24 at 7pm • Music and Culture – 22/11/24 at 6:30 (with Revolting Crofters Social Club) • Families, Young People, Childcare – 30/11/24 at 2pm • Health and Community Resilience – 11/12/24 at 7 pm • Environment, Climate Invasives and Deer – 15/1/25 at 7pm • Community Survey Launch Event – 28/1/25 at 2pm • Marine Infrastructure and Industry – date to be confirmed <p>SY confirmed MM would like to meet with the Community Council to discuss the plan further. The committee agreed it was extremely helpful that MM was leading this initiative as an employee of the Trust.</p> <p>Mali particularly asked for the Community Council’s support and publicity in regard to the Housing and Land discussion on 16th November to get vital support in place for additional housing in Dunvegan. The Community Housing trust will be in attendance.</p>

	<p>The first meeting covering sports and leisure will discuss the possibility of a multi-use pitch at the new school.</p> <p>DC said she'd see if she could get someone to attend the Families, Young People and Childcare event to discuss Pension Credit and other benefits.</p>
9	<p>Licence Application – The Misty – The meeting agreed that there was no objection, it can only be good for the village. However, the current bottle bank facility is already overloaded.</p> <p>Commercial properties have been told to use the bottle banks. Currently we have a small facility in the Dunvegan car park used by residents and visitors as well as numerous restaurants and cafes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dunvegan • The Misty • Atholl House • Old School Restaurant • Blas • Kinloch Campsite <p>TW noted that he was he'd recently seen someone put 7 wheelie bins full of bottle in the bottle bank. Apparently this is not an unusual occurrence.</p> <p>The meeting discussed possible relocation with increased capacity or simply an additional bottle bank facility within the area.</p> <p>MB to write to HC to confirm we do not have any objection to the Misty's application but that we do have concerns about the provision of bottle bank facilities and that we'd like an additional bank in the area. DM to be copied in and take up with the relevant department.</p>
10	<p>Planning Applications – 5 Kilmuir, Dunvegan and 6 Roag, Dunvegan. The committee discussed these two applications and have no objection to either. MB to note on HC portal no objection (note too late to note for 6 Roag).</p>
11	<p>25 Year Celebration – no update</p>
12	<p>Community Resilience – The committee is uncertain what provision is necessary. DC reminded us that SSE provide hot food during extended power outages. MB said she's more concerned about communication now that traditional copper landlines are become less common. Only a few weeks ago there were issues with mobile phone communication during a 5 hour outage and Radio Skye went off air. TW to contact HC about emergency planning. JL said maybe some facility could be provided by Dunvegan Trust as part of the Gaeltec project.</p>
13	<p>Macleod Parliament – 1st to 7th August 2026 – JL has been approached by Kevin John Tolmie regarding visiting "young MacLeods" at the next MacLeod's Parliament doing odd jobs in the community. We're to be thinking about jobs they could be doing safely – like cleaning up around the war memorial, or tidying gardens of elderly residents.</p>
14	<p>Bench at St Mary's – SM has received a quote for a recycled plastic bench to replace the broken wooden bench. We're going to wait until after the winter before purchasing. Hopefully we'll be</p>

	able to make the delivery charge more affordable by buying multiple benches or maybe a picnic table for the play area.
15	Ross Cowie – The committee discussed Ross’ valuable contribution to Skye and a small donation of £50 is to be made in Ross’ memory to Lucky2BHere.
17	<p>Christmas Lights - The committee are considering installation of Christmas lights, and the costs involved with wiring the decorations in to the lamp posts. MB to ask Portree and Braes Trust how/who installs Portree’s lights. JL said it is not viable to spend thousands of pounds on Christmas lights and decorations.</p> <p>DC to ask Neil to inspect the lamp post decorations. No further decorations to be purchased. Ongoing discussion re Christmas tree lights and committee will liaise about installation of remaining decorations before next meeting.</p>
16	<p>Any Other Council Business</p> <p>Local Transport Strategy – the committee discussed this council project and that it’s not likely to involve/benefit an area as remote as Dunvegan. SY is to research.</p> <p>Alasdair Maclean – the Community Council are to send a card of thanks in recognition of Alasdair’s exemplary service as a village postman.</p> <p>Skye-Wide Community Council Forum – DM to speak with John Finlayson about a Teams meeting in January. MB keen to use this as an opportunity to remind all community councils about skye.scot and to update and promote this website and signage initiative before the new visitor season begins.</p> <p>skye.scot – MB to start to use a new email address for the community council which will be part of the skye.scot domain dunvegan-cc@skye.scot and also setup a page for our community council. This might help with the Skye-wide Community Forum if it takes place.</p> <p>Signs – MB confirmed that she’s got some A3 versions and it was decided to keep them for next year. JL suggested that the wrap signs are taken down for winter.</p> <p>Community Council training- DM told of a HC plan to train community councillors to deal with major planning applications.</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday – JL confirmed church service and laying of wreath at War Memorial on Sunday 10th November. Peter Morrison asked to play pipes.</p>
17	Next Meeting – 26 th November at 7:30pm. There will be no meeting in December.