



DORNOCH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES MONDAY 14TH JULY 2025

Minutes of meeting of Dornoch & District Community Association (DADCA)
held at the Dornoch Community Centre (Social Club) on Monday, 14th July, 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

MINUTES Lou Rollason

VISITING N/A

WELCOME & APOLOGIES		
1.	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from LM, JH & BB. KT was not present.	
MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING		
2.	Approval of Minutes – 9th June 2025	
VISITORS		
3.	Representative from: N/A	
i.		
MATTERS ARISING (& THOSE CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING, INCLUDING AOCB)		
4.		
i.	Bishopfield Land & New Community Centre: Regarding Bishopfield, plots still to be sold. DADCA is looking to commission a feasibility study through an external party. Two options were discussed: a large Edinburgh-based consultancy with a team of over 70 people, unable to start until March 2026, and Maclean-Yuille, a local two-person team who could begin in August 2025 and complete the work by November 2025. PM noted that there are two main funding rounds, one in November/December 2025 and another in June 2026. By choosing Maclean-Yuille, DADCA would be able to access the earlier funding round rather than having to wait until June 2026. An architect has already been involved, and a quantity surveyor—highly recommended by Jimmy Macdonald, who has delivered numerous similar projects including Contin Community Hall—has also been identified for the feasibility study. The estimated cost for this stage is around £25,000, although PM hopes it will be less. The aim is to appoint the consultants and quantity surveyor in August and complete the feasibility study by November. The long-term goal is to have the final funding secured by June 2026, enabling construction to begin thereafter. DG has been looking for a chartered surveyor for valuation of the current Community Centre, but this has proven challenging due to the rural location. Two options are available: a desktop survey, which would involve reviewing the plans and the last valuation without visiting the site, or a full survey by Shepards, which is more expensive but would include an on-site assessment. DG stated that, if acceptable to the board, DDCF would cover the additional cost required for the full survey. This approach was agreed by DADCA. PM reported having spoken to KT regarding water charges in relation to DADCA's charity status. It was discussed that, as profitability from plot sales may exceed £300,000 per annum, DADCA could be required to pay approximately £2,000 per year for water in that circumstance.	PM
ii.	Calendar of Events DG & BG Awaiting lamination (from LR who keeps forgetting to print it). Document amended to 'school term' style.	BG & LR
5.	REGULATORY & COMPLIANCE	
i.	Available on Google Drive Dornoch Community Gardens – Sent through to Mr Bell for approval & amendments. 7. Dornoch Community Gardens Rules 7.1. DCG Tenancy Agreement 7.2. DCG List of Plot Holders	LR

	FUNDING APPLICATIONS	
6.	Grants/Funding Opportunities: N/A Community Regeneration Fund for Sutherland: DG submitted an application for the heating. Update on planning application for the external units for the heating: DG has been in touch with planning and planning control and a planning warrant would be needed due to it being outside and it would be loud from the air. Where they would be would be out of sight and the noise is not likely to be too considerable so we are not expecting any objections. The noise outputs would be measured by an engineer. DG noted this was a preliminary question. Scottish Major National Fund: LR pursued but was informed DADCA would not be suitable. Other funding quotes: Not a huge amount of funding available, especially not for the current building.	JMc
	MEMBERSHIP	
7.	Membership applications: N/A	
i.	Affiliated Group applications: N/A	
	CURRENT BUILDING	
8.	Dornoch Community Centre Update: Heating/Energy: EDF bill arrived: £1488.65 from 5th March to 4th June 2025. DG mentioned that on passing he saw flood lights on and asked the DADCA board to check if passing and turn them off. LR will send an email to the groups to reiterate the heating & energy costs. AV Cupboard: In progress. Storage: The pool table is now in bits, waiting to go to the Burghfield. Disabled Parking Space: LR to bring in the yellow paint – In progress. WiFi: LR managed to contact PlusNet who suggested we open a new contract as we are years out of date. The only way we can cancel without the main account holder doing this (and knowing their passwords) is if someone else takes over – or they do. Approached BT who quoted: <i>“Standard Fibre 76 Pro with Digital Line and Unlimited UK Calls for £56.95 + VAT on a 36M Term and one-off fee of £49.90.</i> <i>Internet Speeds –</i> <i>36-49 MB/s download</i> <i>5-7 MB/s upload</i> <i>32 MB/s minimum guaranteed download”</i>. LR reached out to Highland Broadband but has not of yet heard back, their pricing was similar. Due to the fact there is a phone line that DADCA wish to keep activated, that is impacting the price somewhat. DADCA currently pay £58.54 (inc VAT) for subpar internet that doesn’t reach our ‘meeting room’. LR will find out the timescale for disconnecting copper system and LR will try and contact Charles from the Resilience Group again. Vacuum Cleaner – Still out of stock. TV in Struie Room – The TV is arriving a week today and DG has a joiner friend who will put it up and this will be roughly at the end of August.	

	FINANCE	
9.	Finance Update Finance Update: PM ran through the figures from the cash balance sheet and stated there are no big changes. PM stated that means the building has a balance of over £8000 after taking into the transfers from the DADCA groups. LR is awaiting to hear back from Calum from Goldwells regarding the ‘missing’ transfers – old accounts such as Gallery & 500 Club.	PM
	CARBOOT SALES	
10.	Update The sign has been returned/retrieved from its outing; it was visiting Anthony from the bookshop. Recent carboot sale: It wasn’t as busy due to the tractor run but it was still a good day. BG suggested more blue cloths and sponges as once they get grease on them from cleaning the grills then it contaminates the rest of the washing.	JR & PR
	OUTDOOR COMMUNITY MARKET	
11.	Update Recent Community Markets: Extra signage is being put up for the new housing areas.	PM
	BOOKINGS/EVENTS	
12.	Update on Bookings Scrabble Club Update: PM suggested speaking to Mark Fraser. Website Update: LR is in the process of setting up admin for users to update their own pages LR commented that there are some new bookings and enquiries coming in to fill in the gaps.	JM LR
	AOCB	
13.	DADCA Members Comments: DG – Questioned the board if they were happy to put together a letter on behalf of the Service Point closure. This was unanimously agreed. DG – Was invited to meet with Phil Scott and Ginny Knox to discuss a fundraiser called ‘We Are Dornoch’. PM – Suggested to have Gerald Holsworth as an advisor. This was agreed. PM also stated that Albyn Housing had extended an invite to BG – Asked if DADCA could do a tidy of the Dornoch Community Centre lawn and grounds area once the baby seagulls have flown the nest.	
	CLOSING	
	The meeting was closed at: 20:25	
Date of Next Meeting will be 11th August, 2025, at 7:30 PM at the Dornoch Community Centre (Social Club)		