

1. The purpose of the meeting is to resolve future arrangements for the custody of, and access to certain books, which prior to 1975 were kept in 'The Reading Room' in the Town Council offices.
2. Historically, it is argued by the Community Council that this collection of books was 'held in trust by the former Dornoch Town Council' and was not part of the Public Library Service. Support for this view is claimed in that the books were not in the Branch Library, and that the Reading Room was administered by the Town Council. It is, however, not clear what exactly is meant by 'held in trust' and there is so far no documentary evidence of any such arrangement. *Evangelical Approval*
3. If the books were part of the stock of the former Dornoch Town Council Library, operating in the Carnegie Library building, they would have been absorbed into the Sutherland County Library in about 1920 or later, and then become part of the Regional Council Public Library stock in 1975, by virtue of the legislation succession of ownership and responsibility. *They were left apart*
4. That this seems more likely is suggested by the publication dates of the books in the collection, only three of which are later than 1916.
5. Based on the understanding set out in paragraph 3 above, the collection was removed to Inverness for examination and any work necessary, and certain books were selected for return to Dornoch, to be included as local source material in the Dornoch Branch Library stock. The remaining books, most of which are already in Central Public Library stock are therefore already available on request. Others, which are of no value or relevance (e.g. papers dealing with South Wales) would normally be disposed of by passing to other Libraries for whom they would have relevance, or by disposal as surplus book stock. These latter actions would be normal good Library practice, and in accordance with established policy. *what policy?*
6. It therefore appears that the ^①first matter is to resolve the ownership of the collection. This hinges on the reference above to the books having been 'held in trust' by the Town Council, and the Regional Council has no evidence of any such arrangement. If such an arrangement can be shown, in records or other reports, there is no doubt that the Library Service would be willing to hand the collection back to the Community Council, as successors to the Town Council, and for the Community Council to make such arrangements as they may wish for custody of the collection, ^②for its security and for ^③access to it by those who may wish to use it. It should be noted that these three considerations are those which the Library Service seeks to provide for.
7. If it cannot be established that the Town Council had any special arrangement for the collection, it would be assumed that the collection is the responsibility of the Library Service, and that the action proposed above would be followed.
8. It is of some concern that so far the only representations made have been on the matter of ownership of these books. The prime matter of concern must be the availability of the relevant and useful parts of the collection for local reference and research study. It is assumed that this is recognised by the Community Council, and that the need to provide effectively for these purposes is taken into account in any alternative proposals which the Community Council may have.

DORNOCH LIBRARY: DORNOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
PROPOSALS AGREED AT MEETING HELD ON 1st DECEMBER, 1980

The following suggestions were agreed at a meeting between representatives of Dornoch Community Council and the Director of Leisure and Recreation and Regional Librarian, at a meeting on 1st December, 1980 in the District Council offices, Dornoch.

The arrangements refer to the books formerly kept in the Reading Room of the old Dornoch Town Council offices, and sometimes referred to as 'The Dornoch Collection'.

The background to the discussion is the transfer of this collection to the Central Unit in Inverness for checking and possible restoration, and return of only certain parts of that material to Dornoch, the remainder being seen as surplus to Library requirements, being already in Central Reference Stock and available on request, or of no interest or value to the Library, and for possible disposal, principally to other Libraries or for sale.

It had been argued locally and was pressed by certain local representatives, that the collection was not part of the Library Service stock, but had been 'held in Trust' by Dornoch Town Council for the community, and therefore remained the property of the Town Council's successors, possibly the Community Council.

The meeting agreed -

- (1) that the books at present in Dornoch, and included in the stock of the Branch Library as local reference material would remain there, as the best means of providing for safe custody and access to local material at a local location;
- (2) that the Community Council be asked to advise the Regional Council of other books on the inventory of books formerly in the Reading Room, which they would also wish to see included in local reference material;
- (3) that having received this list the Regional Council would respond and comment on the list, and assuming agreement, any such further titles as might be identified would be allocated to the Dornoch Library for inclusion in stock;
- (4) the remaining books to be for disposal, in the first instance to other Libraries for whom they might have relevance or be of interest, and the remainder to be sold, preferably after some assessment of their value had been obtained: it was accepted that this latter point was agreed without prejudice to the possible need to resolve the ownership of the collection, and the consequent right to receive the proceeds of any sale that might take place, as between the Regional Council and the successors to the former Town Council, who might be the Community Council or Sutherland District Council.

NOTE OF A MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 JULY AT WHICH THE DORNOCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL WERE REPRESENTED BY MR J K BELL, MR W C WRIGHT AND MR D A GOSKIRK AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BY MR T M GRAY, REGIONAL LIBRARIAN.

1. The purpose of the meeting was to consider further the books formerly kept in the Dornoch Town Council Offices and sometimes referred to as the 'Dornoch Collection' and in particular, those items which the Advisory Sub-Committee, led by Mr J K Bell as agreed at the Dornoch Community Council Meeting held on 13 January 1981, had selected from the list as warranting inclusion in the local history collection in addition to those volumes already present in Dornoch Library.
2. In the course of considerable discussion, Mr Wright indicated that ownership of this Collection might be vested in the Regional Council or Sutherland District Council as successors to Dornoch Town Council, but the Advisory Committee held to the view that nevertheless these books were still regarded as being "held in Trust for the people of Dornoch" and therefore should be available in Dornoch for all time. It was agreed that there was no documentary evidence to support this view.
3. The Regional Librarian advised that many such donations were made to the library but without such rigid conditions being applied to materials which were out of date and of little significance in subject matter.
4. Mr Goskirk suggested that a list of those titles retained in reserve as part of the Regional Reference and Local Studies should be prepared and made available in Dornoch, and that this would enable any person wishing to consult the less obviously relevant items on request, and avoid having to find shelf space for little used materials. The Regional Librarian agreed to provide a complete list as soon as possible.
5. It was suggested that the Community Council might consider the whole collection as an item for inclusion in the proposed Heritage Centre.
6. Mr Bell agreed on behalf of the Community Council to take charge of a scrap book of press cuttings relating to Mr Robert MacKay and arrange for its placing with the collection of medals held in the Council Chamber.
7. Mr Bell expressed concern in regard to three maps and a rent roll which had been placed with the Regional Archives and asked that arrangements be made for these to be displayed for a short time in Dornoch Library.
8. It was agreed that items selected by the Advisory Committee which had been brought from Inverness for consideration should be retained at Dornoch Library for a short while to enable Mr Bell to seek advice as to the monetary value of these items and determine the relevance of each item for a local history collection.

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