

Minute of the meeting of **DACIC** board 15th April 2021

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

In Attendance: Luke Watson

Apologies: Shona MacDougall **SM**, Catherine Moodie **CM**, Lesley Strang **LM**, Jayne Pagan **JP** Lynne Mahoney **LM**,

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| 1. | Minute of meeting of 18 th March 2021 | The minutes of the meeting were proposed by PM and seconded by GS . |
| 2. | Matters Arising not covered elsewhere | There were no matters arising. |
| 3. | Dornoch Hub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. OBC extras to date £5855 – ID2 accessible door, external beading to windows, door stops b. Building Control insist on gym ramp. OBC quoted £4.5k. Alternative quote requested RM Mackenzie of £3.1k was accepted. c. Site meeting was held on 12th April to go through for snagging list. Site is also being tidied up at the moment. d. GS working on preparation of leases for tenants via Solicitor and hopefully of saving money here by reusing the initial template created rather than getting the solicitor to do individual ones. Tenants so far confirmed: Highland Wireless, Levens Studio, Aspire HLTC (Vanessa Lawrance), Heaven Bikes (& Paddle Surf Boards) & Silverback Gym. On offer: Service Point, Physio. LS had advertised locally that spaces were available and people are approaching us as a result. e. LS had meeting with JB & SM re policies & procedure for the Hub & lodged HMO licence. Links House have people for the hostel and if less than 3 in hostel then HMO licence not required. Fire Fighting Equipment, Fire System & all handover training required. f. LS putting together shopping list of small items to ‘finish off’ building. PM – How are we to budget? Over by £10K. PM – We should highlight to the people of Dornoch that the Hub is ready and tell what is going to be in it. An article in the Northern Times would be one way. JB to prepare once photos are available. |
| 4. | Project Curlew | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Land purchase completed 29th March. b. Planning application – consent with conditions 31st March. JM – conditions can be challenged. THC to manage the vehicle park.. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Highland Coastal Communities – £80k offered 1st April d. Robert Barr’s Charitable Trust only funding charities now e. Catherine Moodie struggling with online technical difficulties in submitting application to AirBnB f. Bid to Better Places Fund (BPF) for £75k submitted 9th April g. Tenders evaluated: contractor selected but funding shortfall – funders meeting 13th April. h. £419k secured against costs of £585k – £75k bid submitted 9th April leaving £91k to find. THC think the car park is a good proposal for capital investment for funding gap. Shane Manning making the case to Finance £120k in case of shortfall from BPF. JM to follow up. i. Asbestos removed. Verification report submitted and VDLF claim lodged. <p>PM – What is the estimated income? £16k pa, with a nett of £6.8k. With THC leasing the car park for 20 years we get £5k (estimate) and don’t have to worry about usage or income levels. Once THC repay the loan they took to finance the project we can renegotiate for a share of the profits and a share also goes to the Area Committee for use in the area.</p> |
| 5. | C Moodie report | CM’s report was circulated prior to the meeting and accepted as read. |
| 6. | Coronavirus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Visitor management plan – CC taking the lead on implementation. There is a problem with getting signage and white lining due to regulations and money slowing the process. JM trying to help with funding. DACC also want to conduct a community consultation on the proposals which may not be until Autumn due to Covid. The plan should be published on website once it has been depersonalised. Speaking to Brian Fraser of THC for some quick wins – flashing 30mph sign at West Church Hall and coaches only text in yellow boxes as bus stop. JM – Changes to bollards at Overflow Beach Car park and extra layby are on list of Roads Dept. and will be chased up. Work on public toilets to start on 26th April and should take approx. 4 weeks. Castle & Coach House providing WCs under comfort scheme. Beach toilets open 26th April (repainted) b. Visit Dornoch website update – desktop version complete, mobile in progress (staging.visitdornoch.com) c. App update – JB & Lou trained – snagging list being worked on. It has been suggested that Walks are changed to Routes so that other modes of transport can be added. PM suggested that LS could help with this work. |
| 7. | 2021 Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. BID/SID – JB completing draft Seed Fund application which will inform Beatrice application due 28 April. Need to chase up letters of support promised. b. Assets Manager report – Accepted as read. c. Visit Dornoch Marketing & Visitor Services – Adapt & Thrive Bid |

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| | | <p>closes 21 June. Rachel Skene our HIE Manager recommended this to try for additional funding.</p> <p>d. BG survey. Only 4 businesses replied to the email request but 40 (of a possible 98) have filled in the online survey that was sent out earlier this week. This asks about current service and priorities for this year and also the support for the BID. Results so far have been generally positive although two expressed dissatisfaction. The good news is that 90% (of the 40) say they will pay in 2021. The results will be included in the BID application.</p> |
| 8. | Community Updates | <p>a. Dornoch Community Council – Litter pick is the most urgent before visitors arrive and this planned for 24/25th April. The whole of Dornoch has been asked to submit nominations for the Community Award and a short list will be drawn up to be voted on. (Post meeting note: town tidy postponed until end of May-June to align with 'Keep Scotland Beautiful Summer Clean').</p> <p>b. DADCA – Social Club will be open when regulations allow and they are working on risk assessments and cleaning schedules. The Farmers Markets are booked in but there will be fewer stalls due to social distance rules. The Car Tour is going ahead and has a full entry list. It will not be advertised so that crowds don't gather for the start.</p> <p>c. Embo Trust – Deep clean underway with the shop now open using a one way system. New directors are doing well but there is no word on how the café will operate.</p> <p>d. UHI – Research into renewable energy. Finances are OK with it looking like break even this year. Applications for Golf Management and Professional courses are very good. Burghfield is having a deep clean at the moment. Extension nearly finished and Ross House is close to being sold which will help pay for the extension.</p> <p>e. Historylinks – Planning permission for extension awarded. Bid being submitted to Beatrice fund. Opening on 26th April.</p> <p>f. RDGC – With non-essential travel in Scotland starting from 16th April and the rest of the UK from 26th April then prospects of an upturn in business should come. Unfortunately international travel is still an unknown so the travel, tourism and hospitality industry are lobbying the Government for clarification. Bookings for the second half of the season are good.</p> |
| 9. | Draft Year End Accounts | Approved and authorised for sending to accountant. |
| 10. | AOCB | <p>a. Embo Street Broadband – More info is required from Judi Sutherland before we can make a decision as there can be no exposure to DACIC but we are keen to help expand the superfast broadband network in the area.</p> <p>b. Signage in Hub – No businesses will be listed on the main sign. The proof circulated at the meeting was approved. The businesses will be listed at each door and at reception. LS has</p> |

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| | | <p>engaged Acorn Signs to carry out the work.</p> <p>c. DACC Community award – Taken in 8 a.</p> |
| 11. | DOMN | Thursday 20 th May 7.00pm via Zoom if Hub not available |

The meeting closed at 18.01 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
 These minutes were prepared by Neill Hampton on 15th April 2021.