

DACIC Minute of meeting Tuesday 27 March 2018

Present: Joan Bishop (Chair) **JB**, Neil Hampton **NH**, Jim McGillvary **JM**, Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Alison MacWilliam **AM**, Paddy Murray (**PM**), Lynne Mahoney (**LM**)

Apologies: Yvonne Ross, James Dillon

1.	<b>Minute of meeting of 13 February</b>	<b>NH:</b> Item 5: 2 <sup>nd</sup> last paragraph, NH requested the word 'potential' be inserted before 'renegotiation'. Minutes were then proposed by <b>NH</b> , seconded by <b>GS</b> .
2.	<b>Matters arising not covered elsewhere</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Tourism Group meeting hosted in Dornoch &amp; run by Senscot on 8 March included Mallaig swimming pool, Thurso CDT, Strathpeffer Pavillion, Assynt Community Association, Seaboard Centre and VisitScotland. It was found to be a very productive day and great exchange of ideas. <b>JB</b> has submitted a membership application to DTAS which provides support for Community Asset Transfer and also free legal advice.</li> <li>2. Project Inspire – meeting with Helen Houston. Money from the Scottish Government is available for them to act as consultants to groups such as DACIC. She was keen on the Police Station project given the potential funds to be raised by selling the land for housing and the lack of existing business space in Dornoch. Regarding Project Curlew, she suggested out of season uses such as golf simulator practice, breakout room, roller rink etc. She provided sample briefs for tender.</li> <li>3. Focus Group meeting on 16 March chaired by HIE – but only JM, YR, JB and RDGC attended so not very useful as a stakeholder meeting. This may be due to previous date being cancelled at short notice. The group invitees are VS, HC, UHI, ANM and various hotels, RDGC, DADCA, DACIC &amp; Community Council. DACIC would like to see our HIE Account Manager, Rachel Skene, involved.</li> <li>4. Annual Review – <b>JB</b> is still awaiting data from many businesses. Dornoch Castle Hotel and the Eagle reported that figures were all up, but they have yet to provide actual figures. Royal Golf has not yet provided figures. <b>NH</b> to follow up.</li> <li>5. Meeting with HIE Chair – <b>JB</b> reported that this was a positive meeting and good networking opportunity.</li> <li>6. Banking – <b>JB</b> reported on the Comoola Tree community banking initiative. It was felt that it was more geared towards places with very few other resources, shops, post office etc, so it was considered not appropriate for Dornoch for the time being. <b>NH</b> reported that RDCG had been looking at installing an ATM but this was proving very difficult so are providing cashback instead. This would be available to both RDGC members and visitors. NH confirmed that the cashback symbol should be added to the new map. <b>PM</b> raised the possibility of DACIC taking on management of an ATM but this was deemed not viable.</li> </ol>
3.	<b>Membership and Stakeholder applications:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) IV25 residents – Ann Durrand (Dornoch News)</li> <li>b) Non IV25 residents (stakeholders) Ross Bannerman (Castle View Place – SC), Penny &amp; Archie Paterson (Morven SC)</li> </ol>
4.	<b>2018 plan:</b>	
	a) Visitor Centre	Nothing to report.
	b) Business Group	a) new business sign-ups – Balloan House & Cottage (B & B), Balloan Cottage (SC option), Old Bank House (SC), Spar Convenience Store, Barn Owl Bothy, Dornoch News, Dornoch Hotel and Pitgrudy Holiday Park.

		<p>b) Dornoch Ambassador Course/2018 Season Information Exchange. 2 sessions will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April at RDGC 2-4pm and 7-9pm</p> <p>c) As of 20<sup>th</sup> March, 29 businesses joined or renewed for 2018-9 at £10.4k</p>
	c) Cruise liner market	The first cruise ship coach arrived today, several passengers visited HistoryLinks which Lynne opened especially. Meeting 11 April with ground-handlers, <b>JB</b> and <b>NH</b> to attend. Photoshoot to launch 'Cruise and Crew Club' at RDGC. Dornoch Alone is still planned for 2019 – a half day in the town.
	d) Month by month plan	Covered elsewhere.
	e) Dornoch Caravan Site	CONFIDENTIAL
	f) Project Curlew	<p>Rumours had been circulated by some members of the Dornoch community that Aberdeen &amp; Northern Marts (ANM) had sold their remaining land, where it was intended to site Project Curlew; <b>NH</b> had been unaware of this so contacted ANM and found that this was untrue. <b>GS</b> reported that they were applying to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) in mid-May. All briefs for design team/architects and feasibility study/business plan tenders were ready to go. The design team/architect would manage the brief. <b>PM</b> asked about use of the building during the winter by people other than curlers but <b>GS</b> responded that the main focus would have to be curling. Community consultation would take place if stage 1 is successful. <b>JB</b> thanked <b>GS</b> for the great work he had done.</p> <p><b>JB</b> reported that she had attended a meeting about social investment which looked at community shares/crowd-funding opportunities. <b>GS</b> asked about funding from Highland Council but <b>JM</b> indicated that the capital budget was already committed. There are, however, generic lines for community projects which might be worth exploring. Other possible funding options were SportScotland and SSE onshore and offshore community benefit funds.</p>
	g) Dornoch Police Station	<p><b>GS</b> reported that he sent out an invitation to tender to three organisations in preparation for a SLF stage 1 application. He is now working on an asset transfer request to Police Scotland to bring it into community ownership through the Community Empowerment Act. Police Scotland had suggested delaying the application as the police and fire service are considering sharing the office space. Some time has now passed and <b>GS</b> will go ahead and outline the different usage proposals, which could include office space for police/fire department.</p> <p><b>JM</b> The official figure of those on the housing list is 158, so any application which would include plans for additional housing would strengthen the argument. SLF would grant funds to buy the building, but not to convert it.</p>
	h) Strategic Review	<b>JB</b> & <b>GS</b> had meeting with Rachel Skene on 26.03 to look at the Action Plan, in particular at the role of a full time Project and Business Development Manager (PBDM). It was recommended that DACIC submit a proposal to support a 3 year contract to take forward the two main asset projects (Curlew, Police Station) and the identified development areas for destination marketing including income generation to secure the long term future of the Visitor Centre. Rachel indicated that HIE would be open to an approach for the majority of the funding if the Common Good would fund the balance (e.g. £10k per year for three years). Having a PBDM to grow the business would establish DACIC as a sustainable social enterprise, less reliant on volunteer effort. The key task would be to develop long term income generation.

		<p>A mission statement was agreed “to make Dornoch a better place to live, work, study and visit”.</p> <p><b>PM</b> asked whether the Project and Business Development Manager would report to DACIC or the Community Council. <b>JB</b> responded that it would be DACIC. However the two members of the Community Council on the DACIC board will be contributing to the remit for and monitoring of the PBDM.</p> <p>It was agreed that <b>JB</b> would present a proposal to the next Community Council meeting on Wednesday 18 April.</p> <p><b>JB</b> mentioned that DACIC would know the outcome of the Project Curlew and Police Station SLF applications by the end of July; if those are unsuccessful, DACIC would need to look into alternatives and go after other funds.</p> <p><b>JM</b> raised question of Janitor’s House which was lying empty, for potential asset transfer. It was suggested that Allsorts After School Club (Kim Tewnion) be advised as they had already expressed interest.</p> <p><b>JM</b> mentioned that at the top of page 4 of the Strategic Review, there was an error. He had referred not to the Courthouse but to the Sports Centre. <b>JB</b> to correct.</p>
5.	<b>Financial Statement:</b>	<p><b>JB</b> reported that the balance is healthier than anticipated since DACIC are due some money back from HMRC for Lucy’s maternity leave and Lou has done fewer hours than foreseen. Lucy asked about her contract being renewed (currently runs until 30<sup>th</sup> September and she returns on 16<sup>th</sup> July). This would be reviewed once the business levy income is known for 2018-9.</p>
6.	<b>AOCB</b>	<p><b>Public Toilets</b> The Community Council have a quote for £30k to refurbish the toilets (from Common Good Fund). However HC have decided to introduce a 50p charge so no further action to be taken at this time – <b>JM</b> has been talking to the site manager of Kirkwood Homes to see if they would be willing to take the upgrade work on as a gesture to the community. <b>NH</b> knows the Chairman of Kirkwood Homes and would also have a word. It was noted that the beach toilets are to close. If a community group was willing to take them over, the Golf Club could open up each morning, but others would be needed to clean and lock up. <b>JM</b> mentioned that the Community Council had extended the lease on the playpark so that BRIG could go for Leader funding. <b>AM</b> suggested that BRIG might consider including upkeep of the beach toilets in their funding bid. <b>PM</b> to ask BRIG if they would be willing to get involved.</p> <p><b>Pitgrudy pedestrian access</b> Pitgrudy have joined as members and asked about the provision of a footpath into town or even signage to indicate ‘beware of pedestrians’. Pitgrudy would be willing to contribute to the cost if necessary. <b>JM</b> said he has already requested signage but that a footpath would be much too expensive to consider.</p> <p><b>World Host</b> DACIC now has World Host recognition.</p> <p><b>Housing consultation meeting</b> There is to be a Housing consultation meeting in the Library 28<sup>th</sup> March to consider the need for housing in the Dornoch area. Albyn and other housing associations would be present. <b>JM</b> and <b>GS</b> would be attending.</p> <p><b>Footpath signage</b></p>

		<b>JB</b> was approached by Duncan Allan about additional footpath signage – this has been put on hold for now.
	<b>Date of next meetings</b>	It was agreed to follow a pattern of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month Tuesday 24 April at 7pm Tuesday 22 May (Lynne to take minutes) Tuesday 26 June Tuesday 24 July Tuesday 28 August Tuesday 25 September Tuesday 23 October