

MINUTES, DORNOCH BID BOARD MEETING.
7pm Monday 27th October, Dornoch Hub.
(And Extraordinary Meeting, Mon. 3rd Nov)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ginny Knox (**GK**), Jo Johnston (**JJ**), Catherine MacCulloch (**CM**), Sharon Mackay (**SM**), Gareth Dixon (**GD**), Colin Thompson (**CT**).

APOLOGIES: Claire Bruce (**CB**), Robert Smith (**RS**), Jim McGillvray (**JMcG**)

	ITEM	DISCUSSION NOTE	ACTION
	Matters/Actions arising from last minutes	Dornoch Town Wi-Fi – Connection location has been agreed with the Castle Hotel. Still to be completed. Jobs Page – CB to include a link on our website to new ‘Live North’ site now it is live. New Opt-in member - Pitcalzean House. Needs to pay/go on Website Christmas Party – Sales going well. Members’ Meeting – 16th October at RDGC, was poorly attended (6 members) but stimulated good discussion. Next time will enable an “attend via zoom” function. Place Plan – GK to get a timetable update from Lou Rollason Common Good Fund/signage We need to submit our signage grant application to the Community Regeneration Fund and the CGF in November. Town Tidy – Last of 2025 to be run on 1st November in the afternoon, Dornoch Organisation Chart – Ginny has finally delivered a Dornoch Organisations Chart, which now needs to be circ. To members. New Director/s sought – Some potential Director candidates have been found. Conversations to be continued over the next month. Adoption of minutes - Proposed CM, and seconded GD	CT CB SM SM GK SM SM SM/GK
2	Finance - monthly report	We currently have £56k on deposit, of which c £17k belongs to Dornoch Gatherings and will be removed by YE. Highland Broadband may possibly donate £5k for the Winter Lighting Trail, for which we have partial funding from the CGF. 11 businesses have so far asked for a motif. Sharon will seek planning permission for all of them, even if some have to wait till 2026. Jo and Sharon have met to schedule expenditure through to YE. Jo, Sharon, Claire and Ginny will meet again in next month	JJ SM JJ/SM/GK/ CB
3	Suggested changes to BID Board working.	Ginny presented a paper recommending the Board revert to its original structure, ie including a Vice-chair and a Chair which changed over every 6 - 12 months. Also, that all directors take an area of responsibility, which should reduce the burden on the Chair. This discussion was rescheduled to an extraordinary meeting on 3rd Nov, where all the directors agreed that: - Each director will assume board responsibility for an area. These being: Jo, Finance; Catherine, Fundraising; Claire, Marketing, Gareth, Member Communications; Infrastructure, Rob, Jim, Liason with other bodies; Ginny, Policy.	

		- Catherine will become Vice Chair with immediate effect, and will take over as Chair for 6 months in January '26. Claire will become Vice Chair in January also for 6 months. - Meanwhile, 2-3 new directors will be sought, to come on board as early as possible in the new year, at which point, further backfilling/succession plans will be made.	
4	We Are Dornoch	The DADCA Board, (an organisation already constituted as a charity) have agreed that “WAD” can become a part of DADCA and therefore be able to receive donations with gift aid etc. Catherine now has to create the necessary Memorandum etc.	CM
5	DOCS – a new source of Dornoch Events	Kenny Mackay has set up this new organisation (short for Dornoch), whose objective is to run music events throughout the year in East Sutherland, and thereby raise money to support his (now) 2-day Beer and Music Festival, scheduled to run 17/18th July in The Meadows Park. He is happy to dovetail events with other things going on in Dornoch. He would like help with publicity and possibly, help accessing grants.	Info
7	Autumn/Spring Highland Festival	The 10th Whisky Festival went very well, with most events sold out. Colin and Team will undertake a postmortem in the coming days, to see what could be done better next time. The AHFF events now look good, and most will be well-attended. Social media for the fortnight looks good with some excellent work from Elastic, Emily in Scotland (influencer) and Sharon! Postmortem for this also to be carried out in November SHFF dates confirmed as: 8th – 22nd April. We agreed all events should be finalised and on the Website/being advertised by the Christmas Holidays	CT SM SM
8	Short Term Let Control. For, Against, or Wait-and-see?	Following what the Highland Council see as a “successful” experiment for STLC in Badenoch and Strathspey during 2024/5, they are asking Highland Councillors to consider putting forward their area for STLC consideration in December. (This would mean that any new STL’s would have to request change-of-use planning permission, which THC could withhold. It would not affect current STL’s). The numbers show that Dornoch has higher than average in Highland – rates of STL’s and 2nd homes as a % of total dwellings. We agreed there could possibly be a case for both STLC and 2nd Home Control, if RDGC Masterplan is very successful and/or if Coul Links is approved by Scottish Ministers. However, the “Controls” the Council are offering are just for STL’s AND would need to be Sutherland-wide, which feels very crude. Agreed to wait for now, and if necessary, re-visit in the future.	JMcG
9	Any Other Business	Dornoch as a motorcycling tourism hub. Watson Bell met Sharon to show her a bunch of great N Highland motorcycling routes he has worked out from Dornoch. We agreed this was possibly the germ of a great idea. Sharon to progress. 150th Anniversary Celebrations of RDGC – 28th June – 4th July 2027. Gary Bethune has raised this as an opportunity for BID members – and to show Dornoch off to the wider world. We should include it in Member communications.	SM SM

