Present: Joan Bishop **JB** (Chair)**,** Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Jim McGillivary **JM**, Catherine Moodie **CM**, Neil Hampton **NH**, Alison MacWilliam **AM**

Apologies:Paddy Murray **PM,** Lynne Mahoney **LM,** Yvonne Ross **YR**

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| 1. | Minute of meeting of 27 March 2019 | The minutes were proposed by **JM** and seconded by **GS.** |
| 2. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere | 1. **NH** reported on a recent meeting with himself, **JB** and Colin Thompson of Dornoch Castle Hotel. Mr Thompson expressed concern about some of the projects that DACIC is undertaking, in particular Curlew and about how income from the business group members is being spent. It was agreed that the main funders should meet and discuss the business rates and other issues. **NH** to set up and facilitate a meeting of the main funders to discuss the strategy for the year. |
| 3. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | 1. Dornoch Bike Hire 2. No. 1 Kildale (Self-catering, already a B&B) 3. Morag Locke (Highland Artist) 4. Becca Mac (Ladies’ & Men’s Boutique) 5. Coco Salon & Spa 6. Highfield House (self-catering) 7. The Slate Shed |
| 4. | 2018-9 plan |  |
|  | a. Visitor Centre | 1. There were 2166 visitors in April, up 17% on 2018. |
|  | b. Business Group | 1. £22k had now been invoiced to 92 businesses. Grannie’s has now renewed but at a lesser amount for this year. It will put a finance plan in place for next year. Rates for Dornoch Castle Hotel , The Eagle and Links House are to be reviewed. The Dornoch map is almost ready to go and will exclude any members not renewing. 2. Visit Scotland Inverness Staff FAM visit has been arranged for 4 June. |
|  | c. Developing the Cruise Liner market. | 1. Ambassador Lorraine is working well – e.g. Kincraig has noted more visitors as a result. 2. Larger vessels are bringing 5 coaches, which is putting pressure on the Visitor Centre, so **JB** intends trialling Lou and Maggie from 11.30am – 4pm on those days. 3. **JB** reported that DACIC posts a welcome message on ‘Cruise the Highlands’ Facebook page promoting the town, the VisitDornoch App and the Ambassador. |
|  | d. Month by month plan. | 1. Summer community markets started on 8 May; there will be two in June, on 12th and 26th. 2. The first night of the pipe band, scheduled for 25 May, was cancelled without notice. **JB** will follow up to ensure the Pipe Band posts cancellations on Facebook. 3. Art Gallery takes place from 8-22 June in the Social Club. 4. JB reported that the Scottish Government has advised changes to the Constitution of Community Bodies (e.g. minimum age 16 not 18). One benefit of this is that those living outside the IV25 area would be able to become a Board member. **NH** and **GS** to take forward by October. |
|  | e. Project Curlew | 1. Fund Raising sub-committee update – no update. 2. Ironside Farrar Report – **GS** indicated that the report suggests that the whole project is extremely marginal and depends on several aspects, including floor risk and contaminated land assessments. 200 year flood risk levels take up a considerable part of the land and this may prove to be a major issue. In addition, DADCA and NHCT need to review the projected income & expenditure to ensure it is realistic. 3. Flood risk & contamination assessments. Fairhurst who carried out the other studies for Dornoch South are now working on theses reports which will identify any ground investigations required. 4. ANM Option Agreement – on hold awaiting THC clarification re financial penalty 5. Natural & Cultural Heritage Fund – outcome expected in September. 6. North Highland Curling Trust - **GS** to attend their AGM. The financial modelling for the NHCT is very marginal. We will need assurance that they can underwrite for 10 years. **GS** suggested that they may be able to lease the equipment rather than buy it, however he felt the NHCT needed to do more work on the project to drill down to the detail and be sure of the figures. 7. **JB** reported that the decision to ‘Opt to Tax’ the building means that DACIC will charge VAT on their service to DADCA & NHCT. NHCT had hoped that DACIC would employ the ice manager; however this service charge would then be liable for VAT. In terms of provision of electricity for the curling shed, it may be appropriate to get that part metered. VAT rules mean that DADCA can only take over 10% of the overall building as they are considered as financiers. **JB** suggested it may be worth looking into the possibility of DACIC becoming a charity company limited by guarantee or work more closely with DADCA as the associated charity, with the CIC being the trading arm. **GS** and **NH** will consider with constitution review. *Post meeting note: HIE has previously offered to pay for specialist support in this area.* 8. Ironside Farrar have indicated that we may require two separate, but adjoining buildings as higher standards might apply on the community building, with just a steel shed for the curling rink. **GS** to consult with Building Control. 9. Given the above, **GS** indicated that submission to SLF Stage 2 funding will be put back to August as meeting the June deadline is no longer feasible. **CM** mentioned that sportscotland recommended postponing submitting a funding application until next April. They would be happy to come up to Dornoch to view the site and discuss the project. 10. JB mentioned that if we are not successful in getting funding from NCHF, the project would not proceed. 11. Ironside Farrar will send an updated draft on Thursday, which **GS** will take to NHCT. 12. **GS** had suggested that if the project did not go ahead, DACIC could purchase the space for a car and coach park. However, Ironside Farrar responded that this was highly unlikely to get funding. 13. **GS** proposed that if Curlew does not go ahead, the Social Club could build new premises in the grounds of the Police Station. This was met with general approval. 14. It was suggested that a meeting was required with the DADCA board to outline all these issues and discuss a possible way forward. |
|  | f. Dornoch Police Station | 1. Police Scotland will now issue their response by 2nd July (this has been confirmed in writing by their legal department). 2. SLF to be contacted as soon as we have response from Police Scotland. 3. Renovation Funding – Town Centre (for funding this year, to get the project up and running) & Capital Regeneration funds (decision in February) – applications in progress. 4. Beatrice application outcome due in July. 5. SSE Sustainable Fund opens in the autumn. **JB** is going to a training event tomorrow. 6. Investing in Communities Grant is a new Scottish Government grant. However, Community Consultation feedback (h. below) is required for the 14 June deadline. There is £250k available over 3 years. The main aim of this Fund is tackling deprivation, inequality and poverty and **CM** will attend a webinar tomorrow and assess the relevance to the Police Station. 7. **JB** to meet with Genevieve Duhigg (Dornoch Stores) to discuss further ideas for Police Station, including a coding club. |
|  | g. Community Development Manager report | Dougie Spence from the National Lottery is coming to Dornoch on 12 June. **JB** will show him the Social Club, Police Station and Curlew site.  **CM** reported that she attended an art exhibition at Clashmore and had met an Alness-based artist who would be interested in taking studio space at the Police Station. **GS** confirmed there was still space available and although there wouldn’t be a gallery at the Police Station, artists who are based there would be able to hang their work in the public areas.    **CM** mentioned that DACIC could apply to the Robertson Trust to fund the youth room. She had been advised to go in at a lower level and the Trust would examine the proposal, possibly offering more. They have rolling deadlines, so DACIC can apply once the project is further on. |
|  | h. Community Consultation KoSDT/Locality Plan | Community Consultation KoSDT is open until 2nd June to inform the Locality Plan   1. By 13 May, 295 surveys completed, a 11.9% response rate 2. 11th June Drop in surgery, 12th June is the Community Workshop |
|  | i. Community updates | Dornoch Community Council:  **JM** reported that a meeting had taken place with John McHardy (Highland Council) and Ronnie Macrae (Highland Small Communities Housing Trust) re housing project at Bishopfield. This will now go ahead and the strip of land beneath Oversteps would come to the Dornoch Trust, providing a capital asset over 5-6 sites. The income will go to the Dornoch Trust, to be used for charitable purposes.  One final condition of caravan park is still not yet met. However, the new operators have done a good job, refurbishing the shower block and more work planned.  DADCA: Nothing to report.  Embo Trust: **JM** reported that they may rent the Old School for weddings, for a maximum 60. This would therefore not be in conflict with Curlew.  UHI/NHC Business Unit: **NH** reported that RDGC would work together with NHC for the training of staff in catering and modern apprenticeships. He indicated that there are lots of local opportunities which need to be more widely marketed.  **JB** indicated that the Young Highland Chef of the Year would be held on the Monday after the Whisky Festival so there was potential to use the marquee*. Post meeting note: small event planned restricted to Burghfield, no public access*. |
| 7. | Financial statement | Carried over to next meeting. |
| 8. | AOCB | 1. DONM: Tuesday 2 July at 7pm at RDGC then Tuesday 6 August. It was noted that meetings will need to change from a Tuesday thereafter. 2. Flowers and Fairs asked whether there might be some funding available (approx. £1000) to pay someone to water the flowers. **JB** suggested applying to the Common Good; **NH** indicated that RDGC would be happy to consider an application for funding. 3. The beach toilets are being managed by the Dornoch Trust, financed by the Common Good. Someone will open, service and lock them up, as well as lock the pop-up bollards. 4. **NH** mentioned that Colin Thompson has requested that DACIC support his planning application to Highland Council for the new distillery. **JM** to take this on, on behalf of DACIC. It was noted that the Thompsons still have to provide HC with a certain amount of detail. 5. **GS** reported on the recent licensing meeting and the request for an extension of operating hours of the Coach House. This had been denied and the Monday-Thursday hours retained, Friday and Saturday being to 1am, and Sunday opening from 11am to 11pm. Outside drinking would be allowed but not after 9pm. There would be no music outside at any time and no emptying of bottles between 11pm and 8am. |