

DALWHINNIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Date: Thursday 18th September 2025

Time: 18.30

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Chappell (MAC), Nicola Penny (NP), Lesley Carr (LC), Si Conroy (SC) Ian Philp (IP) Jen Dickinson (JD)

APOLOGIES and WELCOME

Deborah Munday (DM), David Haggarty (DH), Muriel Cockburn - HC(MC) HC, Alice Fogg - VABS(AF)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST/INTENTIONS

No declarations

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting from 24th July 2025 were proposed by JD and seconded by LC

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Current Balance - £9,058.91
- HC Grant has now been received
- Zurich Insurance due at £244 – this covers Public Liability, Events and Voluntary Labour – it was suggested to investigate Zurich again as they offer insurance for charities and community organisations from £53 – SC offered to review. If unable to reduce it was agreed to go ahead with the current renewal

MATTERS ARISING

- War Memorial Benches – these have now been assembled and painted and will be put in place with brackets and bolted down, this will be completed mid to end October 25 by SC and DH. Nathan Grant will be asked to complete one more grass cut and tidying of the war memorial area
- DCC Fund Raising
 - Panto – we are struggling to get cast members or find another panto with very small cast. MAC has approached Newtonmore to see if any of their members would be interested in joining us this year as they are unlikely to have their own, so far no responses. Suggest to postpone for this year
 - Instead of a panto it was suggested that a 'Talent Night' nearer Christmas could be considered
 - Craft Fair – currently have 11 stalls confirmed and awaiting on response from others. NP to contact Caribe Candles from Aviemore. Ideally would like 15 stalls. Posters are amended for the date and to go up at the Garage, Diner, N'more Grill, Co-op, N'more notice board and get an advert in the Strathy. JD to organize social media advertising. The tombola will remain under the DCC this year to help raise funds. DCDT are having a refreshment stall at the craft fair and in lieu of stall fee, the hall is being offered FOC. If however sufficient funds are made, then a donation will be made to the DCDT.

- Village Energy Project – LC reported that she has been approached by other agencies who are interested in what we are looking to do. LC is attending further meetings over the coming weeks, including the head of environmental from Diagio.
- Scottish Land Fund – LC has had discussions with VABS and DCDT need a new constitution in order to move forward with this project. It also requires the CNPA to designate the land as derelict
- EARBA Pump Storage – LC advised this has currently come to a standstill whilst waiting for the outcome of the consultation in September on community benefits before any further decisions are made. Gilkes Energy have now put the project up for sale. HC are now mediating between the community alliance and Gilkes.
- Rail Crossing – There has been a letter sent from the Scottish Government to CNPA but the contents isn't being shared at present. The UK government are currently ignoring the Scottish access laws and there will be an article in Parkwatch regarding the issues detailed in the letter.
- Community Action Plan – this will need re-visiting to ensure it is viable and contains the right areas to focus on. MAC to look at this and come back with updates/changes. The plan could include matters such as the flood defences and the village energy project

PLANNING MATTERS

Nothing to report

AOB

- Speeding - The 2 traffic policeman purchased were only insitu for approx. 2 weeks when they had to be removed due to the weather, these will now be attached to wood and then reinstated. MAC has continued to try and get further assistance from the police but no success. JD has enquired about the electronic speed signs and for solar/mobile signs these are £2,500 each but these could then be sited in different locations at different times.
- Website – Dalwhinnie Voices is now under the full operation of Am Bhaile. The village website is now up and running again and Bluehost has been paid until Jan 27, the domain name until Nov 25. MAC is going to investigate getting the website re-done and updated to a more user friendly format for us to manage
- Gym Equipment – SC advised that a new piece of equipment had been looked at for use in the gym, this is a free standing pull up/chin bar at a cost of £190. It was agreed that this could be purchased once LC had got agreement by the DCDT trustees
- Community Conxtions – they are looking to provide a bus route covering Dalwhinnie, Newtonmore, Laggan and Aviemore in addition to research being carried out for unpaid carers. They are looking to bring their advertising van to the car park at The Apiary for people to see what is on offer. It was suggested that we approach them to bring this to the Craft Fair to advertise what they do. MAC to contact
- Quarry Works – IP asked if anyone knew what was happening with work at the quarry and regarding the excess water and how this would be drained. MAC to write to Leith.
- Internet Access – IP asked if people were having issues with the internet and all were in agreement that it is currently very poor. There is no current date for the launch of the fibre
- Abandoned Car – SC to add this to the HC fly tipping website as the car at the south end of the village has now been there for 8-9 months.
- Wreath for Remembrance – it was agreed to purchase a wreath for the remembrance service

NEXT MEETING DATES

- Tuesday 7th October 25 18.30 Dalwhinnie Village Hall
- Thursday 13th November 25 18.30 Dalwhinnie Village Hall