Present: Joan Bishop (Chair) **JB,** Gordon Sutherland **GS**, Alison MacWilliam **AM**, Paddy Murray **PM**.

Apologies: Neil Hampton, Jim McGillivary, Lynne Mahoney, Yvonne Ross

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Minute of meeting of 25 September 2018 | Proposed by **PM** seconded by **GS.** |
|  2. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere | Advertising Consent for footpath signs: this is now in place. RDGC to progress. |
| 3. | Membership and Stakeholder applications | Mary and Fergus Macleod, Evelix Pods |
| 4. | Approval of 2017-18 Accounts | These were approved and signed off. |
| 5. | Democracy Matters | **JB** summarised the initiative and indicated that comments are requested by end-November. It was agreed that the main focus for Dornoch would be to take control of the Common Good ground from Highland Council. **JB** to submit DACIC comments on this basis. |
| 6. | 2018 plan | Calendar update |
|  | a. Visitor Centre | 5199 visitors in September down 4% - year to date up 11% |
|  | b. Business Group | Food & Drink initiative meeting 27 September: it was reported that although this was a successful meeting, there was disappointment that several of the cafes/hotels did not attend. **GS** suggested that Genevieve Duhigg take the initiative forward and DACIC could act as a conduit and help with marketing. A possible festival in April was suggested. |
|  | c. Developing the Cruise Liner market. | Nothing to report. |
|   | d. Month by month plan. | 1. Off Season marketing: the Facebook competitions had generated some very positive comments. Five ‘Visit Dornoch in Winter’ pop-up banners ordered.
2. New Year leaflet: **JB** to chase.
3. Dornoch 2019 leaflet: **JB** to chase.
 |
|  | f. Project Curlew | 1. Fund Raising sub-committee update: nothing to report.
2. Scottish Land Fund Stage 1 Application: **GS** reported that the Stage 1 application was ready to be submitted by the 9 November deadline and that he remained very hopeful that it would be successful this time round, particularly having incorporated the community hall element into the plans. We should receive an answer in mid-December. The North Highlands Curling Trust was committing £20k to the project. PM reported that the Community Council was likely to support in principle a grant of £100,000 towards a Community Hall within the Curlew Building to replace the Social Club, but still to be run by DADCA.
3. Natural & Cultural Heritage Fund: **JB** and **GS** attended a recent meeting and are looking into funding opportunities – deadline for application is April so the new Community Development Manager would be able to take this on.
4. Community Survey: the survey had been completed by around 100 people
 |
|  | g. Dornoch Police Station | 1. The Community Open Day held on 11 October had been attended by 39 people, with several people showing interest in renting office space. The crèche was under discussion and the gym was keen to take up the space.
2. The Stage 2 deadline is 25 January, by which time it would be necessary to have feedback from anchor tenants. It was proposed that the redevelopment would be staged, with the refurbishment of the gym and office space being Stage 1, and the development of the crèche in Stage 2.
3. GS reported that he will meet with Police Scotland in Pitlochry on 5th December to discuss the value.
4. A sub-committee would be established to progress the business plan. JB, GS and PM would sit on this and co-opt others as required.
 |
|  | h. Community Development Manager | 1. PM reported that there was a meeting of the Area Committee on 15 November when they would be able to confirm the funds coming from the Common Good.
2. Interview panel – **JB**, **GS**, Helen Houston and John Duhigg would form the interview panel. The job spec and ad were approved and would be published in the Northern Times and on social media at end November. Interviews would be held in December, and the successful candidate would start at the end of January.
 |
|  | i. Community updates | 1. Dornoch Community Council: nothing to report.
2. DADCA – all arrangements in place for bonfire night
3. Embo Trust – hall opening in next month
 |
| 7. | Financial statement | **JB** reported free reserves of £25,000. |
| 8. | AOCB | 1. DONM: 11 December at RDGC, following the AGM.
2. Alyson Mackay approached DACIC asking for their support to run a Wedding Event. The board were happy to give this project their backing.
3. Dark Skies: Susan Brown suggested that DACIC look into the possibility of Dornoch qualifying for this initiative. **AM** to look into this.
 |