Dornie & District Community Council

26th May 2025 7pm Dornie Hall

1. **Present/Apologies**

Fiona Matheson (Treasurer), Alison Jack (Secretary), Janice Nixon (Vice Chair) Karen Baker, Shona MacLennan (Chair), Matt Baron, Campbell Dreghorn

In attendance: Karen Blair (member of the public), Barbara Haigh (member of the public) also Peter McGrath – Project Manager SSEN, Victor Umana – Design Engineer SSEN, Connor Macleod - Investment Planning Engineer SSEN , Mark Steward – Marine Consents Manager SSEN , Lorna Wilkie - Land Consents Manager SSEN

Apologies: Linda Brooks, Cllr Biz Campbell

1. **SSEN presentation regarding installing subsea cable between Dornie & Loch Long.** The current cable is being replaced due to age, having being inspected in 2021. SSEN are also installing a second cable at the same time (for a future network project Nostie). Target install date is Feb/March 2026.

There will be a public consultation, mainly for the marine conservation license, advertised in the local paper in due course.

The team gave an explanations of the surveys completed. In 2023 there was a marine survey (predict habitat and of the seabed) . There are onshore environmental considerations e.g. 54 types of birds and protected species. Ongoing consultation with NatureScot, there will be a habitat management plan to minimise damage to the shore and salt marsh .There will be an ecologist on site.

The new cable will use the existing east landing and the west landing will be slightly north. It was asked if the old cable will be removed – a section of it will be. Both cables will be buried. The cable weighs 30kg per metre, is 130mm diameter and 350 metres in length.

Installation - the cable will be delivered by a drum and a winch wire will be used, done in daylight, using cable rollers, floats on cable every 10m. Swimmers/divers will then remove the floats and the cable will be buried at low water.

Duration of works expected to be 1-2 weeks. It was asked if there will be access restriction to the loch during the works, in particular to a local creel boat – they have met with the fisherman and it’s expected to be of minimal disruption and will work around them. Question: asked if it will be specific low tide – answer: no just the daily low tide.

The marine licence application will be submitted in September 2025.Questions about the second cable: It’s the same size , it’s for future onshore project (2028/2030) to provide increased capacity and a more resilient network.

SSEN will forward the slides to the cc for upload to the cc website. CC thanked the SSEN team and the presentation ended 1945hrs. BH left. ACTION AJ

1. **Declaration of interests**

No additional declarations

1. **Minutes of** 28th April 2025

Minutes were approved. Proposed by FM, seconded by JN

**Matters arising not included in Item 5**:

Traffic Management Survey. The CC had received an email (13th May) from the Castle Keeper with data from the new electronic signage over Easter weekend. In summary there was a significant impact the new sign has made in reducing the average traffic speeds on the approach; as well being able to identify the peak periods of traffic volume… the average speed of traffic has been reduced to less than 40mph on the approach to the Castle entrance during operational hours. It is also abundantly clear in identifying the rise in average speeds when the machine is switched off at the close of business each day.

SML said that Transport Scotland had replied to her letter about speed limits: BEAR Scotland have been preparing a report on the A87 which Transport Scotland who will receive at end of May. They will, after reviewing the report, provide a copy to the CC. Discussion about the worn away road markings into the Castle and the near miss accidents at the hall car park junction. ACTION SML to write to Transport Scotland to see if installing CCTV, at hall junction, would be possible/ This would provide evidence of the near accidents.

Noted that Police Scotland had agreed to the request for speed deterrence presence for vehicles over 7.5tonnes which are limited to 40mph.

SML reported that although she had written twice to Roads Operations Manager, Highland Council, on new speed limits from Lagg to Bundalloch and in Camuslongart, she had had no response. She then sent the correspondence to the Chief Executive. However, no response had been received. Then followed a discussion about the speed limit in Camuslongart and SML said it had been discussed at the March meeting but she had failed to include it in the minutes (AJ was absent from that meeting).

It was agreed that the CC would ask HC if coaches could not have access to the hall car park. Noted that the signage only has minibuses, not coaches on it. K.Blair said there were numerous instances of the public stopping on the bridge to take photos. It was agreed that generally road users do not know the meaning of the No Stopping/Clearway sign & this had previously been noted.

Frustration was expressed at the challenge of slow or nil response from Highland Council on matters reported to them.

One area which was an ongoing issue was human waste. The CC had received a response from Environmental Health regarding public toileting “Complaints/issues of this nature would be very difficult for EH to try and enforce and they would probably be best placed to be picked up by the Countryside Rangers Service at Accessrangers@highand.gov.uk” The Outdoor Access & Long Distance Route Manager was copied in to this and also replied to us : “We are currently recruiting Seasonal Access Rangers but the team will not be in post until 30th May 2025 at the earliest, and we are also struggling to fill some areas. Once operational the Rangers will focus on responsible behaviour in the countryside and record data of numbers and incidents encountered whilst on patrol on 3 days per week, this will include human waste at countryside sites. They will tidy up toilet paper as best as possible but they are not equipped to remove human waste and if warranted will then report it on the THC waste /fly tipping portal or discuss required action with the Area Waste Officer “ ACTION AJ to follow up with the Outdoor Access & Long Distance Route Manager, after 30th May to find who is in post for our area.

The CC considered liaising with Plockton CC who had raised issues about some houses in Plockton not being connected to the sewage works. It was noted that SEPA’s response to them was that representations and complaints should be made directly to HC Environmental Health. Noted that DDCC had complained to SEPA and Scottish Water about sewage spillage in Dornie but neither had accepted that this was within their remits.

Action still outstanding on reviewing Kate Forbes’ response on SEPA to identify what more could be done. ACTION SML

 AJ reported that the CC had received an email today from HC regarding the Community Council review. It is now in Phase two, Public Consultation: 22nd May-13th August 2025. Agreed that SML would read the consultation and report to the CC on possible response.

1. **Matters pertaining to the last minutes**
	1. Updates from:

**Dornie & District Community Trust .**MB reported an update regarding the shop: The paving on the left of the building & shop entrance is now complete. It will be a step free access. The shop area has been plasterboarded. The design of the café/kitchen has been finalised. Refit shelving has been acquired from Lochcarron Spar. Funding has been applied for from CLLD fund managed by the Highland Council.Date of opening still pending.

**Dornie & District Moorings Association Ltd**: MB reported that the results of their questionnaire were on their website. The Marine Scotland Licence application was progressing. They had met with SSEN regarding the new subsea cable to ensure no issue with potential pontoon anchor locations. Also updated FAQs will be on their website this week.

MB also said that the Dornie Projects Group has bought two new recycled plastic benches. (Delivery pending)

**Graham House** : FM said that DDCT are meeting with Community Enterprise on 29th May 2025. AJ said that she will forward the fortnightly Community Briefing email to DDCT as this has regular information about funding sources. SML asked if this could be added to the website. ACTION AJ

**Police update:** none received

* 1. **Roads update:** Frustration was expressed that although different matters had been reported to Highland Council, no progress had been made. It was agreed to ask Cllr Campbell for assistance in progressing these and other issues.

There was discussion on following up on double yellow lines and other actions highlighted in the traffic survey. It was noted that at a previous meeting it had been agreed to prioritise the actions and to tackle the work in chunks. The summary of the extensive responses would assist in identifying the next priorities. ACTION: AJ to follow up with LB regarding summary of the survey.

1. **Written financial report from the treasurer:**

Balance at 28/5/25: £2840.39

(£1532.32 +NHI £800;EG £508.07)

Income £0

Expenditure: Dornie &District Community Hall hire 31/3/25 &28/4/25 £20.0

Balance to carry forward at 26/5/25: £2,820.39

The new digital account application had been successful. ALL AGREED to close the existing Treasurers Account and transfer to the new digital account.

1. **Any other competent business**
	1. SML proposed we ask neighbouring community councils if they would be interested in working together to request a Recycling Centre for the Lochalsh area. ALL AGREED. ACTION AJ
	2. SML proposed the Community Development Manager (Highland Council) meet the main community groups so that she can learn about the various projects and ambitions for the area. ALL AGREED. SML proposed 6pm 23rd June. ACTION SML
	3. JN passed on information regarding Climate Hub funding
2. **Questions or contributions from members of the public present.** K.Blair raised the pot holes on Francis Street and that recently a wheelchair user had difficulties with access. Also the overgrown bushes on the path to the castle. The CC noted that the pot holes had recently been filled but agreed about the poor state of the road. ACTION MB
3. **Date of next ordinary meeting** 23rd June 2025 at 7.15pm. The AGM will be held 23rd June 2025 at 7pm.

[www.dornie.org.uk](http://www.dornie.org.uk) email:dorniecommunitycouncil@gmail.com