



DORNOCH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

9TH December 2024

Minutes of meeting of Dornoch & District Community Association (DADCA)
held at the Dornoch Community Centre (Social Club) on Monday, 9th December, at 7:30pm

MEMBERS OF THE DADCA BOARD:

Donald Goskirk – Chair – DG

Paddy Murray – Treasurer –
PM

Kim Tewnion – Secretary – KT

Bill Buchanan - BB
Bridget Goskirk - BG
Mike Grist – MG

Jerry Horack - JH
Jimmy Melville – JM
Jim McGillivray – JMc

Lucy Moir - LM
Jaen Rowland - JR

PRESENT

Paddy Murray (Treasurer), Bill Buchanan, Jim McGillivray & Lucy Moir

ABSENT

Donald Goskirk (Chair), Kim Tewnion (Secretary), Bridget Goskirk, Mike Grist,
Jerry Horack, Jimmy Melville, Jean Rowland.

MINUTES

Lou Rollason

VISITING

Lisa & William Dickinson - Cinema Club
Judi Sutherland – Cinema Club & Quiz Night
Anne Combs – SKAS & Fibre Fest

WELCOME & APOLOGIES		
1.	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: DG, BG, JR, JH & JM</p> <p>Present: PM, BB, JMc, LM</p>	
MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING		
2.	<p>Approval of Minutes – 11th November 2024 Proposed by: PM & seconded by JMc.</p>	
VISITORS		
3.	Representative from:	
i.	<p>Fibre Fest, Dornoch Cinema Club & SKAS Lisa & Richard Dickson - Cinema Club (LD & RD) Judi Sutherland – Cinema Club (JS) Anne Combs – SKAS & Fibre Fest (AC)</p>	
MATTERS ARISING (& THOSE CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING, INCLUDING AOCB)		
4.		
i.	<p>Bishopfield Land: Update: PM gave an overview to the visitors of the Bishopfield Land this included the potential sales, sales and forward planning.</p> <p>JS questioned the restricted plots profits and PM stated that it would be a total of £4,000 equalling £20,000. He continued that on the unrestricted profit plots the hope was to bring in £500,000.</p>	PM
ii.	<p>Calendar of Events In progress for 2025</p>	KT & LR
5.	REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE – ATTACHED UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED	
i.	<p>Google Drive PM explained to the visitors that DADCA have about 30-40 documents that are updated on an annual basis.</p> <p>There is no regulatory & compliance this month.</p>	LR
FUNDING APPLICATIONS		
6.	<p>Grants/Funding Opportunities: Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) - PM & JMc explained the reasoning behind potentially updating the heating and energy in the hall so that it could potentially increase the value of the building. JS suggested looking into Energy Efficient Scotland and they will fund up to £100k of installation. JS believed this fund is still open to applicants.</p>	
	MEMBERSHIP	
7.	Membership applications: N/A	
i.	Affiliated Group applications: N/A	
	CURRENT BUILDING	
8.	<p>Dornoch Community Centre Update: Heating/Energy: Discussed above.</p>	

	<p>AV Cupboard: In progress. Will stay on the agenda until relevant.</p> <p>Hall Re-varnishing: Delayed until 2025 and will be dependent on the financial conversations.</p> <p>Storage: In progress. Will stay on the agenda until relevant.</p> <p>Disabled Parking Space: Donald will update.</p> <p>Kitchen (cleanliness & new oven): The two ovens worked well for the St Andrew's Fair. PM noted that it was getting a little bit 'ropey' but now it has some upgrades including the oven and hob.</p> <p>New tables: KT will order as we need around 30 and currently only have 22.</p> <p>Decorations: Purchased by Kenny with a budget of £100. £75 of this spent. Photographs from the ESCC are secured away until the festive season is over.</p>	
	FINANCE	
9.	<p>Finance Update Finance Update - PM distributed documentation and gave an overview of the subcommittees and how they are restricted and unrestricted. The restricted funds are those that cannot be touched. The unrestricted funds do in theory can be vetoed for expenditure. These are unrestricted for a historical reason since they were started by DADCA. PM stated this is not a justification, but rather how it has happened.</p> <p>LR to change collum stated as DADCA to the Community Centre and change some categories.</p> <p>PM made a proposal which in full was stated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>"All DADCA's sub-accounts are divided into 'restricted' and 'unrestricted'.</i> <i>'Restricted' means that DADCA can only use the money for a specific purpose; so for example Hogmanay Street Party money can only be used for the Hogmanay Street Party and Flowers and Fairs money can only be used for Flowers and Fairs. Particularly, the large sums starting to come in for the New Build can only be used for a new Community Centre, unless specifically agreed otherwise by the Highland Council from whom we bought the 11 plots.</i> <i>'Unrestricted' means that DADCA can use the money in any way it sees fit. The sections of DADCA that are unrestricted include all those activities which DADCA first started up, including the Cinema and Fibre Fest.</i> 2. <i>Up to now, all expenditure by the unrestricted activities has been proposed by those running the activities themselves and the DADCA Board has never disagreed with any expenditure proposal. Recently there have been two developments, with two opposite effects on the funds of unrestricted activities:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>One-off Funds for new Community Centre: In the past DADCA has always assumed that it can use unrestricted funds for a new Community Centre. However, recently DADCA is realising significant funds from its sale of properties so that it is unlikely to need further moneys from unrestricted activities.</i> b. <i>Ongoing Funds to cover costs of Social Club and the costs of accountancy, administration and compliance for the whole charity: In the past hire costs of the Social Club, supplemented by donations and fund-raising events such as the</i> 	PM

Community Markets, more or less covered these costs. However the increase in costs of energy, cleaning, accounting, administration and compliance have all combined to mean that DADCA loses between £5,000 and £10,000 per year. This has resulted in negative balances on 'DADCA's own cash account, which means that DADCA is in effect borrowing money from the unrestricted sections, such as the Cinema and Fibre Fest. At some point DADCA may therefore have to use cash accumulated in these unrestricted activities in order to remain solvent.

3. *One target of a New Community Centre is to have a building which generates sufficient income to cover all DADCA's costs. Assuming DADCA continues to raise significant funds from its sale of properties this scenario is looking more likely, however it is not guaranteed and even if it does there may remain a backlog of losses to be cleared.*
4. *Consequently, although the Board's policy of agreeing to all expenditure required by the unrestricted activities should remain in place for the moment at least for all normal running expenses and all small investments, there should be a warning that in the future the Board may have to curtail expenditure in order to cover the Social Club and the other costs of running the charity.*
5. *Following from the above, the policy of each unrestricted activity should be to maintain its cash balance until DADCA covers its running costs. This policy should be adequate to keep DADCA solvent for the next 3 years, but the Board should review this policy in 3 years' time."*

PM continued that within the next three years there is a better chance of a new Community Centre which can be offset by the sale of plots, the sale of the hall and potential grants.

This will have to be approved by the Board and by the Chair upon his return at the next meeting.

JS suggested a more proactive approach to the promotion of the Dornoch Community Centre.

JS stated that there was always a moral understanding, unwritten, that the funds that belonged to the groups should belong to the groups. JS continued that she and the rest of the groups do believe that they are happy to support DADCA however it is demotivating that the groups funds do not belong to them.

AC stated that at the first she had heard of the renewal of a new Community Centre was when she was at a DACIC AGM. She continued that she considered this to be a great thing and something to be excited about. PM did counteract that this has been kept slightly under wraps due to the issues DADCA encountered 10 years ago. He continued that this has purely been just a twinkle in the eye rather than an actual plan. It is only in the last month or so that it has been a purposeful plan.

BB asked the question roughly how much would DADCA require to stay afloat for three years (or until a new Community Centre) and that if the groups can fund those years then it's not likely to break their banks as long as they are running at their own break even capacity.

LD asked if we were confident that with a new build we would not be in the same position as DADCA is in currently. PM explained we would be unlikely to bring in much more capacity than 10-20% due to the size of the town etc.

RD & AC mentioned the idea of having conferences and presentations on a much larger scale.

	<p>JS asked about a potential merger between DACIC and DADCA. This has been something that has been mentioned previously but the two work in tandem, each having benefits the other does not and by the two merging there would be lesser benefit to the town.</p> <p>JMc also wanted to make his thanks known to PM who have turned the plots into sellable assets.</p> <p>PM suggested that for the next meeting and he would make a presentation about what a new community centre would look like and show this to between 20 – 30 people who have noted an interest. BB suggested that this should be mentioned to the club to get their own clubs excited and discussing it around them.</p>	
	CARBOOT SALES	
10.	<p>Update Finished for the year. Will stay on the agenda until relevant again.</p>	
	OUTDOOR COMMUNITY MARKET	
11.	<p>Update Finished for the year. Will stay on the agenda until relevant again.</p>	
	BOOKINGS/EVENTS	
12.	<p>Update on Bookings Scrabble Club Update: In progress. Will stay on the agenda until 2025.</p> <p>Bonfire Night Financials: Has broken even roughly with an income of £2140 and PM & LR will need to claim Gift Aid on the collections.</p>	<p>JM LM</p>
	AOCB	
13.	<p>DADCA Members Comments: N/A</p>	
	CLOSING	
	The meeting was closed at: 21:37	
Date of Next Meeting will be February 11th, 2024, at 7:30 PM at the Dornoch Community Centre		