The Dornoch Area Community Interest Company

Company Registered in Scotland: Registration No 327565

MINUTE OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6th April 2016

Present Joan Bishop (JB), Anne Coombs (AC), Cllr Jim McGillivray (JMcG), Alison MacWilliam (AMcW) Lucy Williams (LW)

Apologies: James Dillon (JD), Jacqui Hamblin (JH), Steven Mure (SM), Vanessa Williamson (VW)

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| **Item** | **Point of Information/Discussion/Decision** | **Action** |
| 1. Minute of Meeting 9th March | Proposed AMcW, seconded AC |  |
| 2 Matters Arising | a. JB reported some progress in the handover of the New Year Street Party by Yvonne Ross to a subcommittee, first meeting on 19th April.  b. The Music Festival leaflet has been printed and is being distributed,  c. JB has commented in support of the plans for UHI accommodation. |  |
| 3. Membership & Stakeholder applications | 2 New stakeholders, Sam Somerville, Sam’s Bike Shed and Kelly Mackay, Gifted. |  |
| 4. 2016 Year Plan | 1. The training programme continues on schedule with further World Host courses next month and first in-house delivery of Dornoch Ambassadors course to members of the community on 25th April.  2. A949 Signage. Several setups were circulated prior to the meeting. It was decided to suggest a pale grey background with a darker image of only the Cathedral on the right side with lettering of either black or white. Icons should include M for museums and i for Information to go before Carnegie Courthouse. JB to circulate improved setups  3. Trail leaflets. LW presented 2alternative formats for the Walk leaflet. She is to email it to AMcW for proof reading and to AC for map/text compatibility. AC has completed a first draft text for the Fishing leaflet and will send to AMcW for improvement. Whisky leaflet is progressing.  4. 2 Staff in post now at Visitor Centre. A 3rd member will share work over the summer. | JB  LW, AC AMcW |
| 5. Whisky Festival Review | Several meetings of the subcommittee have taken place. It is hoped to book Charlie MacLean of ‘Angel’s Share’ fame for a tasting session prior to the film at Balblair, a Gala dinner at Links House and whisky master class on Saturday. 3 Gala dinners are planned on the opening night. A marquee has been booked for grand tasting on Saturday afternoon and ceilidh hosted by Jimmy Macdonald with hog roast in the evening. JH has researched coach hire, AC to confirm a minibus for the Archaeology trip. LW to include dates in media news post in very near future. |  |
| 6. Visit Scotland Growth Fund | JB in discussion with Gillian Learmouth about the final report for Visit Scotland Growth Fund. The self catering analysis showa shoulder month figures have improved although the summer period showed a reduction in occupancy. | JB |
| 7. CCF | a. Website. Work continues to improve self catering section and now 44 self catering properties on web site. AMcW & JH to look at other areas of web site to consider improvement, especially the Do, Do More, Enjoy sections.  b. Signage See above for A949 signage. Footpath signage; the consensus was that green post and signs white writing was the best option.  c. Leaflets See above  d. Training See above.  e. VC staff See above.  f. 400 years of golf AC reported Fibre Fest successful. The tartan product competition winners included a local person. JB reported RDGC open day poorly supported, due to (requested) late publicity.  g. NC 500 LW reported continued contact with NC 500 with several of Dornoch media presentations now on their website.  h. The annual report is being prepared by JB. | AMcW/JH  JB |
| 8. Business Group & Advisory Panel | BGAP breakfast meeting at Grannie’s - very disappointing turnout. Invoiced membership now over £19k, but some businesses have yet to confirm renewal. | . |
| 9. .Financial Statement | The financial statement was reviewed. JD to take over in very near future. |  |
| 10. MDO Report | The board was content with the report. JMcG initiated a short discussion on accepting members from out with Dornoch. It was felt this would be discussed on a case by case basis and taken to the Board for approval. The request from Dornoch Town and Counrty Lets to include a flat in Brora in the self-catering section was approved. |  |
| 11 AOCB | JMcG reported that Carnegie Courthouse to open on 8th June.  JD to research different bank options to maximise returns,  AMcW reported a very successful UHI Firths and Fjords History conference with complimentary comments from participants. Participants were accommodated in various Band Bs and hotels in Dornoch. |  |
| 12. DOMN | Tuesday 10th May at Whinhill 7-9pm. |  |