

Minute of the meeting of **DACIC** board 15th July 2021

Present: Joan Bishop **JB** (Chair), Lynne Mahoney **LM**, Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Jim McGillivray **JM**, Luke Watson **LW**, Neil Hampton **NH**

Apologies: Catherine Moodie **CM**, Lesley Strang **LM**, Shona MacDougall **SM**, Paddy Murray **PM**

1.	Minute of meeting of 17 th June 2021	The minutes were proposed by GS and seconded by JM
2.	Matters Arising not covered elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The items offered from the old Curling Rink at Brora are of no use to DACIC and GS has been back to the donor to confirm this. b. Iain Levens is submitting planning permission application for logos and map c. HMO licence has been received for the hostel.
3.	Dornoch Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Building Control temporary occupation has been extended to 30 July for all areas. First floor fire door has been signed off. Gym push bar awaiting Highland Wireless 'fix'. b. Invoice from OBC for fire door correction to be challenged when Iain Levens returns from leave. c. Chairs in conference room in place, there were two damaged, replacements have been received but yet to be assembled. d. G17/G18 rented to Natural State of Wellbeing. Fits in well with the other services on offer. All offices filled now. e. Activities Co-Ordinator, Lorraine Goldsmith (National Lottery funded) is making good progress. She has been working in collaboration with LS on policies with the Volunteer Policy completed. Lorraine has been in touch with Christine Ross at VGES in Golspie who is the PVG Administrator. There are 6 volunteers for a range of activities although the ideal amount would be 12. These were mainly sourced through social media. The Youth Group is being advertised with Youth Highland. Struggling to find a teacher for the Youth Coding Club. JB to send information to JM who will make enquiries. f. LS report was circulated. There are some outstanding items on the building work. Currently waiting on door for G5 hot desking room.
4.	Project Curlew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Highland Coastal Communities – we were unsuccessful in our bid for a share of the remaining 'strategic pot'. b. Bid to Better Places Fund for £75k rejected. Maree Todd MSP has contacted the fund to see if an appeal is possible c. Our contractor is holding prices at the moment.

		<p>d. The Highland Council is reviewing £120k investment. Donna Manson CEO had on-site meetings with Todd Warnock and JM but no further progress.</p> <p>e. RTIF want three EV points within cut back version. THC specialist EV team looking into the costs. JB has researched 'commercial' prices as an alternative.</p> <p>f. RTIF and TCF have been extended awaiting clarification.</p>
5.	C Moodie report	CM's report was circulated.
6.	Coronavirus	<p>a. Visitor management plan – The Highland Larder is busy and is encouraging motor homes and cars to park in the overflow carpark. There has been a problem for the Beach Wheelchairs with a motorhome parked for 3 days in disabled space.</p> <p>b. Visitor Centre – open 10-2 daily shared rota by all staff – 271 visitors in June compared to 2,330 in 2019. Numbers are up on last year but need to see how this works in terms of staff. There has been instances of people coming in to book buses which is not a service we provided. An account with City Link was suggested but GS flagged up that doing this may be a problem in terms of data protection. JB thought that training sessions to teach people how to book buses themselves would be useful. LW suggested a touch screen may be a solution. We will review in a month.</p> <p>c. JM confirmed that the service point was going to the library but although the library was open again service point is by appointment only for now.</p> <p>d. THC Ranger in place and contact details available to report issues. JB reported that there are plenty of bins and bin emptying was working well. JM confirmed that the overnight payment system of £10 for motorhomea will be applied soon. JM had a good response from the Caravan Park and in return JM is arranging for the area opposite the caravan site to be coned to stop camper vans parking there.</p> <p>e. JB attended a Scotland's Town Partnership seminar to launch the Town Toolkit – an interactive resource with examples of good practice. From this session JB has been in touch with Prestwick about their Dementia Friendly initiative. https://www.scotlandstowns.org/towncentretoolkit</p> <p>f. VisitScotland (VS) recovery Destination Marketing Fund (July 23rd deadline) – UK market from now to March 2022 – unique proposition and collaboration with other neighbouring DMOs to avoid overlap (Venture North & NC500) – JB and NH had a meeting with VS about Royal Dornoch Mix & Match which is the basis of our application</p> <p>g. School holidays started 25th June – town & beach already busy!</p>

		<p>h. Venture North have been appointed as regional DMO by HIE and have 3-year funding for tourism recovery in the area. To start the process a series of workshops were held including four sessions in Dornoch. We made our concerns clear that VN to date has been Caithness centric. However, two members of their staff are now based in Golspie and 8 out of 11 workshop destinations were in Sutherland. We were asked what additional benefit the regional DMO could deliver compared to Visit Dornoch. Suggestions were: a comprehensive regional events calendar, preventing duplication of advice & information, tailored information for special interest groups e.g. VN have a heritage app and having a seat on the Highland and Scottish tourism 'tables' so our voice is heard.</p> <p>i. Highland Coastal Hotels –David Whiteford and Roddie Watt want to establish a community liaison group to include JB, GS, Genevieve Duhigg (Community Council), NH and Vicki MacKenzie (DADCA).</p> <p>j. JM reported that UHI had not received any applications for catering course. It was felt that the Prospectus needs to be broadened to attract more students and to take into consideration what is needed locally. LW has put together a list of funding options awaiting clarification on the way ahead. Modern apprenticeships are already funded. It was considered to be in all local businesses interest to fill the spaces and a meeting has been arranged which JB will attend.</p>
7.	2021 Plan	<p>a. BID/SID - Seedcorn application submitted and recommended for approval. Needs match funding.</p> <p>b. Adapt & Thrive £27k. Digital enhancements to Visitor Services and support for BID Ballot costs and production costs for BID Business Plan. The application is being reviewed by Impact Hub and some more information requested. We need to demonstrate that the grant investment will generate income.</p> <p>c. JB circulated a cash flow document that predicts a surplus in the Hub to retain the asset manager at 0.4 FTE once grant funding stops in December. Visit Dornoch income is also expected to grow again if the regulations continue to ease. This will allow a marketing budget for new maps and 2022 leaflet.</p> <p>d. Food and drink is up in some cases by 60%, accommodation down with International market providers suffering the most. GS reported that Fionn Lodge was seeing the UK market only until the end of September, but Americans are reluctant to give up their bookings.</p> <p>e. Beatrice Windfarm – BID match funding application rejected but suggested we apply for SSE Renewables Fund opening in September.</p>

		<p>f. UKCRF outcome awaited</p> <p>g. Anne Duchess of Westminster application for Community Transport on hold until need from workshops clarified.</p> <p>h. What's on for July – first this year - 4 pages' worth!</p> <p>i. It was agreed that the registered office should be changed to Hub – currently chair's home address.</p> <p>j. Approval of accounts. JB circulated document. The grants for capital works are released over the lifetime of the building, which results in a surplus of £50k to March 21. However, there is no tax liability. The grants received during the year are not clearly stated (as accrual accounting is used). However, a note can be added that will reassure the funders. JB will liaise with accountant to arrange. The accounts were approved.</p>
8.	Community Updates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dornoch Community Council – JM reported on the visitor management plan and dealing with motorhomes. The next CC meeting will be Wednesday 21st July. The meeting with Donna Manson THC CEO is to be followed up with a project priority list once Dornoch South position is resolved. 2. DADCA – The ongoing property deal at Bishopfield is moving well and will result in income from 5 plots @ £25k for self-building to go towards the new community centre. 3. Embo Trust - JM said that the Café had opened and were running some good initiatives. The shop is short of volunteers and the Trust will organise a round robin to encourage more people to volunteer. 4. UHI: As previously reported, JM mentioned the concern for hospitality courses and reported on success of the Engineering courses in Alness and Thurso. Distance learning is a possibility. There has been interest in the new golf simulator. Debbie Murray, the in-house candidate is now the new Chair. The Ross House sale is concluding with a private buyer. UHI has taken over the student accommodation which will allow them to control the price. 5. Historylinks – LM reported visitor numbers good in June. 2019 was a record year and that has been topped in 2021 due to an increase in Gift Aided admissions. Funding bid to SSE Beatrice for the extension project was unsuccessful but they have encouraged a submission to SSE Renewables which opens in the autumn. Walks and workshops progressing well with some being repeated in the winter. Young Curators Club are giving away lots of veg from their community garden (Dig for Victory project).

		6. RDGC: NH reported that lack of international travel is not good. The course is in excellent condition and still ranked 5th in the world. The visit from NHS players was successful. Plenty of tee times for people wanting to get out on the course.
9.	Financial Statement	These were noted to 30 June 21
10.	AOCB	
11.	DOMN	Thursday 19 th August at 7pm in the Hub