

DALWHINNIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Date: Thursday 23rd April 2026

Time: 18.30

APOLOGIES and WELCOME

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Chappell (MAC), Nicola Penny (NP), Jen Dickinson (JD), David Haggarty (DH), Ian Philps (IP), Lesley Carr (LC), Simon Conroy (SC), Muriel Cockburn - HC (MC)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST/INTENTIONS

No declarations

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting from 26th February 26 were proposed by DH and seconded by LC

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Current Balance - £4,256
- Obtaining a SumUp card terminal to help with taking payments
- JABU Designs for website
- Past & Present Money not used yet, still investigating

MATTERS ARISING

- Thanks to DH and SC for organizing the corex policeman back up.
- 40mph consultation has now ended (20/4/26), once this has been implemented we can start requesting the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph
- Electronic speed signs still need to go up. This requires a 10' scaffold pole. DH to speak to Alan Dawson
- Large lorries have been getting stuck at the railway bridge traffic lights recently
- Fund Raising – the Spring Craft Fair raised £360 from the stalls and £117 from the tombola and donations, giving a total of £485.50. The new banners cost £135 so profit of £350.50. Thanks go to JD for her organizing this. The Hamish Napier evening was a great success, bring people to the village. A total of 28 tickets were sold and DCC made £180 via bar takings. Hamish Napier was very happy with the evening. The option to have an evening with Garry Innes isn't going ahead as we need to pay a cost of £1800 to host this.
- New Website – the new website is now up and running and looking very good. All previous minutes are being added along with DCDT minutes. LC would like additional pages added, these will be at an additional cost. JABU Designs will manage the site for us and the host fee is £144 pa which DCC will cover. As all minutes will be added to the website we will no longer send specific emails to the estates
- Alan Dawson has offered to put a shed on his land for DCC storage as we cannot put on the village hall land. This will be to hold the winter lights, litter pick equipment, panto and craft fair stuff, including banners. We need to obtain 3 quotes for the cost of the shed. IP has offered to assist with this. Suggested 8 x 10' with no windows.
- Community Action Plan – this is now with Alice Fogg of VABS. We now have 4 basic areas and have removed things that have already been completed or are not achievable. This is now a more workable structure. MAC to follow up
- Network Rail – nighttime work will be continuing until Jan 27. JD requested a letter to be sent to Network Rail to highlight the issues this is causing for residents health and damage to pavements etc. The work is keeping people awake at night with beeping from vehicles reversing. Lee

Cleghorn has expressed concern on how this is affecting his business. This was agreed and proposed by MAC and seconded by NP. MAC to write letter, to be circulated prior to sending. JD to provide address for sending this.

- Village energy Project – Micro Wind Initiative, 29 properties have had surveys and 23 returned required info so now the numbers need to be analysed by Robert Gordon. There has been a good mix of properties. Next step would be a public meeting and presentation. It is too complicated for ScotRail/Network Rail to include the station or for the distillery due to them being a multi-national and not SME. There are now 20hrs of mentoring available and the project is getting a lot of attention. H&I Enterprise very supportive. MC (HC) asked for Graham Leadbitter to be kept in the loop.
- EARBA Project – no decisions between the 4 community councils until the government decision has been made as Hydro still not included in the funding. There are still concerns over access and roads although Transport Scotland are saying the roads are adequate. The roads are just 5m wide in places and vehicles measure 3.1m. Depending on outcome it is still possible that only one of the projects will go ahead, possibly Corrie Glas.
- Foundation Scotland – Rachel Searle is the contact for the charity who can help manage the money and can organize lending, which can include the flood defence which has now had planning approved. It was hoped this would be done this year but now looking like 2027. Ideally obtaining soil and stone from the current A9 developments would be useful

PLANNING MATTERS

Nothing to report

AOB

- IP asked if the DCC could pressurize ScotRail/Network Rail to help with heating/lighting at the the station waiting room and to cc Simon Easley of Highland Mainline Railway
- JD advised that the platform is due to be extended by 16m, MC (HC) confirmed this. It is thought this will be southbound. There has also been mention of removing the stop of the early morning train. MC (HC) advised that a data survey over 4 days in Kingussie showed nobody getting on.
- SC raised the issue of the parking beside the horse field and the state of the grass. A letter has been sent to Environmental Health and Housing Officer at HC but no response. There is also an issue with ducks along Ben Alder Road making a lot of mess and not moving out of the road due to being fed. It was requested that a letter be sent from DCC. This was proposed by MAC and 2nd DH
- JD advised this would be her last year on the cc unless others in the community step in and help, especially after unfounded accusations from authorities made. MAC agreed as we are all very busy and without help the DCC could fold. MC (HC) advised other CC's are also struggling
- IP suggested holding a table top/car boot sale at the Village Hall. To be discussed at next meeting
- LC advised that Dalnacardal Trust are holding an open day in the hall – date tbc
- MC (HC) advised we don't need to have meetings every month. MAC commented that we don't get any support from other HC members or CNPA and thanked MC for her support. JD advised that last year we had a balance of £5074.12, spent £3227 on speeding measures and only took in £1102 which isn't sustainable
- There is a community council forum on 28th April 26 in Carrbridge at 6pm. JD may be able to attend

NEXT MEETING DATES

- 3rd June 26, 6.30pm, Village Hall
- 3rd September 26, 6.30pm, Village Hall