Present: Joan Bishop (Chair) **JB,** Jim McGillivary **JM**, Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Alison MacWilliam **AM**, Paddy Murray **PM**.

Guest: Mel Anderson **MA**

Apologies: Neil Hampton, Lynne Mahoney, Yvonne Ross

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Minute of meeting of 28 August 2018 | Proposed by **PM** seconded by **AM**. |
|   | Matters arising not covered elsewhere | 1. Bulk Oil Buying: **JB** reported that she had attended the DTAS conference and was informed that they have their own oil buying group. The details were circulated to DACIC members. However, it was found that Simpsons was cheaper. **JB** spoke to DTAS who will include Simpsons as a supplier.
2. Advertising Consent for footpath signs: **JB** submitted the application to have footpaths located to avoid crossing the golf course. RDGC will pay for the signs, which will be produced by Acorn once planning consent received.

  |
| 3. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | There were no member or Stakeholder applications. |
| 4. | Director’s resignation | **JB** reported that James Dillon had submitted his resignation. **PM** will take over as Treasurer. A change of signatory will be put through. |
| 5. | 2018 plan | Calendar update |
|  | a. Visitor Centre | 6249 visitors in August, up 17% - year to date up 15%. |
|  | b. Business Group | 1. Links House has renewed its membership.
2. Food & Drink initiative: Dornoch Stores mentioned a new Food Tourism Scotland initiative which champions community markets and local produce and has setup a meeting with the Food & Drink contact at HIE (John Murray, owner of Spar) on 27 Sept. The strategy is still at planning stage but would focus on building business to business relationships, supporting food festivals and events, particularly off-season. There may be some financial support available. The three day event over St Andrews weekend will start the process.
 |
|  | c. Developing the Cruise Liner market. | The last cruise ship is due in on 27 September. Next year the season will run from March to October. **JB** will follow up with tour guides with a view to organising fam trips. **JM** mentioned that the parking situation would have to be addressed if the number of minibuses & coaches increases. It was indicated that the top part of the south-side of former abattoir area might be suitable. However, ANM mentioned that there may be a buyer for this site following the breakdown of negotiations with RDGC. |
|   | d. Month by month plan. | 1. Off Season Planning: there had been four Facebook competitions which generated some very positive comments.
2. Whisky Festival: leaflet now available for distribution.
 |
|  | e. Dornoch Caravan Site | **JM** was meeting the current manager William on 26 September. Mr Durrant had not attended the Community Council meeting on the subject so DACIC are still not sure what his plans are.  |
|  | f. Project Curlew | 1. Fund Raising sub-committee update: nothing to report.
2. Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Application: **GS** reported that Julian Farrar (of Ironside Farrar) has been commissioned to rewrite the Application and has been provided with all relevant correspondence, Dornoch Master Plan, Community Centre feasibility study etc. The next submission date is 9 November. North Highland Curling Trust is paying the £1400 fee for rewriting the application as well as for the land survey. The focus of the revised application needs to be more community-related. It is therefore necessary to provide more up to date evidence of community benefit, in the form of a physical/electronic survey or community consultation. **GS** reported that Project Curlew will be combined with the Police Station consultation meeting, to be held on 11 October. The curling club has requested support from its members. Rachel Skene (HIE) was very supportive and suggested various people to contact. **GS** indicated that he had spoken to the architect who will adapt the current plans to show a change of space from a gym to community hall, given that a gym could now be located at the former Police Station.
3. **JB** reported that there were eight civil weddings this September.
4. **JB** reported that a new £5m Natural & Cultural Heritage Fund had been launched by SNH to support projects that ‘encourage visitors to experience more of the unique nature and culture of the Highlands & Islands’ as well as to support local communities by helping retain local jobs and services. Minimum grant £250k and minimum project cost £360k, with applications to be submitted between January-April 2019. So good match for Curlew.
 |
|  | g. Dornoch Police Station | 1. **GS** indicated that he had received a £140k valuation for the land at the Police Station. **PM** suggested retaining this parcel of land where a community hall could be built if Project Curlew fails. However, **GS** mentioned that HIE has indicated their support, and if they can potentially match the £140k this would provide an excellent level of income with which to transform the building.
2. Progress report – 451 survey returns, of which 92% were supportive.
3. The Architectural Review and QS report were presented, these show top level costing of £347,500. However savings are possible eg. £54k for gym – Silverback want a simpler solution and may pay for this by lower rent.
4. A Community Open Day was to be held on 11 October, 2-4pm and 5-7pm.
5. It was decided to extend the Police Station Community Open Day to include an initial consultation on Curlew. **JB** will email DACIC members and the Business Group. The proposed email was reviewed and approved and would be sent out, encouraging feedback from the business members. **JB** asked PM if he could send it out to DADCA members and user groups to encourage them to come along on 11 October. **JB** suggested an advert in the Northern Times and seek to have a follow up article. **JB** will follow up.
 |
|  | h. Community Development Manager | 1. It was announced that SSE Beatrice grant had been awarded to the tune of £50k over 2 years.
2. The Community Council had approved £20k over 2 years – this would go to Area Committee on 15.11.18
3. Interview panel – **JB** would like a sub-committee formed to take this forward. **GS** suggested Genevieve or John Duhigg be co-opted. This was agreed and **GS** would approach them. **JB** suggested Helen Houston. **PM** suggested passing this by YR and Carol Mackay. **JB** agreed to do this.
 |
|  | i. Community updates | 1. Dornoch Community Council: **JM** reported on his proposal of a voluntary household fund whereby each household in the IV25 area would pay £10, which would be retained to fund projects in areas of community need in the area (eg public toilets). The funds could be channelled through DADCA in order to be eligible for gift aid and could be paid through Just Giving, or similar, to cut down on admin.
2. **GS** suggested a local tourist tax instead of this levy, £1 pppn. Business contributions would go through DACIC. It was agreed that these two suggestions would be good projects for the new Community Development Manager to take forward.
3. **JM** mentioned that Lairg Wind Farm falls within sight of Dornoch Community Council land, and he would discuss any community benefit due with the developers, a German company, through Alan MacIntyre, the manager.
4. DADCA – **PM** reported that they had employed Lou Rollason to do the secretarial work and act as booking clerk, due to lack of volunteers willing to take on these roles. It was agreed that Lou is in an excellent position to cross-promote the various businesses and activities she works in.
5. Embo Trust – **JM** mentioned that they were still waiting for the electrics to be hooked up and signed off on the community hall before the official opening at the end of October.
 |
| 5. | Financial statement | **JB** reported free reserves of £25,000. |
| 6. | AOCB | 1. DONM: 30 October at 7pm, RDGC
2. Date of AGM (the accounts are not available until next week) – Tuesday 11 December at 7pm
3. Community First Aid course – **JB** has organised a course, which already has 12 people enrolled. Some are being paid by DADCA, others paid by businesses/employers. Participants will agree to be on duty at community events. A pack of equipment will be put together for use at such events.
4. Coul Links – **GS** reported that interested people had received an invitation to take part in the hearing and enquiry process. However, **GS** spoke to Todd Warnock who indicated that there is no point in individuals completing the review since they would then be cross-examined by the QC and all parties. The enquiry process would only call forward the key people. **JM** recommended that we should not put in a statement but that rather that we request that the hearing should be held locally so that the local community can attend. **GS** will contact Fiona Manson to ask where it will be held.
5. Public Wifi (Inverness City Deal) – **JB** reported that this is now working and covers High Street and Castle Street. The providers indicated that they might use Dornoch as a trial for CCTV. After 2-3 years the Public Wifi facility might have to be funded by the community, but before that DACIC could exchange ideas with other communities who have benefitted from the Inverness City Deal.
6. ‘Democracy Matters’ consultation. **JB** reported that at the DTAS conference, it was announced that there is a Government consultation being held about local democracy, decision making and managing budgets at local level. In Dornoch’s case this could include taking over control of the Common Good Fund, given the feeling that the town has been let down by Highland Council. However, it was indicated that ‘local control’ would depend on what the community is taking on and may turn out to be a burden. **JB** will circulate the consultation questions for discussion at the next meeting.
 |