

Minute of the meeting of **DACIC** board 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

Present: Joan Bishop **JB** (Chair), Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Luke Watson **LW**, Jim McGillivray **JM**, Neil Hampton **NH**, Paddy Murray **PM**, Shona MacDougall **SM**

Guest for item 1 (via Zoom): Giles Huby, NHC/UHI (**GH**)

Apologies: None

1	NHC/UHI update	Giles Huby, Director of External Engagement & Facilities NHC/UHI was welcomed to the meeting. Lloyd Greenaway (social media influencer) is being given a taster session on the golf simulator on 13 December. Following this a pricing & booking system will be established by Alan Fleming for visitors. Catering courses are proceeding though still some vacancies. Simon Hughes is Burghfield contact working with the schools and with businesses delivering modern apprenticeships. There are significant training and employment opportunities via Nigg Skills Academy in support of the Nigg Offshore Wind facility. Rural skills – equine, game and vet nursing are based in Halkirk. There are plans for a Science Skills Academy to be established at Alness. Giles was thanked for this useful update.
2	Minutes of meeting of 21st October 2021	The minutes were proposed <b>PM</b> by and seconded by <b>NH</b>
3	Matters Arising not covered elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>GS</b> to purchase 2 clocks for the Hub</li> <li>b. <b>JB</b> to follow up with Highland Wireless about difficulties accessing guest wifi with some devices</li> <li>c. Gutter clearance to be arranged by Paula White (PW)</li> <li>d. PW using Visitor Centre mobile phone with her personal mobile available for emergencies when off site.</li> </ul>
4	Dornoch Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hostel planning condition – 9 month restriction being challenged due to staff shortages requiring annual contracts. Section 42 application : 21/05505/S42</li> <li>b. Thanks to directors who have volunteered to be on the Fire Alarm rota - Paula White will follow up</li> <li>c. Nine community workshops scheduled for Nov/Dec</li> <li>d. Velux Windows in F17 – due to be fitted 19 November</li> <li>e. Tree surgeon – <b>PW</b> is finding an alternative supplier</li> <li>f. Quote for gravel at the side awaited from the ‘Lawn Ranger’</li> <li>g. Paula’s report was noted</li> </ul>
5	Project Curlew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Highland Opportunities Investments Ltd have agreed to offer a loan of £65k over 10 years at 4% - annual repayment of £8k. This needs a standard security over the car park which together with three other loans needing this too means legal costs of £13,100 for us!</li> </ul>

		<p><b>JM</b> suggests applying to Ward Discretionary Fund for support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. THC EV team have quote for SSE connection (under £2k). Leona Joiner advised £20k in budget for RTIF/Transport Scotland to fund connection &amp; EV chargers</li> <li>c. Bid to HIE for £57k grant successful</li> <li>d. RTIF and TCT offers extended awaiting clarification</li> <li>e. Funding package is now in place.</li> <li>f. New SEPA map shows improved position for Dornoch South with minimal flooding risk but planning conditions on old model. Fairhurst following up with SEPA &amp; JB with planning. <b>JM</b> will follow up with Daffyd Jones when we are ready.</li> <li>g. Zoom Meeting with contractor WM Donald on 16 Nov to review. Prices being maintained but proposal of contract plus contingency guarantee for contractor to take 'all risks'. However, some of contingency already needed for legal fees above, Fairhurst work and some identified extras e.g. lighting columns need to be priced to get a handle on the 'free' contingency. Ideally, they would be on site before Christmas but certainly right after the break to complete by 31 March 2022.</li> <li>h. Once dates are known – Medical Centre to be advised of disruption.</li> <li>i. MUGA funding: Sport Scotland 1st April, SSE Renewables by 19 Jan (CM started but net zero focus), Highland Coastal Communities (no date for next round), Place based Fund replacing TCF with £108k for Sutherland (no dates yet)</li> </ul>
6	Visit Dornoch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Visitor Centre - 260 visitors in October (compared to 2553 in 2019). Weekends busiest. November moved to 2 hours per day – 7 days – but very low numbers 45 to date. Further reduced hours for December and other jobs for staff to do while on shift.</li> <li>b. <a href="#">Royal Dornoch Mix &amp; Match Videos</a> now released from <a href="#">Lloyd &amp; Fifi</a> first visit. Sam Grant and the Wee White Dug due 25-27 Nov then Lloyd &amp; Fifi back 11-13 Dec and 31 Dec -2. Paid Social about to start.</li> <li>c. Dornoch Christmas Festival &amp; Lights On: Saturday 4/12/21 with Outdoor Christmas Market 10-2, St Andrews Fair in Social Club 10-4 and Xmas Fair in the Hub 10-2.</li> </ul>
8	2021 Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. UKCRF -included BID match funding – rejected</li> <li>b. £50k Scotland Loves Local Car Park – turned down.</li> <li>c. Rural Ideas Fund. £50k Car park, £20k BID match funding – decision awaited</li> </ul>

		<p>d. AGM – Thursday 9th Dec @ 7pm – hybrid meeting (board in person + limited extras requested)- Zoom for rest. Followed by board meeting</p> <p>e. BID – SM report on meeting 19 Oct (circulated). We shouldn't under estimate the work involved especially on the database. Vital to have a strong steering group of key business supporters. <b>NH</b> offered to chair this. Good contacts with other BIDs to follow up. Draw down of £20k from Scottish Government requested for BID co-ordinator on 1/11/21 (not received yet). Possible graduate support from HIE for admin assistant. Aim for Jan-Mar consultation. BID will be main item for next meeting</p> <p>f. First draft of 2022 plan noted – meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month</p> <p>g. Real Living wage £9.90 from 1<sup>st</sup> November – for visitor centre staff (from £9.88 introduced in June)</p>
8.	<p>Community Updates</p> <p><i>To follow – I didn't make notes</i></p>	<p>a. Dornoch Community Council.</p> <p>b. DADCA.</p> <p>c. Embo Trust.</p> <p>d. UHI.</p> <p>e. Historylinks – no update</p> <p>f. RDGC.</p>
9.	Financial Statement	Financials to 31.10.21 circulated
10.	AOCB	None
11.	DOMN	Thursday December 9 <sup>th</sup> following AGM