

DORNOCH AREA C.I.C.

Registered Address: Balloan, Dornoch IV25 3HS

DORNOCH FOCUS GROUP

Meeting held at 5.45 pm on Tuesday 26th March 2013
in the Council Chambers, Carnegie Building, Dornoch

Apologies:

Marelle Sierra, Sue Helal, Mary & Ken Bromage, Colin Thompson, Susan Brown and John McMurray

Present:

Jim McGillvray [JM], Judi Sutherland, Jimmy Melville, Rachel Jack, Pat Murray, Mark McCauley, Lesley Bell, Ian Walker, Ruth Brown, Kerensa Carr and Peter Wild.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Proposed by Jim McGillvray and seconded by Lesley Bell.

Matters arising not on agenda:

FIBRE FEST – there is hope that after a record number of visitors it continues to be an annual event. Tutors had to be paid for, and it was worthwhile being able to get the Director of the Royal School of Needlework. There is apparently some money left in the pot to carry forward.

The provisional situation with regard to Group Officers;- Rachel as acting Secretary and Kerensa taking minutes. Pat wishes to stand down as Company Secretary but keep the membership list up-to-date for a membership drive. It was thought the Group could investigate an honorarium for a Secretary, though the role will be more easily handled if divided up.

Chairman's report:

JM has no report, having just arrived in the position

Treasurer's report:

Not much activity. £2,000 is to be received from Highland Council.

We have had continued problems with bank statements. Judi will have a print-out of statements soon.

Plexus Media received another payment for building the web-site #396 for £1060 and cheque#397 paid £2,000 to Dornoch Highland Gathering for the Marquee.

There is a balance showing of £6,809.76 although we still have money already allocated, leaving available funds of £3,908.76.

Dates of future meetings:

A few Directors cannot make a Tuesday, so an attempt was made to move it to a Wednesday. This however, has not been successful. It was agreed to maintain the status quo of a monthly meeting. JM will contact those who cannot attend to see if an alternative day is more workable.

Forthcoming meetings:- Tuesday 23rd April ... Tuesday 21st May ...Tuesday 25th June 2013

signs update:

We are waiting for a letter from the Community Council to approve the position of the signs and JM suggested another site meeting with Brian Fraser. Regarding the gaps between each sign, i.e. the air space between each sign item ... Tech Services insists on keeping the grey background as they feel it is not intrusive and would make it easier to keep the sizes uniform. Tech says it is not possible to meet the request for a High Street sign at the bus-stop. Tech had already suggested street name signs be placed on the wall at the Arthur & Carmichael end of the High Street.

Peter Wild brought up the issue about the sign on Shore Road. JM agreed to contact Lesley Connor from Community Council and ANM [Abattoir Owners] again.

Jimmy Melville mentioned the 4" gap. JM will check what was recorded.

Generally, a large number of people are adverse to Tech Services not giving gaps between each sign element.

Signage for the Retail Park on the corner of History Links has been approved. Ewan McLeod is co-ordinating the retailers to pay for the upkeep. Planning suggested [Guy Fraser] the retailers decide the exact position of the sign, keeping in mind the underlying archeology of the site [Peter Higgins]. The site will need maintenance: currently Martin Matheson's Homeland Services maintains the Social Club. The Focus Group to decide whether to enlist their services for the retail park sign area. Rachel will ask [Martin] for a quote.

town map:

Duffey Art is producing a 5mm thick pvc map to be sited on the West Gable wall of the bus shelter with the placement dots coming very soon. They will then match the colour for the key. The dimensions are decided at c.180cm x 90cm which has been sent to Jackie Bouchard [standing in place of Ann Hackett who is off at present] in Planning Development at Highland Council. The whole map will take about 5-6 weeks, so about mid-to-late April. Neil Leslie is standing by ready to install.

website report:

90% of the site is complete. Judi, with assistance from Garve of Plexus have been updating all of the Accommodation Providers. 9 have signed up to date and other businesses will be invoiced at the end of next week or sooner.

If all our businesses were to take out an ad at £30, we would receive annual revenue of £6,000.

Page Ads and Classified are not yet being marketed and the intention to include businesses outwith the IV25 area will take place within the same time scale. To facilitate ads, Judi has put together a form to download for those wishing to put in a classified as PayPal will be an extra cost to administer. The Dornoch Service Point will also be able to take payments by cash or cheque. Judi has offered to run the site perse, so the 'employment' of a part-time Administrator was briefly discussed on a short contract basis. This will be looked into for the future.

- ✚ A request for a nominal payment of £100 to David Richardson for the use of his portfolio of images on the web-site was approved. Copyright statements for all images will be displayed.

The Web Cam is still out of order. Judi has looked extensively into the possible causes of the camera failure and streaming rate and suggested that with hosting at Calico up for renewal we may need to upgrade the hosting package to get a more suitable band-width to cope, or replace the old camera. Colin Thompson provides a dedicated line at The Castle Hotel for the sole use of the web-cam and does not ask for any recompense from the Group. The Group are very grateful for Colin's continued support.

sheriff court:

All responses to the 'Note of Interest' report have now been collated and put into the document, along with the maps etc. and will be submitted to the Communities Assets Branch of the Rural and Environment Directorate, a section of the Scottish Government.

Chair of the Community Land Group [Peter Peacock] says there is much cross-party support for items such as this. Scottish Ministers will have the final agreement on the way forward.

tourism surveys:

Kate Robinson was not present but asked whether the Group could consider either posting a short survey on-line, or asking accommodations providers to gather information from their guests. The North Highland College may wish to be involved if tourism plays a large part of study in the Golf Management Course. It was concluded that this was worthwhile pursuing and JM will ask Kate to come up with a process of information collection that the Group can consider. Pat will e-mail Kate. JM will contact RDGC to see what surveys they carry out and whether their information can be utilised by the Group.

RDGC does an annual survey of members, though these are predominately golf related.

forthcoming events:

There is a draught summary on the consultation process for HIE with regard to the Master Plan. It was decided that copies of the draught document should be distributed to the Directorship for immediate comment.

AOB:

Historylinks Museum opens this Friday 28th March, 5 days a week, Monday – Friday.

They will be holding a travelling exhibition on John Dewar who in 1911 introduced Healthcare in the Highlands which became a model for the NHS.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm