Present: Joan Bishop **JB** (Chair)**,** Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Jim McGillivary **JM**, Yvonne Ross **YR**, Alison MacWilliam **AM**

Apologies: Catherine Moodie **CM,** Neil Hampton **NH,** Paddy Murray **PM,** Lynne Mahoney **LM**

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| 1. | Minute of meeting of 27 March 2019 | The minutes were proposed by **YR** seconded by **JM.** |
|  2. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere | 1. **GS** meeting with Fiona Hampton of HLH re potential Curlew Summer Programme - it was agreed that there was definitely scope for various activities, but issues such as flooring and storage would need careful consideration. To be followed up further down the line.
2. Dornoch Hotel Welcome Talks booked for 2020 – **JB** reported that Tour Providers had contacted her and talks at £20+VATagreed. Historylinks and the Ambassador may also be involved.
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| 3. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | 1. Hangar One – **JB** had been approached by Dickie Bird who has advertised Hangar One for wedding receptions on the website. *Post meeting note: too many enquiries, withdrawn for now.*
2. Cairnhill new Self-catering on High Street.
3. Request from Ardgay Self Catering (via agent) – this was turned down due to the number of self-catering properties already in Dornoch.
4. Wester Lonemore Self-Catering –details awaited for advert
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| 4. | 2019 plan |  |
|  | a. Visitor Centre | 1. There were 627 visitors in March, down 25% on 2018, but regular HC staff had been off.
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|  | b. Business Group | 1. 2018 data: full return received from Dornoch Town & Country Lettings.
2. Lou Rollason has sent out self-catering, B&B and shop renewal invoices.
3. Visit Scotland meeting & FAM visit – replies now received. Caroline Robertson has offered to attend the next Business Group meeting and DACIC is on the list for FAM visits. Expo will not come to Inverness as the venue is too small; however, Caroline will outline VisitDornoch opportunities to attend next year in Aberdeen.
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|  | c. Developing the Cruise Liner market. | 1. Tour Guides FAM visit on 5th April – 16 HOSTGA guides came and enjoyed what they saw.
2. Gateway magazine –double page advert for Dornoch – handed out at Invergordon
3. Cruise the Highlands Facebook – they have employed a media company who have done some excellent promotional videos of Dornoch.
4. The Cromarty Firth Port Authority has provided a letter of support for Curlew and associated plans for curling heritage visitor experience.
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|   | d. Month by month plan. | 1. Blue Badge Guides FAM visit. Plews Tours here in June so will meet JB, but no FAM visit now.
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|  | e. Dornoch Caravan Site | **JB** reported that she had visited the caravan park and that the site was tidy and the electrical improvements were underway. The Redferns are running it, encouraging dialogue with the users. **JM** said users report that there has been a huge improvement and they feel the new management are trying hard.  |
|  | f. Project Curlew | 1. Fund Raising sub-committee – no update.
2. Ironside Farrar Report is due end April – they sent a draft report which was a help with the NCHF application.
3. Flood risk & contamination assessments. **GS** is speaking to Alan Webster about assessments that may have been done in the past. He has encouraged DACIC to apply for VDLF grant. Also received HC’s own flood risk map which doesn’t show any risk in that area.
4. ANM Option Agreement – still with lawyers.
5. Natural & Cultural Heritage Fund – application submitted 22 April – letter of support from ANM.
6. VAT advice had been purchased via DTAS recommendation. She was of the opinion that we should be able to recover all VAT, although there was a slight issue in that DADCA could have no more that 10% of the area fro dedicated use before VAT would be come repayable on all of their dedicated area. **JB** has contacted HMRC in order to receive confirmation of this interpretation of the regulations.
7. **GS** reported that summer curling is possible widthways using a lighter stone on a different surface and that this could be offered to cruise ship passengers.
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|  | g. Dornoch Police Station | 1. SLF Stage 2 – the result is expected by 23 May.
2. Police Scotland – the response was due by 30 April but not received. Also they have indicated that they want the full valuation. **JB** sent an official letter and **GS** will send a more personal letter. **JB** and **GS** are preparing an appeal which will be lodged if an answer is not received by 17 May or if is it is received but without 5% discount. SLF will only consider our application on 23 May if we have a formal response from Police Scotland.
3. Renovation Funding – Town Regeneration & Capital Regeneration funds - **JB** to follow up with Alan Webster. Local consultation with Police Scotland resulted in the decision that they do not want to retain a police presence in Dornoch.
4. Beatrice application submitted 25 April for phased work, repairs, broadband etc.
5. SSE Sustainable Development Fund opens soon. *Post meeting note Autumn 2019*
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|  | h. Community Development Manager report | **CM** was on holiday, so **JB** reported on her behalf. **CM** will go up to four days in May & June as there are several grants to prepare. **YR** asked if CM could help with a grant application for the Community Council. **JB** responded that if there is time available she could help, but given the short time-scale, it seemed unlikely. **YR** agreed that she would work on the application herself (see j.iv below) |
|  | i. Community Consultation KoSDT/Locality Plan | Community Consultation KoSDT is open until 2nd June to inform the Locality Plan1. By 16th April 235 surveys completed 9.5% response rate
2. 11th June Drop in surgery, 12th June is the Community Workshop
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|  | j. Community updates | Dornoch Community Council: 1. **YR** reported that the DCC had received complaints about Common Good land being ‘given away’ for a variety of uses such as Hangar One, the golf club, the show, tennis court etc. However the land is being leased not ‘given away’ and this raises funds for the Common Good and allows other projects to progress, for the good of the people of Dornoch.
2. **YR** has a meeting with HC tomorrow about their withdrawal of land previously offered for housing and she indicated that a community asset transfer request would be submitted.
3. **YR** reported that bollards had been installed along the road to the beach and this had received lots of complaints from the local community, mainly there being no room to overtake or to park. The positive is that no campervans will be able to overnight in that zone.
4. The Community Council/Dornoch Trust had resurrected the idea of establishing a tearoom and crazy golf at the beach. A bid will be made to SSE Sustainable Fund. A further future development is an aire for motor homes.
5. Foodshare – **YR** is working with North Highland College on this. The Community Council have agreed to pay for the shed, freezer and cabinet, NHC will provide the space and some management of the facility. It will hopefully move to the police station in due course, as this is a more central, accessible location.
6. Parking in town has been a real issue and **YR** had put cones outside Cocoa Mountain to avoid a repetition of the recent problems. It was agreed by all that double yellow lines were not the way to go.
7. **YR** reported that ESRA is planning to put up a 2-storey building with pitched roof, housing the boat and equipment below and meeting rooms, training rooms and showers upstairs. Insurance would not enable them to have public toilets. There would be an 8-week community consultation and **YR** encouraged DACIC board members to respond. **YR** was unhappy with the size and visual impact of the proposed building and suggested that a low, wide building would have less impact.

BRIG: they have funding for disabled toilets and wheelchair access to the beach using specially adapted wheelchairs. DADCA: There are problems getting a reliable water supply at the community allotment, which **JM** is working on, otherwise nothing to report.Embo Trust: The Café has been up and running since Easter. There were some initial snagging problems but these are now largely resolved. Kenny Mackay (Mackays Catering) has the franchise. UHI: no feedback on student accommodation. Dornoch Focus Group: Nothing to report  |
| 7. | Financial statement | **JB** reported estimated free reserves of £27k at near-financial year-end. |
| 8. | AOCB | 1. DONM: Tuesday 28 April at 7pm at RDGC.
2. **JB** reported that she had received a formal letter from Colin Thomson and she and **NH** would meet to discuss the contents and how to take this forward.
3. The Coach House Bar and Restaurant – an application had been submitted to extend the opening hours Fri/Sat to 1am, other days 11.45pm. However, the bar is located in a residential area, there had been a great deal of social disturbance and lots of objections. The Community Council had commented on the licensing application, advising against the extension of opening hours. The owners have agreed to put up blinds to reduce disturbance from disco lights and to ensure bottles are thrown away before 9pm or after 8am. They also wanted to put up an outside area; however, there is no land attached to the pub. The licensing board meeting was on 14 May at 1pm and **GS** planned to attend.
4. **GS** reported that Fionn Lodge would become a self-catering property from next year onwards.
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