Minute of DACIC Meeting Tuesday 22nd May 2018

Present: Joan Bishop (Chair) **JB**, Jim McGillivary **JM**, Yvonne Ross **YR**, James Dillon **JD**, Neil Hampton **NH**, Gordon Sutherland **GS,** Lynne Mahoney **LM** and Paddy Murray **PM**.

Apologies Alison MacWilliam

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| 1. | Minute of meeting of 24 April | Minutes were proposed by **GS**, seconded by **YR**. |
| 2. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere | 1. Lord Thurso’s visit   Lord Thurso’s visit was very successful and good PR for the town.   1. JOG trail update   Jay Wilson came back with plans. **NH** has agreed that RDGC will pay for the signs. It was noted that the pole at Church Road/Golf St junction is currently taken up with a Purple Bricks For Sale sign. **PM** to ask the householder to remove the sign.   1. Dornoch Ambassador Course   70 people were trained at the course. There was a mixture of people in the afternoon with more Caddies attending in the evening. **GS** suggested a condensed version of the course for Caddies in future and PA system for larger group. |
| 3. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | 1. IV25 residents   None this month   1. Non IV25 residents   None this month |
| 4. | 2018 Plan |  |
|  | 1. Visitor Centre | 1. Eilidh Ross-Baker appointed as relief Ambassador. She starts work on 23rd May 2018. 2. Figures up marginally for April by 3%. Overall 19% up for the year to date with the weekends being very busy. The centre is open 12.30pm to 4.30pm during the week and 11am to 3pm at the weekends. |
|  | 1. Business Group | £21k for 82 businesses and expecting another £6k. Chasing annual returns has been abandoned for the time being. Joan will ask for feedback on season to date in the monthly email. |
|  | 1. Developing cruise liner market | There are several liners in next week. One will be late at 5.30pm however there are places open for them to visit. Historylinks will remain open.  There was some discussion about the coaches that bring the visitors to the town. They are taking up too much room in the Square and also leaving their engines running causing pollution. Local resident Nigel is going to monitor which buses leave their engines running.  **JM** reported that the situation had been discussed at the Community Council and Grant Rogerson may allow some land for parking although liability insurance may be in order if this went ahead. **JM** to pursue.  **YR** will check if coaches are allowed to relocate to the School car park during School holidays.  **JM** would enquire about Ross House NHC car park and UHI Student Block.  The Police Station car park was also suggested.  It was agreed that the coach drivers need to be made aware of places to park. |
|  | 1. Month by Month plan | Dealt with elsewhere |
|  | 1. Dornoch Caravan Site & Beach | **JM** had nothing to report on campsite other than Sara Murdoch, Chris Holmes and Phil Tomlin wish to meet members of the Community Council. It was agreed that DACIC rep. would also be invited.  **YR** reported that an application for CC to take over the lease for the area at the beach play park had been submitted.  **JM** reported that the proposed idea of a barrier at the beach car park has been rejected by HC.  **JB** reported that she had asked for the car park warning sign to be moved to the car park entrance. Currently it is on DACIC’s pole preventing a John O Groats finger being added.  **JM** confirmed that the Council will send officers to do spot checks at 10pm.  **YR** said the CC were looking a taking on the Beach Toilets and paying cleaner an honorarium. **JB** said DACIC could employ cleaner if necessary.  There have been some complaints about motor/quad bikes travelling at speed in the caravan park. **JM** has ensured these have been relayed to Arthur and Carmichael.  **YR** reported that there has been no word on a valuation. She has spoken to Phil and commented to him on the mismanagement of the Lease. |
|  | 1. Project Sweep-Curlew | 1. Formation of Fund Raising sub-committee (Business and Private sponsorship)   It was agreed that **GS** and **JM** would form a sub-committee and co-opt R. MacKenzie, S. Lyon and T. Warnock. An initial approach has been made to Stephen Rankin, Gordon & MacPhail re sponsorship.   1. Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Application   Additional tenders are being requested prior to submitting the Stage 1 application in July.  **NH** reported that a valuation has been sent to ANM Group. The Golf Club are willing to buy the land for a reasonable price. The Land Fund is happy with a change of ownership but would require letters of comfort.   1. Colin Thompson correspondence   Although in favour of the curling rink, he sees the wedding venue as a commercial enterprise in direct competition with The Castle Hotel. His concerns will be passed on to the appointed consultant to see if a compromise can be reached.   1. Beatrice application   **JB** reported that applications were now open for the Beatrice fund. She will investigate to find out if a £50,000 funding application for Project Sweep/Curlew would be supported. Beatrice grants are for transformational projects.  Discussion took place as to when HIE might support funding for a Community Development Manager or if £6,000 could be found to employ a ScotGrad to support **JB. JD** suggested that £2,000 could be used from DACIC funds to give **JB** support in the interim. **JB** said that she could wait for 2 months to see progress on SLF applications. |
|  | 1. Dornoch Police Station | 1. Next stages   **GS** was encouraged by Rory Dutton DTAS and COS who will assist with our request for asset transfer from Police Scotland.   1. Review Police Station queries   **GS** referred to points raised by Police Scotland email.   1. The business plan will be developed with SLF 1 funding if granted 2. Commercial rents will be charged 3. Idea of a holiday let was dropped with a view to using the 3 bedroom accommodation for a caretaker or key worker. 4. Ronnie MacRae (Highland Small Communities Housing Trust) confirmed that the land to the left of the road was suitable for building affordable housing. **GS** reiterated the selling of land was to develop the Police Station. It was mentioned that there was a housing need and the land could be sold to a housing trust. 5. The Land Fund application will be determined in 3-4 weeks   **GS** felt that communication had been built up in a positive way. |
|  | h. Strategic review | **JB** to update once time frames are clearer after SLF Stage1 outcomes known. |
|  | i. GDPR | **JB** sent out GDPR notifications to the membership relating to monthly emails and had a good response. Lou was sending out GDPR notice to the VisitDornoch marketing list, and it was recognised that there was the potential of losing significant number from the data base. **JB** has templates for GDPR policies and will put up a GDPR statement on both websites before Friday’s deadline. **PM** mentioned that it might be a good idea to get advice from Kim at Allsorts who is following VGES and HIE policies. |
| 5. | Financial Statement | **JB** presented the financial statement to 1st May Bank account at £38,770 with projected free reserves of £26k.  **PM** thought we should be looking to fill 2 posts. one for Administration to help **JB** and one for Development Officer on a similar basis to the Kyle of Sutherland with inward investment target. The long term plan is for the asset based projects to generate enough income to support additional staff posts. **JD** stressed the need for more help for **JB.** |
| 6. | AOCB | 1. Discussion took place regarding a change in the Articles of Association, that DTAS have identified may be required. **JB** advised that changes must be approved by Scottish Ministers. It was agreed that this should be left to the consultant. 2. There was to be a meeting in Lairg on Crowdfunding on 30 May that **JM** would try to attend. 3. Closer working between DADCA & DACIC. There is general agreement that this would be useful, and HIE has indicated it would support further investigation. However the current focus must be on SLF applications. 4. Public WiFi funded by HC Inverness City deal should be available in the next 2 weeks. 5. Maps are ready to print and will be delivered in 2 weeks. 6. **GS** mentioned the feasibility of a community group to bulk buy oil. **JB** said there was a group in Kirkhill doing this and she would get some information. 7. The ATM at the Co-op is not working currently. Cash can be withdrawn from the Post Office at Mitchells Chemist but there have been complaints about not being able to access money out of hours. **NH** confirmed that ‘Cash Back’ at the Golf Club would be in place in the near future. |
|  | DONM | Tuesday 3rd July 7pm |
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