

Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	Thursday 19 th June 2025
Location	The Dornoch Hub
Attending (Board)	Luke Watson LW (Chair), Glen McGill GM (Vice Chair), Paddy Murray PM , Jim McGillivray JM , Emily Teagle ET , Iona Currie IC , Paula White PW
Apologies (Board)	
Guests	

	Item	Lead														
1.	Minutes of board meeting 22nd May for approval <table><tr><td>Proposed</td><td>GM</td></tr><tr><td>Seconded</td><td>JM</td></tr></table>	Proposed	GM	Seconded	JM	NA										
Proposed	GM															
Seconded	JM															
2.	Review of actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">A complete review of the memorandum and articles of association is needed, but a new development has occurred, leaving LW uncertain about the next steps, to discuss later in meeting.JM has sorted out the Scrubland car park issue, and LW is reviewing an email from Phil Tomalin THC. A case needs to be put forward to justify purchasing the land at a cheaper rate than land value, emphasising its use for a community project.A discussion about David Anderson regarding the piece he put into the Northern Times, which was covered in the last meeting. The results of this will be shared later in the current meeting's agenda. See attached DACIC Board Meeting Action Log for full details. <table><tr><th colspan="2">Summary</th></tr><tr><td>New</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Live</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Closed</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Extended</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>No longer applicable</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>On Hold</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	Summary		New	6	Live	0	Closed	2	Extended	1	No longer applicable	0	On Hold	0	LW
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3.	Existing Projects/Activity DACIC Board Report distributed to directors on (13/06/25) In addition to the update provided in the board report the following items are to be noted, actioned or discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none">New Members Database The new members database, using Microsoft Lists, is now live. LW is still working on filtering and adding original information from original shhets. The database allows tracking welcome emails and facilitates Mail Chimp integration for newsletters, with GM receiving messages for this task. It also enables tracking email responses for annual membership checks. PW clarified that GM would add a 'done' comment once completed. LW is still updating address and details from other spreadsheets. The database supports tags for filtering members (e.g., director, volunteer, driver). A date function tracks last AGM participation to identify inactive members. LW aims to finish populating the database by the end of June 2025. An iPad will be set	NA														

	<p>up by PW for collecting new member information at markets, and an optional date of birth field has been added for demographic data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better planning and alignment of events The team completely missed Volunteers Week. PW had thanked volunteers in May, mistakenly believing that was the correct time. LW has tasked PW with reviewing National Days and Awareness Weeks (such as Mental Health Week) to ensure the organisation aligns with appropriate events in the future. • Audit of the DACIC website Discussion about updating the website, including grammar, spelling, and number checks. LW intends to look at it weekly. Consideration of hiring a new staff member with social media and website skills to keep things updated. • Complete the upload of all Board minutes and key DACIC governance documents Minutes and other documents need to be uploaded. PW to action • Update on Dornoch South lease of land to The Thompson Bro Payment of £4,800 received for a year's lease. With distillery legal costs around £10,000. This has been a learning curve regarding legal costs. Thomson Brothers will buy the land for £110,000 in one year. SSSEN will carry out power line works, paid for by Thomson Brothers. Notification on social media and other channels is needed when works start. • Sport Facilities Sports Centre at Dornoch South plans are on hold. A meeting on May 27th involved DADCA, David Anderson, JM, Dornoch Cricket Club, Sutherland Squash Club, and Meadows Group representatives. Agreement that Meadows will not pursue a rentable space that competes with a new community centre. DADCA to proceed with public consultation for a new community centre, with the best site being next to the MUGA on Dornoch South. A feasibility study for Dornoch's sports facilities is needed, especially after TRACC shutting down is looking more likely. Dornoch's facilities are behind other areas. Research into companies for feasibility study quotes is underway. First quote is £12,000 (with an option for £2,000 for visuals/designs), total £15,000 to £20,000 was expected. Five other companies approached, four responded. Next week's meeting will include golf club and community council representatives. Funding might come from the Common Good Fund. Discussion about Sutherland Squash Club needing more courts (2 good, 3 better) and the idea of a "racket club" at Dornoch South (squash, badminton, pickleball, tennis, paddle) and Meadows for football/cricket, school for gymnasium/basketball. Concerns about facilities making money and not becoming "white elephants." Criticism of High Life Highland and Council models for sports facilities due to limited access and potential for losing interest/high charges. Reference to a past project (sports barn) from 2015/2017 that failed due to council issues, costing at least £250,000 in planning. Sported organisation (who gave £1,000 for the MUGA) could be involved after feasibility study is decided. • Changes to DACIC's Articles of Association 	
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	<p>DACIC awarded a £15'000 grant from BBC Children in Need for youth craft sessions for three years. Grant requires an asset lock clause in governing documents, naming a specific organisation. Current documents states "appropriate organisation." DTAS advised that current articles are outdated and Scottish government approval is only needed because it's written in the articles. Suggestion to call an extraordinary meeting to amend clause 40.1b to remove the need for Scottish government approval. Concern about DTAS's expertise on Community Interest Companies (CICs). Grant acceptance deadline is June 26th, extension requested until end of July. LW to reach out to previous board members involved in looking at amending articles a number of years ago to gain additional advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dornoch Pickleball Club <p>Membership model for MUGA is on hold due to feasibility study and potential racket club. Suggestion for Pickleball Club to become independent, paying rental for courts. LW to call a meeting of The MUGA Steering Committee to raise this matter and seek a board for Dornoch Pickleball Club.</p>	
4.	<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new or ongoing safeguarding concerns or risks since our last board meeting 	LW/GM/PW
5.	<p>Community Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Council <p>Last community council meeting was Wednesday night (June 18th, 2025). Low key, no visitors. Place plan preparation continues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DADCA The BID Embo Trust 	NA
6.	<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of June and July 2025 Events <p>Upcoming community events include our market at the end of June with 14 stalls, but no food vendor for this month, though an ice cream vendor is expected in July. The Tain Gala is on the same weekend as the market. The Beer and Music Festival is scheduled for July, coinciding with the market during the day. Collaboration with Kenny at The Coach House for promoting events was discussed.</p>	NA
7.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Transport Vehicle Acquisition and Funding <p>Discussion about the need to order a new community transport car, which takes three months to arrive. Concerns were raised about securing funding from CRF and the possibility of using Common Good funds as a guarantee. A deposit of £500 is required. The group debated whether placing a deposit would affect grant applications.</p>	ALL
8.	Next Board Meeting Thursday 17 th July at The Dornoch Hub	NA