Minute of DACIC Meeting Tuesday 3 July 2018

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

Apologies: James Dillon, Lynne Mahoney

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| 1. | Minute of meeting of 22 May 2018 | Minutes were proposed by **YM**, seconded by **GS**. |
| 2. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere | 1. Bulk Oil Buying Group – **JB** has been in touch with the organisers of a similar group in Kirkhill who use Mailchimp to organise this – JB will follow up. 2. Sign at Church Road – this has now been removed. 3. JOG trail and Dornoch map update – the new maps are now available, with the addition of ‘gold paws’ and public Wifi. Maps are removed from the Square overnight to stop them disappearing. **JB** has chased Acorn about sign updates, and the fingerposts for JoG trail symbol. **JB** to email requirements to **NH** to follow up with his contacts at Acorn. 4. Dornoch Castle Hotel has a new advertising screen outside the front door and are asking for new content, events details etc. To be followed up **JB**. 5. Beatrice Application – this has now been signed off by Board members. 6. DTAS membership – **JB** chased this and was told that this would be forthcoming soon. 7. GDPR – **JB** reported that DACIC had lost 3,500 contacts from the marketing database, and 70 out of 146 membership email contacts. It was stressed that it was important to start rebuilding the database and number of members. |
| 3. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | 1. IV25 residents – Fiona Fraser, Oystercatcher, Embo. Melissa Anderson. 2. Non IV25 residents - None this month |
| 4. | 2018 Plan |  |
|  | 1. Visitor Centre | 1. 3457 visitors in May up 25% - year to date up 22% 2. 3799 visitors in June up 0.9% - year to date up 14% |
|  | 1. Business Group | £24.6k for 94 businesses (still waiting on Links House, but 1st quarter billed to Castle, Dornoch Inn & Caravan Park). |
|  | 1. Developing cruise liner market | Coach parking options: **YR** – to follow up with school but request would have to go to John Mackay. **JM** will approach Graham MacKenzie for approval to use the school. **JB** would then have to pass on the message to the ground handlers. **PM** asked whether Dornoch was still keen to bring in coaches from cruise liners. **JB** replied that ideally from next year the ground handlers would sell more 4-hour trips to increase visitor spend. This would be more profitable and less disruptive for Dornoch.  **JM** reported that North Highland College are currently dealing with various issues and would not be able to give up space for coach parking. |
|  | 1. Month by Month plan | Dealt with elsewhere |
|  | 1. Dornoch Caravan Site | Report from Common Good Land meeting: The Caravan Park lease runs until 2038. The lease allows for the Executors to take over as Tenant and also permits assignation of the lease with the consent of the Landlord (Highland Council), which consent cannot reasonably be withheld. Therefore there is no route in for DACIC unless we are asked by the tenant to take over the lease.  Highland Council is still awaiting the independent re-valuation, which will be binding on both sides. A rent review is due every three years to “market value”.  HC could have an inspection each year to check the terms of the lease are being adhered to. This inspection would be charged to Dornoch Common Good.  (Rosemarkie also has caravan site on common good land and would be interested to hear how the situation in Dornoch develops).  **YR** reported that some of the Highland Council land at Elizabeth Crescent has now been offered to the Community Council. These will be serviced plots, and buy to build sites. Funds earned would be retained by the Community Council, to invest in affordable housing. YR will meet Ronnie Macrae (CE of Highland Small Communities Housing Trust - HSCHT) to ensure that this is a good deal for Dornoch. Some plots will also be available through HSCHT in the form of self-build for young local people.  **GS** asked whether there would be a lock on the profit. **YR** responded that the occupants would not be able to sell them on for profit, but the housing would be for young people who will have to sell on to young people. It will be a fixed market, and Ronnie Macrae would ensure the relevant clauses are in the contracts.  There is also a dedicated area for new social housing that Highland Council will build, funded by Scottish Government. This is time bound so should happen this time! |
|  | 1. Project Sweep-Curlew | 1. Fund Raising sub-committee – nothing further to report. 2. Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Application – all tenders are in and have to be reviewed. Three architect and three consultancy tenders were received. **GS** indicated that they were still aiming for a submission deadline of 20 July. |
|  | 1. Dornoch Police Station | 1. Stage 1 funding awarded (but not including a Housing Needs Analysis which SLF feel isn’t required as DACIC are not delivering housing only selling land to reinvest in the Police Station). 2. Consultants’ meeting would be held on 6th July. It was proposed to hold a community consultation after the school holidays but to hold a stakeholders’ consultation over the summer. **JB** and **GS** have a meeting with Ronnie Macrae on Thursday 5th to look at the area planned for housing, which **GS** proposed would be mid-market rental (flats). Albyn Housing are not interested because they are flats. **PM** asked whether it was worth considering aiming at the top end of the market but **GS** responded that mid-market range was what had been discussed with SLF to date. **GS** mentioned that it was unlikely that the police would want to be tenants, as they no longer needed the space in Dornoch. The proposed soft play would be unstaffed, with parents supervising the children. Other ideas for use of the space would be welcome. |
|  | h. Strategic review | **JB** went over the Executive Summary since this would be submitted with the Beatrice application. The section on the caravan site had been removed. It was agreed that the section on the community sports centre be retained. **GS** had spoken to Todd Warnock and there will not be any town car parking associated with Could Links project, so this was removed. |
| 5. | Financial Statement | Free reserves of £26k, which was required for staffing and on-costs. |
| 6. | AOCB | 1. Lucy Williams’ return from Maternity Leave & contract extension (currently to 30 September): **JB** had asked if Lucy would do a day a week in the Visitor Centre but due to childcare commitments, Lucy would be unable to do this. Instead, Lucy requested to reduce her hours to 8 hours per week instead of 12 hours, extended for a year. The Board all agreed. 2. TV screen advert at Falls of Shin: **JB** had been approached by Falls of Shin about advertising on their TV screen, at a cost of £30 per month for 30 seconds every hour they are open. The general feeling was that this was too expensive and would not be taken up. 3. Water cut-offs affecting Poles Road B&Bs: **JM** had already been in touch with Gail Ross MSP, who is pursuing it. 4. Dornoch Whisky Festival: **NH** mentioned that the programme was in place, Lou was chasing contributors for updates but things were progressing well. 5. Mobile App modifications quote: Purple Frog quoted £2150 to upgrade to the latest version and to fix the loading issues. It was estimated that 3800 people have downloaded the app so far. The consensus was that DACIC would leave it as is for the time being, since the app seems to be working just now. 6. Public Wi-Fi was installed last Friday. **JB** could get access all along Castle Street, outdoors. **GS** asked about the possibility installing CCTV along Castle Street, more as a deterrent than anything. It was agreed that this would be put to the Community Council at some time in the future, but that this was not a priority at this stage. 7. Toilets: **YR** reported that she had heard that there may be a complete turnaround and that HC may change their decision on toilet closures. **JM** indicated that that was unlikely to be the case. 8. Parking charges: there had been talk that HC may introduce parking charges in Dornoch to raise funds. It was agreed that this would be a highly unwelcome move on several fronts and would be strongly resisted. 9. **YR** raised the issue of the Sutherland Community Partnership’s community engagement event, which she had attended. There has been no consultation with Dornoch as yet, since the priority is to tackle areas of greatest deprivation first. Nevertheless, **YR** mentioned that the Dornoch community would be inspected in September, and this would involve community learning and development and look at good practice. Currently as Dornoch does not fit into any of the community plans, it means we will not be able to access government and lottery funding in the future. **JM** mentioned that we may be able to translocate the Master Plan. **JB** requested that the Youth Plan be incorporated into the Master Plan. There is an online survey by the Sutherland Community Partnership to complete for areas which have not yet been involved in the consultation process; **JB** would forward the link. 10. **JB** suggested introducing a regular item on the agenda for Community Council, DADCA and Embo Trust news. This proposal was warmly accepted. 11. **JM** reported that the beach toilets were being opened at 8.30am and closed at 8.30-9pm. Although there were a number of campervans last night, at other times the bollards seemed to be working. The Community Council are covering the cleaning costs. 12. The beach: The new play equipment would be arriving on site on Monday. BRIG has reported that an application for funding had been submitted to develop disabled access to the beach. The application will include taking over the beach toilets, as they have to show that they provide employment. They would put in for funding for the employment of the janitor from April-October. 13. Mobile ice cream/tea/coffee van at the beach: **YR** had in the past suggested building a small log cabin but got stuck at the issue of lack of water and electricity. Now with the recent developments in the area, this was something the Community Council or BRIG could look into for next season. |
|  | DONM | DONM 28 August, 7pm at RDGC |