**Minutes for Dornie & District Community Council meeting 2nd October 2024**.

1. Present: Campbell Dreghorn; Matt Baron; Fiona Matheson (Treasurer); Karen Baker; Linda Brooks ; Alison Jack (Secretary), Shona MacLennan (Chair);Janice Nixon. Apologies: PC Steve Harre-Young; Biz Campbell (Highland Councillor);

2. Declaration of Interests. SML had joined the Dornie Shop sub-group (Dornie & District Community Trust DDCT) ; FM is on the Graham House subgroup of DDCT

3. Previous minutes of the last meeting 24th June 2024 were approved : MB proposed ,KB seconded.

4. Matters pertaining to the last minutes

* 1. MB provided the Dornie & District Community Trust update.
     1. Dornie Shop and Café is on target to open in Spring 2025, dependent on further funding; funding that had a timescale of 30 September 2024 had been almost entirely utilised; a shop sub-committee had been formed to work out the details how the shop will function; it’s anticipated the shop building should be signed off as wind and water-tight by the end of October 2024 by Building Control; volunteers and trades ready to go for next stage when finance available; current shortfall of £80k in funding; Conchra Charitable Trust (Eilean Donan Castle) had donated £10k.
     2. Graham House. Good feedback from the drop in event held 25th Sept, positivity to buy the building/ concerns what do with it; ACTION MB will bring report being developed by Impact Hub to the next CC meeting
     3. Moorings. The development of the revised business plan has been delayed; the group has to spend the Community Regeneration Fund grant by March 2025; they are about to appoint a Marine Project Officer; once the business plan is published the Moorings group will then have a Open Day. SML asked if they had appointed a Fundraising Consultant which they have.
  2. LB provided the Energy Group update. LB had sent the anonymised Warm Homes survey in graph format to AJ for circulation to the rest of CC. ACTION AJ.

There had been to suggestions from CC members as to what kind of event would be useful and it was agreed to hold a separate CC meeting to discuss the topic in more depth. Date tbc.

LB asked CC if other members could look at the survey and advise whether anything should be further anonymised. ACTION ALL

* 1. Tidy up project. Good support from the community for the tidy up dates in the summer. General discussion on how to encourage ongoing participation: SML suggested a weekday afternoon and Sunday mornings; AJ suggested leaflet drop/newsletter; JN suggested WHFP Criomagan; KB suggested as well as group dates, encouraging folk that would like prefer to volunteer at other times on their own.
  2. Police Update. PC Harre-Young could not attend but provided this update by email: “I am happy to report that we continue to be proactive where we can when it comes to parking issues and speeding issues in your area. We continue to work with the national Road Policing Unit who attend your area once a month for 2 or 3 days. I can see from the records that during the last spell they prosecuted several motorists, predominantly tourists (but not all!) and we have been pushing for roadside prosecutions resulting in points on licences and fines, which has been done. Wherever the speed grossly exceeds the limit, offenders are reported to the Courts.” The CC discussed the need for increased advisory work by the police where slow moving vehicles are creating long queues of traffic, leading to frustration and at times dangerous overtaking.
  3. Roads/Parking.
     1. Parking: The CC convened a meeting to discuss parking on 10 September 2024, attended by SML & CD from CC, General Manager and Operations Manager of Eilean Donan Castle, and Senior Traffic Technician and Traffic Support Officer from Highland Council. It was disappointing that the Principal Traffic Officer (Highland Council) did not attend in person as invited but it was appreciated that two of his colleagues attended.

It was reported that this was the first in a series of planned meetings; that Police Scotland had not been available to attend; and it was planned to hold a further meeting with Transport Scotland, Bear Scotland and Police Scotland on trunk road matters as well.

It was agreed to hold a separate CC meeting, along with discussion on an event for the energy group, to discuss matters in more detail before going to wider community consultation on options. ACTION SML

* + 1. JN asked if the cones on the entrance to the village could be removed after the October holidays. ACTION MB/CD
    2. Roads: CC acknowledged the tarring of parts of Carr Brae road and the ditching work done.

SML said she had a name of contact regarding signage and will get a list together of the signs needing replaced. ACTION SML.

AJ said that the Roads Officer had replied (1st August ) regarding putting a weight restriction on the Carr Brae road. Action is limited by what is allowed in Acts and statutes and not possible to exclude buses but allow lorries. It was suggested that a sign ‘Not Suitable For Coaches’ be requested. ACTION AJ

AJ said that the Roads Officer in his email on 16th July “will get the whins done as resources allow”.

* 1. Sewage Pollution. MB said that the outcome from complaints to SEPA was their view that the sewage was “within tolerable levels” despite being provided with photographs of raw sewage and that they stated that they had no records of site visits or outcomes of site visits. Similarly, the FOI to Scottish Water stated that no complaints had been raised about pollution despite CC members having done so.

Kate Forbes (MSP) office had received correspondence from SEPA which included the following:

“Loch Long is not a designated bathing water nor shellfish water so discharges do not need to meet a minimum standard on bacteria content. Any public health concerns should be passed onto the Local Authority Environmental Health Department.”

It was agreed to continue correspondence with Ms Forbes’s office highlighting that the village had inadequate infrastructure and continuing concerns over pollution. ACTION MB to contact Kate Forbes MSP and to forward email to AJ.

* 1. Active Travel Route - path between Dornie and Nostie. Transport Scotland had replied (2nd & 3rd July) that they were not able to undertake the investigations into the active travel route between Dornie and Nostie this financial year but assured the CC that if budget became available later in this year, they would do the work then. ACTION AJ to forward email from Transport Scotland to KB. KB will explore alternative funding.
  2. Footpath from Àite Mòr/St Duthacs Drive and Caroline Street. CC welcomed positive response from Area Manager (North) Planning (30th Sept) “There is an obligation on the Housing Association for the delivery of the path as it has been clearly shown on all approved schemes to date…. Team Leader of Planning has been in discussions with the Housing Association regarding its delivery to ensure it is provided” ACTION AJ to follow up with Team Leader (Planning)
  3. Shared Rural Network. SML had submitted a response regarding mobile phone masts to HC Planning on the 25th June.

1. Written Financial Report from the Treasurer as at 2nd Oct 2024

**Balance Brought forward £1891.41**

Outgoings cleared since Treasurers report 24/6/24:

Income:

Interest to account £7.07

**(Balance brought forward as statement 19/6/24) £1898.48**

Outgoings

D&DC Hall hire £10

Hostworld Spanglefish (mail & DNS) (A.F Matheson) £24

**Balance brought forward as statement £1864.48**

Income

Highland Council Annual Grant £451.91

**Balance Brought Forward as statement 20/9/24 £2316.39**

(excluding £508.07 held for Energy Group £1808.32)

It was agreed that the Treasurer would progress online banking which had been challenging to date. SML suggested asking Community Council Support if other CCs have the same issue. ACTION FM

1. Any other competent business
   1. Dornie Hall parking monies. AJ reported that HC had emailed (9th Sept) that the amount available from the Dornie Invitation to Pay income from 2023/24 is £ 1,177. CC disappointed to note we are no further forward as to when the CC can apply for this (last asked again 27th Sept) AJ also said that there was an Invitation to Pay Fund Review report going to the November Area Committee to determine the process for this year’s allocation.
   2. Major Energy restructure motion to HC. CCs across Highland had been asked by Kirkhill & Bunchrew CC ( 11th Sept) to support this motion proposed by Cllr Helen Crawford (19th Sept) that the applications for energy infrastructure should be illustrated on a Highland-wide map, rather than individual applications being considered individually and that CCs should have training provided to ensure sufficient skills for considering and responding to planning applications. Dornie & District CC agreed by email to support this motion (sent 18th Sept).
   3. Litter at bus stops on A87 near Eilean Donan Castle. Member of the public reported this to CC. ACTION AJ to ask ward manager to whom to report this.
   4. SML said that the Wester Ross Biosphere would like to hold a “Managing Tourism In Your Area” workshop in Dornie and would possibly be held in November.
   5. CD asked about the barriers at the steps near the Clachan Pub. MB said that he had informed HC about the steps, following conversations with two members of the public. HC had subsequently put up temporary barriers.
   6. LB advised that the undersea power cables are being replaced and they had been notified of this as one of the neighbouring properties.
   7. KB raised the human toileting mess left at the Castle viewpoint. SML had also seen this. There were discussions on the problem and the impact of the withdrawal of HC rangers this season.
2. Questions or contributions from the public present: none present.
3. Next meeting: Monday 28th October 2024 7pm Dornie Hall

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