

DALWHINNIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Date: Thursday 24th July 2025

Time: 18.30

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Chappell (MAC), Nicola Penny (NP), Lesley Carr (LC), Deborah Munday (DM)

APOLOGIES and WELCOME

Simon Conroy (SC), Jen Dickinson (JD), Ian Philips (IP), Muriel Cockburn (MC) HC, Kenny Deans (KD) CNPA

DECLARATION OF INTEREST/INTENTIONS

No declarations

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting from 19th June 2025 were proposed by LC and seconded by DM

TREASURER'S REPORT

- No Report

MATTERS ARISING

- Speeding – no further update
- War Memorial Benches – no further update
- DCC Fund Raising
 - Panto still has no final decision. MAC suggested speaking to Newtonmore to see if they would like to join us if they are not able to have a panto this year
 - Craft Fair – no further update
- Village Energy Project – LC reported that she has contacted Aberdeen University/Robert Gordon College with regards a plan to make Dalwhinnie the first self sufficient energy location. The colleges are happy to work with us and put together a feasibility study. CNPA are able to offer security/backing. VABS are also offering support for meetings.
- Scottish Land Fund – LC has been looking at the potential for the community to purchase the waste ground on Station Road. There is currently a fund available for which we could pitch for funding to help with the feasibility study and it has been suggested that the land be split into 3, one for woodland/nature, one for allotments and one for a recycling area. LC is to firstly write to the owners to see if they would be

willing to sell. Foundation Scotland can also be approached to ask for funding suggestions

- EARBA Pump Storage – LC has been in talks with Rachel Seale of Foundation Scotland to gain advice on how the community benefit can be moved forward if received. Dalwhinnie are currently joined with other communities to have a larger voice on the Gilkes offer. The alliance have advised Gilkes that the current offer is not acceptable as if paid it would be £240K split between 4 communities over 25 years and Gilkes would currently decide who gets what share. The current offer on the table if accepted would give 50% of the fund at the point of a 'spade in the ground'. The alliance group have asked for disruption payment at the start. A question was also raised that if all the increased traffic and heavy vehicles are to come through Dalwhinnie is the railway bridge at the traffic lights going to be substantial enough. It was agreed that as a community we should get 3 independent bodies to advise on how to manage the community benefit before deciding on who to work with, Foundation Scotland being one of these. MAC felt the alliance should be negotiating with Gilkes rather than just an outright no to everything. The next step is to wait for the outcome of the consultation in September before any decisions are made
- SSE Hydro Community Fund – no further update

PLANNING MATTERS

Nothing to report

AOB

- No further business

NEXT MEETING DATES

- Thursday 18th September 25 18.30 Dalwhinnie Village Hall
- Tuesday 7th October 25 18.30 Dalwhinnie Village Hall