

MEMORIAL

by

The PROVOST, MAGISTRATES and TOWN COUNCILLORS
of the ROYAL BURGH of DORNOCH
to

The Right Honourable JOHN S. MACLEAY,
Secretary of State for Scotland,

anent a decision by the Education Committee of the County Council of Sutherland reached on 20th October 1959 by the casting vote of the Chairman of said Committee on his own motion, to reduce the status of Dornoch Academy from that of a Senior Secondary School to a Junior Secondary School.

THE MEMORIALISTS RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT

1. That the Royal Burgh of Dornoch is the County Town of and only Burgh in Sutherland and has been from time immemorial the traditional centre of culture and higher learning in the County.
2. That Dornoch Academy compares most favourably with any educational institution in Northern Scotland as regards (a) quality of work, as attested by average percentages when compared with the national level, (b) the facilities available both residential and otherwise, (c) excellent staffing arrangements.
3. That Dornoch Academy is situated in the most salubrious part of the County of Sutherland where children thrive and have outdoor facilities and freedoms that no other part of the County can offer.
4. That the main consideration for the aforementioned decision by the Education Committee can be demonstrated to be other than primarily in the interests of education. It is clear from reports that the chief emphasis is placed on finance and administration.
5. That the said decision has already caused, and will continue to create, alarm for the future among pupils and staff at/

at Dornoch Academy and in the individuals in the Burgh of Dornoch who have taken up or have been induced to take up appointments in the Burgh having in view the educational facilities provided therein, as evidenced by a Petition signed by almost 300 residents immediately after publication of the said decision.

6. That the said decision is unprecedented in this County or, so far as the Memorialists know, anywhere else in the North of Scotland. It is admitted that in some schools in the County of Sutherland, Senior Secondary education had to be discontinued, but in every case this decision was the result of lack of numbers of pupils and was not influenced by the elements of finance and administration.
7. That the said decision will destroy without adequate or valid reason, the educational tradition and community loyalty which the present pattern is sustaining.
8. That any economy to be effected - and this is doubtful - by operating said decision can only be at the expense of educational efficiency which, in the Memorialists' submission, must be the first care and duty of the Education Committee.
9. That the present organisation at Dornoch Academy is up to the highest standard required in connection with the operation of the new ordinary grade certificate. This organisation pattern is not feasible in any other school, as presently constituted, in the County.
10. That Dornoch Academy is adequately staffed with teachers holding the highest qualifications. That it is well known that any reduction in status of said Academy can only result in loss of such a satisfactory staffing position and, it is feared, great difficulty in securing adequate staff for the Academy.
11. That the Burgh of Dornoch has no representation on the Sutherland Education Committee despite the fact that Dornoch is the only Burgh in the County of Sutherland and is paying an educational/

educational requisition to Sutherland County Council for the year to 15th May 1960 of £21,998 on a gross rateable value of £8,973. 5/-.

THE MEMORIALISTS RESPECTFULLY APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND TO REFUSE TO PERMIT SUTHERLAND EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO PUT INTO EFFECT ANY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN REDUCING DORNOCH ACADEMY TO A JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL.

SIGNED at Dornoch on the 29th day of October, Nineteen hundred and fifty nine, for and on behalf of the Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch, by

(Signed) W. MACLEOD,
Provost of Dornoch.

(Signed) W. C. WRIGHT,
Town Clerk.

25/10/64

Present Roll in Dornoch:-

IC 51
IIC 38
IIIC 48

IV 45
V 16
VI 20

	E	H	G	F	G	L	M	S	T	H	A	R	M	N	Q	R
IL = 25	5	3	3	5		5	8	6	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	
IX = 26	5	3	3	5			8	6	7	7	2	1	2	1	2	
IIIL = 19	5	3	3	5	2	5	8	6	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	
IIIX = 19	5	3	3	5			8	6	7	7	2	1	2	1	2	
IIIC = 48	6	6	6	7	7	7	9	7	7	7	7	1	2	1	2	1
	6			7			9	7				1	2	1	2	
IV	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	1	1	1	2	1
	7			7			8	7				1	1	1	2	
V	7	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	1	1	1	2	1
VI	7	5	5	7			7	7				1	1	1	2	1
VI	5	5	5	5	8	5	12	12	2			1	2	1	1	1
	65	38	38	67	31	38	92	99	41	39	29	11	18	11	20	4

Total 641

For 2 schools

1282

Assuming double rolls:-

IC 102
IIC 76
IIIC 92

IV 90
V 32
VI 40

Before the building of the new Donock Academy :-

1. Some classes in Maths, Latin & French were regularly taught in corridors and boiler house
2. There were no private study facilities - pupils had to try to work "at the back of a class"
3. Staff of about 25 were herded into a staff room about 12 ft sq.
4. There was no reasonable accommodation for morning assembly, concerts and dramatic work or examinations
5. Accommodation for Art, music, Technical subjects, science and physical education was deplorable
6. Rector, typist and admin. assistant used one room 12 ft square to receive all pupils and other visitors. No privacy, no peace.
7. Time at games periods had to be wasted in going to Meadows Park and depending on the goodwill of the local Football Club for changing facilities
8. Entire routine disrupted at examination time
9. No facilities for Medical Examinations or sick pupils
10. No Biology possible at certificate level: This session after one year one girl is taking "O" level Biology for university entrance in 1966, and another is taking Hr. Biology in connection with M.B.Ch.B.
11. Canteen facilities in old school inadequate and repulsive
12. S.C.E. passes :- p.to.

23rd October 1959

Minute of Special Meeting of the Town
Council of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch,
held within the Council Chambers, Dornoch
on Friday 23rd October 1959, at 8 p.m.

SEDERUNT

Rev. W. MacLeod, Provost; Senior Bailie
Miss J. I. C. Chisholm; Junior Bailie J. A.
Wickham; Dean of Guild H. Clunie; Hon. Treas.
W. A. Urquhart; Councillors Messrs D. Mackenzie,
J. G. Macdonald, A. MacLean and J. Gunn.

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk.

CHAIRMAN

Provost MacLeod.

NOTICE

Notice calling Meeting held as read.

DORNOCH ACADEMY

Provost MacLeod explained that the Meeting had been called to consider steps to be taken following upon a resolution of Sutherland Education Committee to centralise Senior Secondary Education in the County at Golspie. After discussion when Senior Bailie Chisholm reported on excellent progress made with a Petition by the residents in Dornoch and district for retention of Dornoch Academy as a Senior Secondary School, it was resolved,

(a) To send a telegram to the Secretary of State for Scotland protesting strongly against the Sutherland Education Committee resolution,

(b) To submit a Memorial and Appeal to the Secretary of State for Scotland,

(c) To send copies of the Memorial to Sir David Robertson, M.P., Lord Kilmuir, Mr A. F. Murray, Mr Douglas Johnstone, Q.C., M.P., and Sir Beverly Baxter, M.P., and to invite their support,

(d) To arrange for calling a Public Meeting of Parents in the Drill Hall or Cathedral Hall for a convenient date to be arranged with the Provost.

lying parallel to the Black Burn (d) install a by-pass relief pipe at the tank and (e) adjust the weirs within the tanks to give a more nearly equal flow to each compartment. These steps would neither be costly nor take any considerable time to effect and could be ready for the 1965 tourist season. Long term solution of sewerage problems would require to be in the terms of the report of 16th October, 1964, that is, full scale purification works costing approximately £65,000 or the use of the septic tank as an aeration tank at a cost of some £26,000. Mr. Fraser mentioned the Bill at present before Parliament with reference to the discharge of sewerage into tidal waters. Legislation might make it necessary for the Town Council to treat the sewerage to a high standard. Mr. Fraser also pointed out that the effluent from the Slaughterhouse was equivalent to an additional 450 inhabitants in the Burgh. Mr. Fraser pointed out that if blood and other wastes from the Slaughterhouse were put into the sewers the Town Council could make a charge for the treatment of such wastes if elaborate sewerage treatment works were required.

After giving the members an opportunity of commenting or asking questions the whole matter was referred to the Works Committee for careful study and report back.

Betting Gaming &
Lotteries Act 1963
Application by Dornoch
Platoon Army Cadet
Force;

A fresh application by the Dornoch Platoon, Army Cadet Force for registration under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 was granted, Provost MacLeod dissenting.

Street Lighting:

Submitted reports by the Burgh Surveyor dated 28th October, 1964 but received too late to be included in the Agenda for the November meeting, recommending the installation of a pole bracket and lantern near 5 Stafford Road. Report adopted.

The Clerk stated that street lighting generally in the Burgh required to be dealt with. In particular the delay in fixing the post-top lanterns at the new standards at the War Memorial and the standard near the front of the County Buildings, the connecting up of the new lantern which had been installed some considerable time ago at the top of Shore Road and the installation of lights in St. Gilberts Street which had been instructed almost a year ago had to be explained. The Clerk stated that Mr. George Robertson of Messrs. Lawson, Turnbull & Co., Aberdeen had telephoned on Friday 27th November, 1964 to say that the post-top lanterns had been promised for the end of the current week. Councillor Purvis stated that the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board had undertaken to connect the new lamp at the top of Shore Road when the jointing of the Evelix Road Scheme was dealt with but this had not been done although the Evelix Road Scheme was now in operation. Councillor Purvis was also waiting for information from the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board with reference to the situation and type of cable in St. Gilberts Street. The Town Clerk asked to be supplied with necessary information so that he could take the matter up with the Hydro Board and force the matter to a conclusion.

Dornoch Area Water
Supply:

Letter of 12th November, 1964 from the County Clerk, Golspie with reference to Dornoch Area Water Supply Scheme was read. It was noted that a communication from the County Clerk would be sent after his Council's meeting with officials in St. Andrew's House to ascertain how the Grant had fallen from 51%.

Minute of Meeting of the Town Council of the
Royal Burgh of Dornoch held within the Council
Chambers, Dornoch on Tuesday 1st December,
1964, at 8.p.m.

Sederunt:

Provost the Rev. Wm. MacLeod, D.L.; Senior Bailie Mrs.
J.I.C. Mackay; Junior Bailie D.A. Gardner; Hon Treasurer
J.G.K. Ross; Councillors A. MacLean; Rev. F.H. Fulton
D.D. Purvis and A.S. Addison.

Absent:

Dean of Guild H. Clunie.

In attendance:

W.C. Wright, Town Clerk and E.W. Brannen, Burgh Surveyor.

Chairman:

Provost MacLeod.

Notice:

Notice calling meeting held as read.
The Meeting was opened with prayer by Councillor Fulton.
Apology for absence intimated on behalf of Dean of Guild
Clunie who had contracted bronchitis. The Provost, on
behalf of the Council wished the Dean a speedy recovery.

Minutes:
Town Council
3/11/64.

Minute of Town Council meeting held on 3rd November, 1964
was approved.

BUSINESS ARISING

EMBO SIGN POST ETC.

The Clerk intimated that he had written on 27th October,
1964 and 25th November, 1964 to the County Clerk, Golspie
with reference to the Embo Sign Post etc., but no reply had
been received.

DORNOCH BURN

The Clerk reported that Dr. MacRae, M.O.H., had called on
this date with reference to the report which he was in
course of preparing on Dornoch Burn. The report would be
available within a matter of days. In view of Dr. MacRae's
recent operation the report could not have been expected at
an earlier date and it was resolved to deal with the report
at the meeting of the Council on 12th prox..

Town Council Special
Meeting 16/11/64

Minute of Special meeting held on 16th November, 1964 was
approved.

Finance Committee
3/11/64.

Minute of meeting of Finance Committee of 3rd November, 1964
was adopted.

Housing Committee
3/11/64

Minute of meeting of Housing Committee of 3rd November, 1964
was adopted.

Cemeteries Committee
3/11/64

Minute of Meeting of Cemeteries Committee of 3rd November,
1964 was adopted.

AGENDA

Sewers:

Provost MacLeod welcomed James McL. Fraser, of Messrs. Babbie
Shaw & Morton, C.L.E., Glasgow. Mr. Fraser explained that
problems which had arisen in connection with the Sewer Scheme
installed in conformity with part 4 of the report of 6th
April, 1959 could be dealt with under short term and long
term plans. The short term remedies would be (a) to roof
over the sump in the Pumping Station (b) roof over the tank
with plastic sheet (c) install sub-surface irrigation, that
is, pipe the effluent from the septic tank into tiled drains
lying/

BABTIE SHAW & MORTON
Chartered Civil Engineers

95 BOTHWELL STREET
GLASGOW C.2.

Your Ref 19B.

Our Ref 1150/JMcLF

30th July, 1963.

W.C. Wright Esq.,
Town Clerk,
Dornoch.

Dear Mr. Wright,

Improvements at Sewer Outfall

A measure of the complexity of Grant's complaint is the time I have taken to deal with it and I am sorry that you have been put to the trouble of writing to me again.

As I understand it Grant's complaint is that their land is inundated at times of high tide by water from the Black Burn. As the Town Council have not altered the regime in the burn this is manifestly something for which they are not responsible although by their using the burn as an outlet from the septic tank, the state of the water is probably worse than it was before the tank was built. Basically therefore it might help to undermine Grant's case if the tank were operated to the best advantage and steps taken to de-sludge it whenever sludge starts to appear at the mouth of the pipe. There is no obligation on the Council to provide anything better than septic tank treatment (the discharge being into tidal waters) and the cost of doing so would be quite substantial. Apart, therefore, from desludging the tank, you should not be forced into the position of having to enlarge or improve the works.

The grounds for complaint could be removed by the Town Council purchasing the land in question from Grants but I do not think that this course would commend itself to the council. There remains, therefore, the placing of some obstacle or barrier across the depression to prevent the water invading Grant's field.

The existing headwall which incorporates the outlets of both the sewer and the burn culvert is not normally overtopped at the time of high tide so this new obstacle or barrier would be brought into use only on isolated occasions when there was a higher than usual tide. Consequently, it would not be called upon to keep the water out of Grant's field for long periods at a time, but only for say an hour or two now and again.

This being so, it would be sufficient to provide something less than the Department of Agriculture envisage and this is what I suggest should be done.

The height of the headwall could be raised by building on it a few courses of brickwork. The exact height would depend on whether Grants were willing to allow the level of the field at the gate to be raised a few inches to allow there to be a gentle slope from the top of the brickwork back into the field. This might necessitate the lifting of the gate. From the ends of the brickwork, there could be built a turf wall, using the turves from the saltings and backing up the wall with gravel, house refuse, builders' rubbish or whatever other solid material was available. The turf walls would only need to be 18 inches or two feet thick.

The turf walls would extend to the nearest point of land that is not normally inundated. They could be curved or straight in plan, whichever would ensure the least use of material.

I think a combination of raising the level in Grant's field, raising the headwall and building wing walls of turf would remove any grounds for further complaint. It is difficult to estimate the cost without knowing what kind of filling material will be available and whether it will have to be paid for. As a guide, however, I would not expect the whole job to cost as much as £ 100.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. Fraser.

K.A. MACRAE, MB., Ch.B., D.P.H.
County Medical Officer of Health.

KAM/SR

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,

BONAR-BRIDGE, 2nd December, 1964.

The Town Clerk,
Council Chambers,
Dornoch.

Dear Sir,

Dornoch Burn.

As requested by your letter of 11th November I have to report to the Town Council that I have now completed my enquiries with regard to the state of the Dornoch Burn.

Samples of water from the burn have been examined bacteriologically for faecal pollution and the results show a quite heavy content of faecal bacteria in the burn where it passes into the Burgh near the old Railway Station. A further sample taken just below Littleton shows a somewhat less coli content but still markedly present. The explanation of this decrease in the coli count at that point may be partly due to the fact that the vegetation along the banks of the stream absorbs some of the polluting material and also that a further dilution of the stream occurs by the discharge of surface water into the burn.

The bacteriological content of a sewage effluent undergoes rapid and marked changes. On the day on which samples were taken there was quite a heavy flow in the burn which would dilute the concentration of the pollution. A sample taken in dry summer weather would show a much higher concentration. However, for our present purpose it is sufficient to note that bacterial pollution of faecal origin is present in quantity in a stream which flows through the middle of a built up area containing dwelling houses with children who might play along its banks.

As the Town Council are aware the main, although not the only, source of the pollution found in the burn at Dornoch is from the County Council's housing scheme at Camore, where there is septic tank treatment of the domestic sewage before the effluent is discharged into the burn; but no system of attempted biological or mechanical purification employed will have any significant effect on bacterial removal or destruction.

Recourse will therefore have to be had to some sterilisation process and the method of disinfection that has proved so far to be the most practicable and efficient in dealing with bacterial pollution of a stream or river is chlorination. Not only does chlorination destroy bacteria in an effluent but it also greatly reduces the profuse growth of fungi and vegetation along its banks.

I am, therefore, drawing the attention of the County Council to the state of the Dornoch burn and will recommend that a chlorination plant be installed to deal with the polluted waters of the burn before it enters the Burgh. In the meantime I would recommend to the Town Council that they erect notices at points along the burn within the Burgh drawing attention to the fact that it is polluted water and that children should not be permitted to play along its banks.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) K.A. MACRAE,

Medical Officer of Health.