Present: Joan Bishop **JB** (Chair)**,** Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Jim McGillivary **JM**, Neil Hampton **NH**, Yvonne Ross **YR,** Paddy Murray **PM**

**In attendance:** Genevieve Duhigg **GD**

Apologies:Alison MacWilliam **AM** Lynne Mahoney **LM,** Catherine Moodie **CM,**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Minute of meeting of 28 May 2019 | The minutes were proposed by **NH** and seconded by **JM.** |
| 2. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere | 1. Business Group major funders meeting led by **NH**   Outcomes were that they were not happy that not all businesses pay but all benefit (the number of AirBNB’s was highlighted as those under the radar); Consider becoming a BID and so investigate what that may entail; Build up shoulder months; Have one major event (probably around food, drink or music); they all think that DACIC works and the business group is a good thing.  Outcomes for DACIC:  Trades website – build up to highlight local tradespeople **DG** to use the contacts she has built up in the first instance.  Winter brainstorming sessions for business group members. Invite them in an evening and offer a glass of wine to entice them. Courthouse as a potential venue. Ideas like Christmas markets every weekend, enchanted forest style installation. **YR** to speak with Pitlochry organisers.   1. Visit Scotland FAM Visit The VS staff from Inverness i-centre enjoyed the visit, will promote Dornoch and some are going to return with their friends. 2. SSE Course – The Lasting Difference Joan attended and it is a self-help toolkit to develop organisational sustainability around themes of involvement, income generation, innovation, improvement and impact measurement. One of the tips is to avoid ‘mission creep’ which happens when you chase funding that is not a good fit. 3. Dornoch Distillery Planning issue **JM** reported the Highland Council is available to help but certain information/plans required to do so. 4. M & A Changes (Scottish Government) **GS & NH**   No progress yet. |
| 3. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | 1. Heartseed House B&B 2. Lesley Strang Event Management – Wedding section 3. Outside the Box - Shop |
| 4. | 2018-9 plan |  |
|  | a. Visitor Centre | 1. There were 4038 visitors in May, up 17% on 2018. 4789 in June up 26% and up 16% on year to date.   Cath MacAngus is on holiday and cover is required. **JM** is going to try and help. |
|  | b. Business Group | 1. £22.7k had now been invoiced to 97 businesses. 2. Short term let consultation has been circulated 3. Highland Council Consultation on Transient Visitor Levy – **JB** attended meeting. It will go out for consultation. 4. Tourism Strategy 2020-2030 – **JB** attended but not very good mission statement, just reiterates what we are already doing. Good detail in the strategy stressing the career aspect of hospitality, but businesses represented talked of the difficulty in recruiting & lack of staff accommodation. 5. Maps have been delivered and are being stored in the Greenkeepers building ready for distribution. ‘You are here’ boards to be updated this week. |
|  | c. Developing the Cruise Liner market. | 1. Ambassador Lorraine Goldsmith is working well directing visitors about the town, but is only deployed on days when we are notified of coach arrival times. She is building a good relationship with the guides & drivers. |
|  | d. Month by month plan. | 1. Book Fair is not going ahead. All other events noted. |
|  | e. Project Curlew | 1. Need to apply for SLF stage 2 funding by 5th August. 2. Mark Wills of Fairhurst has done a very good and comprehensive job with the reports. 3. NHCT still do some work on the feasibility study. 4. Option agreement still pending, but letter of comfort good enough for SLF. |
|  | 1. Dornoch Police Station | 1. Police Scotland has accepted he ATR with 5% community discount 2. Tenants have been asked to confirm their interest. Ankerville have withdrawn due to falling numbers of 0-3s. We are working on a proposal for Staff Accommodation as alternative for the hostel and this will have to go back to SLF. Lily & Roux and Dave Gibson have pulled out. Highland Wireless decision awaited. Ivy Mvula-berry has taken small art studio. Silverback Gym, Caledonian Creations and Iain Levens (now two offices) have confirmed. 3. Renovation Funding – Town Centre & Capital Regeneration funds submitted – hear Sept 4. Investing in Communities Grant submitted hear Sept. 5. Beatrice application outcome due July. 6. SSE Sustainable Fund opens in the autumn 7. Next stages We have been told to carry on with the purchase and architectural work in the meantime. |
|  | g. Community Development Manager report | Report accepted as submitted. |
|  | h. Community Consultation KoSDT/Locality Plan | Jodie Ross ran two sessions in the Social Club. Unfortunately only a few people attended but the format was welcomed and good feedback received, with support for the Dornoch HUB. |
|  | i. Caithness & Sutherland Town Centre Strategies – Dornoch | Not happy with the content and proposals. **JB** and **GS** to suggest amendments. Put in Facebook and email to members & business group so that the local community can also suggest changes. David Cowie, Highland Council Principal Planner, to be invited to the meeting on 6th August. |
|  | j. Community Farm – Feasibility Study by D J MacLeod | DJ Macleod is investigating the possibility of a school/community farm. The ex-vegetable garden at Burghfield has been offered for the project and he is in touch with Embo Trust and the Glebe field for livestock. Poultry at the school was mooted but **YR** pointed out the difficulty of weekend and holiday cover. DADCA was considered the best umbrella group for funding etc. |
|  | k. Community updates | Dornoch Community Council:  **YR** not happy with ESRA proposed building, too big for the area and it seems unnecessary. Community consultation will start shortly.  DADCA: Book fair cancelled this year due to lack of volunteers  Embo Trust: Nothing to report apart from café ticking over.  UHI/NHC Business Unit: Nothing to report.  RDGC: Clubhouse project has been very well received by the members at a recent information evening. Planning permission will be applied for. Discussions with the Highland Council are ongoing and hopeful of a positive outcome for both sides. |
| 7. | Financial statement | Unrestricted reserves £27k |
| 8. | AOCB | 1. DONM: Tuesday 6 August at 7pm at RDGC It was noted that meetings will need to change from a Tuesday thereafter. 2. Brexit Queries workshop for the public coming to Dornoch Library 29 July 3. **DG** suggested a Digital Hub. Digital workers who work remotely renting spaces. **DG** will approach them all to see if they would take space in the Police Station. Can we do something for school leavers to connect them with these businesses – “Coding Club”. **JB** reported that funding had been requested for IT suite/digital training/coding club from Investing in Communities and a volunteer group AbilityNet in Invergordon are happy to help. |