The Dornoch Area Community Interest Company

Company Registered in Scotland: Registration No 327565

MINUTE OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9th May 2017

Present Joan Bishop (JB), Anne Coombs (AC), Jim McGillivray (JM), James Dillon (JD), Lynne Mahoney (LM), Alison MacWilliam (AM)

Apologies: Neil Hampton (NH), Gordon Sutherland (GS), Jacqui Hamblin (JH) and Christine Callingham (CC)

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| **Item** | **Point of Information/Discussion/Decision** | **Action** |
| 1. Minute of Meeting 11 April 2017
 | Proposed JD, seconded JM  |  |
| 1. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere
 | a. Bank of Scotland. The proposed closure of the Dornoch Bank of Scotland branch was discussed. It was agreed we should write to the MD of B of S to outline our concerns and the share the results of our survey of business and personal users. This will include a suggestion of having an ATM in the Visitor Centre if the branch closes. Depending on the response, we will review other options to campaign to keep the branch open e.g. using local press and radio to raise the impact and highlight problems the closure will have on the town, tourism and local businesses. b. Window stickers for business group members have been ordered and will be distributed as payment is received from members.c. BRIG. It was agreed to send the letter of support as previously circulated (JM to pass to Mr Gilfinnan). For the record, it was agreed and clarified that ‘purchase of the land’ was NOT discussed during the BRIG presentation. Pat Munro have indicated they could assist with the BRIG project by clearing the area free of charge.d. Meeting with Rachel Skene HIE as been postponed as she is on sick leave.e. MDO contract. As a valued member of the team, it was agreed to renew Lucy’s contract until 30/9/2018. She is due to go on maternity leave in November, but is arranging shared leave with her husband, dates to be confirmed. f. Beltane Fire Festival held on 1 May 2017. This innovation will become annual event and be included our Dornoch Leaflet 2018 (see 4i below) to give added exposure to a wider audience.g. GS has contacted all accommodation providers and then distributed leaflets to them as requested. | JBJB/JDJB/JMJBJB |
| 1. Membership & Stakeholder applications
 | Raymond Angus of Spire View (self-catering) was added to as a Stakeholder. Cocoa Mountain have been invited to join the Business Group – reply awaited. |  |
| 1. 2017 Year Plan
 | a. Whisky Festival (Food & Drink)NH is chair of the new business led group. Constitution agreed and bank account being established. Members will contribute to the seed fund and HIE have offered support to enable Lou Rollason to provide the event management service. Programme will include food & drink pairings for whisky, beer, wine and gin. VIP event is at Dunrobin Castle, with tasting, Castle & new distillery tours. Raffle with first prize of NC500 tour package (3 nights in Castle, 3 day car hire ~£1,000 value)b. Visitor Centre. 1,793 visitors recorded in April v 1,141 last year. YTD 3,153 up 56%. The Courthouse opening hours are 9-6, daily and weekend opening of the Visitor Centre from May is being considered, with possible funding from Todd Warnock to pay for the extra hours required.c. Business Group membership for 2017/18 - £21.3k invoiced so far - £570 other invoicesd. Developing cruise liner marketWe have a quote for drone video of the town, approx £1,200. Other quotes are to be sought – NH may have contacts. This will form part of the assistance requested from HIE see 2d above.e. Pensions – ongoing f. Month by month plan. Classic Car Tour 27 May. JM agreed to take over A949 sign switching while Dave Coombs is on holiday.g. Donald Ross leaflet is now with Jerry Bishop for final copy prior to production. Thanks to Jacqui, Lynne, Anne and Jerry for the work on this.h. Pictish Trail is with Jerry Bishop for initial proof for approval. i. Dornoch Leaflet 2018 & Bedroom folders. To be planned and costs shared with key businesses. |  JBJD/JBNH/JBGS/JBJM/ACJerryB/ACJerryB/ACJB |
| 1. Financial Statement
 | JB presented the statement to end of April, showing £19k unallocated in the reserves.  |  |
| 1. MDO Report
 | This will be circulated later in the week. | LW |
| 1. Date of next meeting
 | Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 7pm, RDGC |  |
| 1. AOCB
 | a. Warm congratulations were offered to board member Jim McGillivray on his successful re-election to Highland Council. JM reports the new council administration is a coalition mix of Independents, Labour and LibDem.b. The proposed new Sports Centre, Dornoch Academy. Planning application has been agreed, but budget approval is awaited from the new administration.c. GS asked for the menace of seagulls on waste land to be raised. JM says that unfortunately there is little that can be done other than not feeding them.  |  |