

**BID BOARD MEETING, 7pm Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, Dornoch Hub.  
NOTES & ACTIONS FROM MEETING.**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ginny Knox (**GK**), Colin Thompson (**CT**), Catherine MacCulloch (**CM**), Sharon Mackay (**SM**), John Duhigg (JD),

**APOLOGIES:**, Mark Grant (**MG**), Jim McGillvray (**J McG**) Claire Bruce (**CB**), Robert Smith (**RS**), Gareth Dixon (**GD**).

	ITEM	DISCUSSION NOTE	ACTION
1		<b>Meeting was NOT QUORATE, so before minutes issued to Website, directors not present at the time have been asked for their assent.</b>	
2	<b>Matters arising from previous minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inpost Lockers</b> – Inpost has completed a survey at the SPAR to</li> <li>• <b>Retail Park Scrubland</b> – Luke confirmed UHI developer must be contacted to discuss. May be tricky!</li> <li>• <b>Town Clean Up</b> – Callum Kerry to submit a Gutter Clean quote for all premises in town. SM, JM and Lou (on behalf of Cath) met HCs Area Mgr, Helen Ross and Ward Mgr, Fiona Richardson to discuss various maintenance matters including street cleaning, damaged signs, painting of railings etc. The feedback was there is no money. Lou mentioned that the Community Payback Order may help with a town tidy.</li> <li>• <b>Highland Broadband Dornoch Town Wi-Fi</b> – A new HC staff member, Rebecca, is now progressing matters rather than Matt.</li> <li>• <b>Park Run</b> - SM met Vhairi who shared various contacts for a possible 5K/Run/Cycling event, along with other helpful ideas/contacts including asking for school volunteers doing the DoE. SM to investigate options further re H&amp;S costs.</li> <li>• <b>NI</b> - CT yet to meet with Mr Mountain MSP and Mr Stone MP.</li> <li>• <b>Adoption of previous minutes</b> - Proposed <b>CM</b>, and seconded <b>CK</b>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>CT</b></p>
3	<b>Finance</b>  <b>Grants</b>	<p><b>Finance Update</b> – MG has resigned as Treasurer. He will stay until the year end accounts are finalised. GK wanted it noted that the BID was very grateful for all MGs help. GK has asked Jo Johnstone (JJ) – owner of pop-up shop opposite Dornoch Stores, if she would consider becoming Treasurer, if Board are happy to approve that. JJ to be invited to next Board meeting &amp; MG to effect handover.</p> <p><b>SM</b> shared a paper listing 16 potential funding streams which could be available for application to help finance signage, events and marketing initiatives. <b>SM</b> to report at the next meeting which funds can be applied for, once criteria/timelines are checked in greater detail.</p>	<p><b>GK/MG</b></p> <p><b>SM</b></p>
4	<b>Proposed Tourist Tax. update</b>	<p><b>GK</b> gave an update on the Visitor Levy Information Forum which took place on 15 January at Eden Court and was attended by 90 people, with a further 40 attending online. The industry speakers sent a clear message of their objections to HC with the current VL proposal. David Whiteford said that all 7 hotels would close if the VL goes ahead in its current form.</p> <p><b>GK</b> gave an update on the meeting she, <b>CT</b> and <b>SM</b> had with Maree Todd (MT) MSP, during which MT seemed astonished at the level of concern about the VL proposal but was supportive and wrote to the HC Leader highlighting our concerns.</p> <p><b>CC</b> was concerned about the lack of awareness within the Community about the VL. <b>SM</b> to re-share the VL survey with DACIC, DADCA and the CC.</p> <p><b>SM</b> said that the North BID Survey now includes questions which point out how destructive the TT is. Inverness BID (IB) wants to ensure the answers lead to an Economic Impact Assessment being</p>	

	<p>carried out before any VL can be approved. The survey will be finalised in Feb &amp; sent to all 2,000+ North BID businesses.</p> <p><b>Next</b> step for Dornoch BID is to email all Councillors and prepare a letter for the Press.</p> <p>Dornoch Caravan and Camp Site is creating a Highlands Campsite Owners group and holding meetings to campaign against the proposed tax.</p> <p>All 4 Highland Chambers of Commerce will hold a meetings to which the North BID Mgrs. are welcome to attend.</p>	<p><b>SM</b></p> <p><b>GK/SM</b></p> <p><b>SM/GK</b></p>
<p><b>5) General Meeting 20/1/25</b></p>	<p><b>Members Briefing</b> – <b>SM</b> thanked <b>GK, CT</b> and <b>CC</b> for all their support in delivering the presentation on the BID’s activities to date and what is planned for 2025. The meeting was attended by 18 members and <b>JM</b> also attended from the Board. There was a positive discussion in the Q&amp;A session</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>6) Signage Update</b></p>	<p><b>CM</b> gave an update</p> <p><b>CC</b> and <b>SM</b> will consult with the wider community and future proof the map boards with QR codes. The Retail Park signs will be agreed when we meet the businesses. The lamppost banners may need planning permission.</p> <p>The Finger Posts are very expensive, and it was agreed that they are not a top priority for now.</p> <p><b>CC, JD</b> and <b>SM</b> to discuss regarding funding and <b>JD</b> suggested sourcing sponsorship from non-members.</p> <p><b>SM</b> said that Skibo is happy to fund the supply and installation of a stone sign. Skibo’s signs are all made from slate as they now own a quarry and have staff. <b>SM</b> and <b>CC</b> to meet with Gary to progress.</p>	<p><b>CM/SM</b></p>
<p><b>7) Town “Events” meeting</b></p> <p><b>Spring/Autumn Highland Festival Fortnight</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting with other voluntary groups</b> –</p> <p>BID held a meeting with those involved in co-ordinating events in Dornoch to capture all the events planned for this calendar year, to avoid possible clashes with other north Highland events and optimise joint communications. It was agreed that a further meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March. When funds allow the Events Calendar page will be published on the website.</p> <p><b>Spring and Autumn Festival Fortnight</b> – <b>SM</b> chasing offers for the April event and <b>CB</b> and <b>SM</b> met with Lesley Strang to discuss possible traditional music events. Offers are slowly coming in. The shops are also interested such as Harry Gows, the Butcher and the SPAR. An Easter Egg Treasure Hunt may be organised and <b>SM</b> to speak with Davochfin and the Church to progress.</p> <p>Re the Oct HFF, Dornoch Station happy to provide a couple of rooms and host a demo if we can source a Celebrity Chef.</p>	<p><b>CT/SM/GK</b></p> <p><b>SM/CB</b></p>
<p><b>8) Social Media &amp; Website activity</b></p>	<p><b>GK</b> advised that 3 adverts ran successfully on FB with the ‘Escape to beautiful Dornoch’ message over the Christmas season. Ginny shared the images which generated an amazing amount of coverage. The figures had just been shared from <b>CB</b> illustrating the success of the campaign with 10.4K visitors versus 3.8K last year.</p>	
<p>AOCB</p>	<p>Glenmorangie House Hotel have agreed to Opt In membership.</p> <p>Caithness CoC were asked if they could help us organise a recruitment fair in Dornoch.</p> <p>The Levy bills are going out at the end of February and <b>SM</b> to include a letter to set out achievements/upcoming work and membership benefits.</p> <p>Northern Recycling is sending a quote to provide a refuse service to members.</p>	

NEXT MEETING – Date of Next Meeting: 7pm, Mon 3rd March in the Hub.