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

Apologies:Catherine Moodie **CM,** Kerrie Stevens **KS,** Lynne Mahoney **LM**

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| 1. | Minute of meeting of 12 December 2019 | The minutes were proposed by **JM** and seconded by **GS.** |
| 2. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere |  |
| 3. | Dornoch Hub | 1. Purchase was now complete and photos had been taken for local newspapers, to be published on 31 January. **JB** will pass the details to social enterprise networks for wider distribution.
2. Building Warrant had been received. There was an issue with the gym requiring two additional toilets. These could be housed in the oil tank shed but this required quite a lot of investment to make it useable.
3. Response from RCGF Stage 2 expected imminently.
4. Update on lets – G17 let (leaving F8, F17 & cell G28 vacant)
5. Tender process – **JB** and **KS** were working on the documents and they were ready to go out to tender next week.
6. SSE funding bid submitted
7. Pot 170 – Developer Contribution for Community Facilities update. It was expected that £26k would be allocated to the community room part of the building. HC will come back to the community with the final decision.
8. Donation of sofas Balnapolaig Steading – JM, PM and JP to transfer to Police Station garage.
9. Silverback Gym raised the idea of resorting to crowdfunding for the tank removal to allow the gym to proceed. The crowdfunding idea was set aside for the time being.
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| 4. | Project Curlew | 1. SLF2 bid submitted to buy all of the land from ANM.
2. Meeting with HC – ward manager & councillors who are supporting the bid, subject to the business case being made for THC to lease and run the car park
3. VDLF Update - Alan Webster HC has secured funding for the ground investigation work.
4. RTIF application – Colin Simpson HC has submitted the EOI on DACIC’s behalf. Feedback is expected on 14 February.
5. A public consultation on parking throughout Sutherland is currently underway by THC. **JM** has asked that all community bodies in Dornoch be consulted. The Board agreed that Dornoch South should be chargeable but the rest of the town should not be, particularly the Square and parking in front of Castle Hotel and Jail. Business partners would be asked to make their own representation to HC. The Meadows carpark was subject to the consultation. **GS** mentioned that Berwick used a system of residents’ parking discs and suggested a similar approach could be used in Dornoch.
6. HIE – **JB** had asked HIE if they would help to buy Dornoch South if the SLF bid failed; this request was turned down. The Board agreed that the priority is that the land stays within the town and not sold to a developer. **YR** mentioned that DACIC could apply to the common good fund as a last resort.
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| 5. | Catherine Moodie and Kerrie Stevens reports | **KS** submitted a written report to the Board. She is currently working with JB and the architect to finalise the tender documentation.**CM** submitted a written report to the Board.  |
| 6. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | No new applications.  |
| 7. | 2020 plan |  |
|  | a. Visitor Centre | 1. There were 923 visitors in December, up 23% on 2018. The full year was down 2% at 30,581.
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|  | b. Business Group | 1. Big Ideas Evening on 16 January – this was a very productive meeting and a great networking event. A summary of discussions and decision was submitted to the Board.
2. SID next stages: **JB** was delighted to report that there is now a SID steering group to take this forward. The first step is to speak to businesses and explain the advantages of setting this up for all businesses, not just those involved in tourism. **GS** mentioned that in order to move forward, 25% of businesses need to be on board, so actually this figure can be reached within the Business Group. It is possible to exclude businesses by postcode or by business type (eg school, nursing home). Ideally the SID should include Skibo and Grannie’s. It was suggested that there were currently too many community bodies in Dornoch, so if the SID comes off, it would be necessary to work out the link between the organisations and the best way forward in terms of consolidation. The SID would employ an officer and would take over the running of the events and would have to set up a 5 year business plan.
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|   | c. Month by month plan. | 1. Draft 2020 plan – this was discussed and commented upon.
2. Dornoch 2020 leaflet – it was essential to have this ready for EXPO and **JB** would work on this once she had completed the Hub tender.
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|  | d. Community updates | 1. Dornoch Community Council – **YR** mentioned that the ESRA planning application had been submitted. There was widespread concern about size and height of proposed building, which will have a huge visual and environmental impact and the question was posed as to why such a large building was required. **PM** intended to visit RNLI Inverness and Lochinver to see the actual requirements of a station. The deadline for submission of comments was Wednesday 12 February. **JB** will speak with **PM** after his meetings and submit a complaint on behalf of DACIC. **YR** stated that Historylinks had submitted an application to buy land on which to build their extension. The advice received from HC is that they can build on the land but not buy it. The HC and Community Council were nearing completion of negotiations of the RDGC lease renewal. **YR** hoped to bring common good land under local trusteeship in future; The Dornoch Trust is dormant but ready to come into action when needed.
2. DADCA – **PM** reported that Fibre Fest bookings are going well. Neither the book fair nor the art gallery are going ahead as they are unable to staff the events. The Market dates have been set and there is an additional date this year. They are making some money from the lottery and the technical hitches had now been resolved. The Flowers and Fairs committee (part of DADCA) require new volunteers to help with the watering. **PM** felt that the best approach would be for DADCA to pay £1000 for someone to do the watering. There will also be a need for someone to be on call for the beach wheelchair shed, being built by BRIG so perhaps roles can be combined.
3. Embo Trust – **JM** reported that they are finalising the accounts and are calling an AGM to try and get some fresh faces on board. A concert to be held within the next two weeks had sold out, but the catering remained an issue.
4. UHI – **AM** reported that the new build was well underway and it was hoped that it would be finished for the new academic year.
5. Historylinks – **LM** was working hard on the longhouse project and there would be a large conference at the end of March. There had been great community engagement on this project.
6. RDGC – **NH** reported that they were moving along with the club house and discussions with the community council on the renewal of the lease were nearing completion. The Community fund was now open. **NH** was pleased to report other than summer students, all employees will now be given full-time permanent contracts. **YR** mentioned there would be a couple of students applying for the foundation apprenticeship at the golf club.
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|  | e. VS Expo, 1-2 April | Dornoch 2020 leaflet would be finalised in time for this. A number of appointments have already been booked. **NH** and **GS** attending, possibly **JB**. Genevieve Duhigg, Maggie Holmes and Ginny Knox have also volunteered. |
| 8. | Financial statement | **JB** had circulated this to members before the meeting.  |
| 9. | AOCB | 1. Golf Club Consultation – this is open until 10 March so DACIC’s response will be confirmed at the next board meeting when it is hoped the deal between the CC and RDGC will be completed.
2. Kyle of Sutherland – Sutherland Community Surveys. **JB** mentioned that the scoring system is counter intuitive but follows Scottish Government guidelines. The document content could nevertheless be useful for future funding applications e.g. number of free school meals.
3. Cruise Liner passengers by nationality – **JB** submitted a report showing the breakdown by nationality, with Germans and Americans forming the bulk of cruise liner passengers. **JB** mentioned that VisitScotland is currently really pushing the European market.
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| 10. | DONM | 20 February, 19 March, 16 April and thereafter the third Thursday of the month. |