

# DALWHINNIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES

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Date: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Time: 18.30

### **APOLOGIES and WELCOME**

Deborah Munday(DM), Ian Phil (IP), Muriel Cockburn(MC-HC), Graham Leadbitter (GL-MP)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mike Chappell (MAC), Nicola Penny (NP), Lesley Carr (LC), Si Conroy (SC), Jen Dickinson (JD), David Haggarty (DH)

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST/INTENTIONS**

No declarations

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were proposed by JD and seconded by DH

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Current Balance - £9,099.76
- 7 stalls for the craft fair have now been paid
- Nathan Grant to be paid for final grass cut

### **MATTERS ARISING**

- War Memorial Benches – these will be completed mid to end October 25 by SC and DH. SC to get feet to bolt this to the ground. Large rocks to be placed around the bases for more aesthetic look. This will be all completed by 11<sup>th</sup> November 25. A stand to hold the wreaths is being done by Ewan Carr, due to Alan Dawson being away. This will be in place once completed
- DCC Fund Raising
  - Craft Fair – JD is publishing social media marketing to promote the event and it was suggested that once seen that this is then shared. The banners are up and the number for the date to be added to the banner opposite the distillery. MAC to ask if The Post Box in Kingussie would display a poster. Community Connexions from Aviemore will be attending to promote what they do.
  - There has been no communication from Laggan regarding Burns Night so it has been suggested that we hold our own as Shinty Memories would like to be involved. We can now have a max of 80 people
- Village Speed Signs – the electronic speed signs can be purchased from Elan City and the cost will be £2500+VAT and Carriage. This will be run on solar with back up battery. MAC suggested we wait 1 more month to make a decision based on grants available. NP proposed we buy one now and then we can add further if grant money becomes available. Seconded by DH and all in favour. JD advised there is a Road Safety Small Grant application open which we could apply to and the grant could also include a cycle path to Laggan. LC will also look at possible funding options to cover costs.
- Website – the Dalwhinnie village website has been hacked. MAC has spoken to a web developer who has advised they can do a different site which will be simpler to manage with a different programme on Word Press. The cost for this is £700 + VAT and then £120 + VAT pa to host. We need to decide which items are important and which items we don't require. Can everyone review and respond to NP by email within the next 2 weeks. MAC proposed we go ahead with this and this was seconded by DH and all in favour
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- Gym Equipment – MAC asked DCDT for agreement of additional equipment. LC has had responses, 4 in favour and 2 abstained. It has been agreed that providing there is no cost or maintenance to the DCDT that this can go ahead. DCC will purchase a pull up bar and pilates equipment at a cost of £499. LC advised that the equipment needs to be maintained so ensure valid hall insurance. SC advised it is only the ERGO bike and rowing machine which require maintenance. NP to produce sheet to log who and when the equipment is checked.
- Village Energy Project – LC is attending a conference in Inverness on 8<sup>th</sup> October where there are in excess of 100 delegates, of which many want to talk about our proposed project. LC had a meeting with Energy Scotland on 7<sup>th</sup> October and they wish to come to the village for the surveys on properties for advising on energy reductions in mid November. Currently LC has secured approx. £45k in funding with an initial cost of £60k to cover the initial scoping works. The total cost of the project could be around £5m, we will also need continued funding for maintenance. LC suggested that we may operate an EV charging station in the village and the funds from this will assist with these costs. There is also a group of Climate enthusiasts meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October and our project is top of their agenda. LC has also had favourable response from Diageo
- Scottish Land Fund – LC advised that the land is not abandoned/derelict but designated a brown field site. LC to review again on next steps. HC and CNPA are not even agreeing on the address of the land. The DCDT are required to become tier 2 to continue with this. To gain funds from the Scottish Land Fund, it is advisable that the DCDT join the Development Trust Association of Scotland, which will be discussed by the trustees at their next meeting.
- EARBA Pump Storage – LC advised the association met on 29<sup>th</sup> September 25, there is no longer a permanent chair but this will be rotated depending on which village is hosting the meeting. Alistair Todd will be the secretary for the alliance. There is no decision on the surveys carried out in the previous consultation, and this is not likely now until June 26 along with a decision on the Cap and Floor of community funding support - `MAC thanked LC for her work on all these projects
- Rail Crossing – No further update
- Community Action Plan – no further update. MAC not completed. LC advised that CNPA have used the old development plan. LC reported that the proposed CAP regarding Green and Blue issues from CNPA is not very people friendly and is very long winded to comment upon

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

Nothing to report

## **AOB**

- MAC would like DCC to purchase gift for Nathan and Lachlan Grant for coming to the village and removing a tree that fell in the storm, blocking all access in and out of Station Road. MAC will ask what would be suitable that would be helpful for them LC suggested asking DCDT to match the amount spent by DCC
- LC advised that during discussions on the village energy project with Network Rail, it was proposed that the village may take on the station platform buildings to use as a community partnership scheme for community use. JD commented that we need to ensure we wouldn't then become responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES**

- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 25 18.30 Dalwhinnie Village Hall