



DORNOCH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

10TH February 2025

Minutes of meeting of Dornoch & District Community Association (DADCA)
held at the Dornoch Community Centre (Social Club) on Monday, 10th February, at 7:30pm

MEMBERS OF THE DADCA BOARD:

Donald Guskirk – Chair – DG

Paddy Murray – Treasurer –
PM

Kim Tewnion – Secretary – KT

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

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

Lucy Moir - LM
Jaen Rowland - JR

PRESENT

Donald Guskirk (Chair), Bill Buchanan, Bridget Guskirk, Mike Grist, Jim McGillivray, Jimmy Melville & Lucy Moir

ABSENT

Paddy Murray (Treasurer), Kim Tewnion (Secretary), Jerry Horack, Jean Rowland

MINUTES

Lou Rollason

VISITING

N/A

WELCOME & APOLOGIES		
1.	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: Present: JM, BB, DG, BG, JMc, LM & MG	
MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING		
2.	Approval of Minutes – 13th January 2025 Proposed by: BB & seconded by JMc	
VISITORS		
3.	Representative from:	
i.	N/A	
MATTERS ARISING (& THOSE CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING, INCLUDING AOCB)		
4.		
i.	Bishopsfield Land: PM, in his absence sent through an update stating: - Operations: Electricity is now finally installed to each of the plots. Application for optical fibre connections finally arranged with Openreach, and cables have been combined with SSE cables across the road, so remaining Openreach work to install optical fibre to each plot will be small. These were the last operational hurdles to be crossed. - Sales: the last of the 3 verbal offers received last year has been formalised into a written offer from lawyers so now all three offers are now being processed by the lawyers and all 3 have submitted planning proposals to Highland Council. It is anticipated that if and when planning is approved all three sales will go through. All parties hope this will be by June this year. This will leave 2 further plots for sale out of the original 6. - Restricted plots: 2 sold and RDGC is applying for permission to build on a third site for employee accommodation. 2 further plots remain for sale out of the original 5.	PM
ii.	Calendar of Events In progress for 2025	KT & LR
5.	REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE	
i.	Google Drive List of Directors – Link here – LR to add BB on & apologised for missing him out. Articles of Association – Link here Accounts – Link here	LR
FUNDING APPLICATIONS		
6.	Grants/Funding Opportunities: N/A Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) – Waiting for the applications to open. Likely May.	JMc
MEMBERSHIP		
7.	Membership applications: N/A	
i.	Affiliated Group applications: N/A	
CURRENT BUILDING		
8.	Dornoch Community Centre Update: Heating/Energy: In progress - DG	

	AV Cupboard: In progress. The last time the Camera Club were in they had issues with the fuse board. DG had reset this but asked to keep an ear out for the sockets tripping in case any other users mention this. DG will mention to Kenny. Hall Re-varnishing: Kenny is keen to get going but unfortunately the DADCA calendar is offline, he doesn't know when there is two days back-to-back where there are no bookings to start the varnishing. DADCA will need to put up signage up to stop anyone coming in whilst it has been varnished and is drying. Storage: In progress. JMc mentioned that the pool table will not fit in the Embo building easily but there is a darts club that would complement the space in the school. If they cannot find the space the Burghfield may be interested also. Kenny will need to clear his items off the area before it can be moved. The pool table then splits into three parts. Disabled Parking Space: Requires being painted yellow but the weather has not been in our favour. This will be done when the weather permits. Kitchen: Positive feedback has been received. New tables: KT will progress. LR to put in a grant application for these tables from the Royal Dornoch Golf Club. Wi-Fi: The Wi-Fi is being unreliable. LR will try and contact them	
	FINANCE	
9.	Finance Update Finance Update – PM Stated via email: <i>At the December meeting I put forward a proposal to address the ongoing losses of the existing Social Club and it was agreed that further discussion was necessary. Can this be postponed until the March meeting?</i> – Agreed by Board. Data Protection: LR brought up with issue of the fact that members of DADCA groups wanted access to the DADCA bank account so they can see things in real time. LR mentioned that this could be a breach of data protection and added that current members of DADCA did not have access. It was also noted that the groups would not be able to see many 'real time' transactions as the number of them is too low. New banking access: Not approved due to concerns regarding data protection but a compromise was offered whereby LR would send through monthly financial records for the groups wanting them.	PM
	CARBOOT SALES	
10.	Update Finished for the year. Will stay on the agenda until relevant again.	
	OUTDOOR COMMUNITY MARKET	
11.	Update Finished for the year. Will stay on the agenda until relevant again.	
	BOOKINGS/EVENTS	
12.	Update on Bookings Scrabble Club Update: In progress. Will stay on the agenda until put into play. Booking rates: There have been a couple of concerns regarding the increase of rates. As mentioned in previous meetings, some groups were on low rates due to their historical bookings. When rates have been raised previously it has been by a percentage however this new flat rate has caused some groups to be paying much more than anticipated. In the case of the Cinema Club, they have gone from paying £23 to £60. BB mentioned that the Cinema group as a whole were not happy with this	JM LR

	and wondered why the charge was so high. It was explained it included the setting up and taking down time and not just the length of the film. As a compromise DG agreed that the Cinema Club could pay for just their film, taking the rate down to £40. Website Update: The website is in the process of being updated to a newer version of Spanglefish – a change that works well for the Fibre Fest group. For the time being the calendar is offline as the website it was hosted on belonged to DACIC and they have decided to not renew it, thus the Calendar and booking system is also offline. The Darts Party: Unfortunately, the chairs were left in a mess due to people standing on them with muddy footprints. Several tables were also bent out of shape and the floor was left in a sticky mess. Kenny stated he had only recently managed to clean this up. BG has said very kindly that she will clean the chairs. However going forward this is not something that can happen in the future and LR will discuss with the group if they wish to hire the hall next year.	
	AOCB	
13.	DADCA Members Comments: JM: Mentioned that the area next to the Oversteps is incredible disrepair. JMc stated that it has planning permission that has lapsed but it will be likely sorted soon. JM asked for an update on the new Community Centre: This will include a site visit, then the creation a working group to see what a new community centre would need, then architects, drawings, etc. Then look at funding and planning. PM suggested three years. JM asked if it was possible to employ a project manager and suggested Joan Bishop. BG: Kenny has complained about the lack of sweeping done by groups after their bookings.	
	CLOSING	
	The meeting was closed at: 20:27	
Date of Next Meeting will be 10th March, 2025, at 7:30 PM at the Dornoch Community Centre		