Minute of the meeting of **DACIC** board 16th July 2020

Present: Joan Bishop **JB** (Chair), Paddy Murray **PM**, Jim McGillivray **JM**, Jayne Pagan **JP**, Gordon Sutherland **GS**.**,** Neil Hampton **NH,**

Apologies: Lynne Mahoney, Alison MacWilliam, Catherine Moodie, Yvonne Ross

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| 1. | Minute of meeting of 18th June 2020 | The minutes were proposed by **PM** and seconded by **JM** after two minor amendments regarding RDGC funding one location for the MUGA and the DCG funding for C Moodie |
| 2. | Matter Arising not covered elsewhere | 1. NH had spoken with Y Ross about returning to the Board as an independent director and she said that she would like to so this but was very bust at the moment and thought it would be around October before she had time. |
| 3. | Dornoch Police Station | i. The National Lottery (TNL) bid for £40k capital and £108k revenue requested. We have been awarded £65k awarded - £40k capital + £25k revenue over 2 years. We have up to four weeks to decide how the revenue funding is to be allocated but not for subsidised gym membership or community transport. Preference for wellbeing activities - craft workshops, coding club etc. & Activities Co-ordinator. SSE will now release their funding and we can negotiate with O’Brien Construction (OBC) as to what we can get for the budget but community room, front reception & rear accessible entrance meeting room and toilet from Lottery & Pot 170. **JB**, **GS** and **NH** to meet with OBC  ii. Still waiting for Richard MacKenzie and Don MacLean to provide prices for the Gym.  iii. Roofing completed and looks good now.  iv. Reception to be a pop-up TIC as THC has decided to close the Service Point/Visitor Centre to the public. There is room for 3 people, or a family group and we have the TV from the courthouse to show films, Leaflets on display and available to request from staff. We will sell whisky glasses, face coverings and bags. Lou Rollason also suggests I Love Dornoch postcards, as these are regularly requested. There will be a direction sign at the bottom of the hill and a map at the Courthouse. Lou will run it initially then joined by Maggie Seatter in August. Open 4 to 6 on Saturday, 12 to 2 on Sunday, 11 to 3 on Monday, Thursday and Friday, closed Tuesday and Wednesday. The Service Point in the Courthouse will be available by appointment only.  v. Electricity has cost £700 from January to May. Decided not pay to have it investigated as rewiring will be starting in the near future  vi. Bid for £25k COVID support as visitor centre is one of allowable businesses -Rejected as was not a Visitor Centre in March.  vii If we are not invited to submit a stage 2 application to RCGF in September for double glazing, we will need to repaint the windows (part of Beatrice award). |
| 4. | Project Curlew | 1. Solicitor still working on Offer to Purchase 2. Our solicitor does not think SLF solicitor will accept prescriptive access rights are good enough (but this needs to be confirmed). Delay means solicitor’s fees beyond budget est. £2k but SLF will not increase, so we hope solicitor will absorb these costs 3. Minor inaccuracies on title deed to digital survey so we have gone back to ANM. However, title deed does not include land as indicated on the original drawings supplied by ANM and used in the valuation so we have requested reduction in purchase price to allow us to purchase the strip from the late Countess of Sutherland heirs in future (after probate) 4. THC Jane Bridge, Senior Engineer indicated that the adopted road may not include 3m either side – yet document provided says it does – clarification sought. She is also concerned about design of car park. A site meeting has been suggested. The northern access is our preferred solution. 5. Pre-app to be updated for more guidance (Gillian Pearson) 6. RTIF now 14 October deadline with 25 September draft to THC   1. £39,760 application to Dornoch Common Good and approved by County Committee on 9 July  2. £50k application to Beatrice has been rejected as the project was not considered ‘transformational’.  However, THC has been assigned additional Crown Estates funding for coastal communities so we will pursue that avenue  3. Blueprint Architects have updated the design as discussed in last minutes. However, if they need to redesign for southern access additional £1200 required  vii. SLF advised of additional costs but award cannot be uplifted  iii Scottish Curling interested in what we are doing and advise that World Curling Federation are creating low cost curling rinks. Highlighting avenues of support like the Scottish Curling Trust. The officer’s focus is from Kinross Northward and he will visit Dornoch in August. |
| 5. | C Moodie report | Report was noted. |
| 6. | Coronavirus | a. Business Group – 8 Mailchimp emails & multiple links on Dornoch.org.uk since last meeting. Final Visitor Charter.  b. Various Zoom meetings attended –SEN Community Tourism, NC500 Business Group, VisitScotland Marketing, FSB back to business, Just Enterprise ‘Opening Safely’, HTSI Crowdfunding.  c. Supporting the community response 2 Mailchimp emails to the members.  d. Plans for recovery phase  i. Phase 2 Self-catering – 3 July  ii. Introduction of We’re Good to Go QA scheme  iii. Phase 2 Courtyard, Castle Beer Garden & Eagle Beer garden (outside) – 6 July  iv. Phase 3 - 10 July. Face coverings mandatory in shops  v. Phase 3 - 15 July. All tourism & retail except some beauty treatments  vi. Relaxation of 2m rule in certain cases with suitable mitigation  vii. Eat Out Help Out Scheme – Mon, Tue, Wed in August  It was noted that complaints had been made about the volume of the music at the Courtyard. They were made aware and were addressing it.  e. Post on Visit Dornoch of businesses that are open and Good to Go logo on business pages  f. Bid to Scottish Town Partnership for £5k marketing campaign. This was well oversubscribed but due to admin problems with at THC our application was not forwarded promptly and as they are being considered in date order we are down the list. **JB** to ask Phil Tomalin to explain the issues were not ours and ask for ours to be moved up to the date it was given to THC  g. Facebook weekly competitions have driven likes for 8.5k to 13k (thanks to Embo House donation of prize worth £2800)  h. Shona & Derek MacDougall and their team are stepping down from Dornoch Food Support as it moves to a less critical phase. Charles Minall & YR will lead on next phase. A second bid has gone to HIE as people are to be weaned off ready meals as we are now able to move more freely in phase 3.  i. Membership, Business Group & Stakeholder applications: Paul Maden, Cocoa Mountain – The Board felt his comments on social media, in the press and in emails to JB were against the aims of the Business Group and his membership is to be terminated unless an unreserved apology was received. An outstanding bill of £120 also to be settled (**GS**)  j. Application request from Green’s Restaurant Tain and Glen Cask Pod (a 2-person self-catering in Tain) to join the business group and advertise on VisitDornoch. Non-Dornoch businesses are considered on a case by case basis. However, it was felt that restaurants and self-catering are well represented by Dornoch businesses, so these applications were rejected. |
| 7. | 2020 Plan | 1. Summer markets 22 July, 12 August, 26 August and 9 September. It was felt that social distancing would be achievable so they will go ahead. **PM** to check on whether face coverings are required. 2. Visitor Centre in the Hub from 18 July 3. Historylinks opening 18 July 4. RDGC Paul Lawrie Tartan Pro Tour 7 & 8 September. This was possible as the Men’s Home Internationals had been cancelled so there were spare dates in the diary. Hopefully we will be allowed to spectate by then |
| 8. | Community Updates | 1. Dornoch Community Council: **PM** said that they pushing to get the skip open again and are trying for 2.5 days per week although volunteers may be needed to supervise. Hopefully this would last for at least a year during which time it is hoped a recycling facility can be developed.   Working on the woodland area near Station Road to make it user friendly by widening paths and cutting back branches  Beach – the overflow car park will be brought in to use  Wild Camping – nothing legally to stop them apart from creating a byelaw like there is in Lochinver and Loch Lomond. If successful Police can enforce a byelaw. **JM** has a meeting with THC about a height barrier.  Associate Membership – proposal which has not been accepted yet to give a seat at the table (non voting) to DACIC, DADCA and Dornoch Firth Group. Also for ESRA, BRIG, RDGC and Caravan Site with specific remit of the beach. DACIC board is supportive.   1. DADCA: **PM** reported that Flowers & Fairs committee still needed a succession plan which it was hoped to get in place by 2021. Small business grant of £10k was received. Building is currently being painted inside and out. 2. Embo Trust – **JM** reported that the shop was ticking over with phone sales but there was no intention to reopen this year. Small business support grant of £10k was received. 3. **JM** said that UHI had not had any meetings in the last month and November was the anticipated completion of the Burghfield. The principal was retiring and if there was an internal appointment then that would help with the deficit. 4. Historylinks – The team has worked very hard and are ready to open this Saturday. Lots of procedures in place to keep staff volunteers and visitors safe. Some new exhibits on display and they are feeling very positive about the opening. 5. **NH** reported that golfers had started to return, and it was good to see some different faces. Visitor numbers for the rest of the year were around 1/3 of normal levels so marketing will be done to attract staycationers. Numbers for 2021 were already looking good with 50% of anticipated bookings already in, although some of these were deferments from 2020. Clubhouse now open on reduced hours and service, but this is to allow staff and customers to get used to new protocols. No new bookings until August to help with this. |
| 9. | Financial Statement | Finances Ok at the moment but towards the end of the year businesses may need to start paying in order to help with staff costs. |
| 10. | AOCB | a. Scottish Tourism Alliance – see if we can be involved (NH). Very little representation North of Inverness. **JB** to follow up  b. Coastal Communities Fund – Crown Estates – covered in 4 vi above  c. John Murray & Sutherland Tourism group proposal **JB** & **JM** to attend and report back. |
| 11. | DOMN | 20th August 2020 7pm by Zoom |