

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DORNOCH HERITAGE
SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (DHSCIO),
HELD ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2021**

1. PRESENT: Jerry Bishop (Chair), Anthea Bannatyne, Jill Barnes, John Barnes, Anne Coombs, Alison Davies, William Irwin, Annie MacDonald, Fiona Macdonald, William Mackay, Lynne Mahoney, Heather Martin, Jimmy Melville, Graeme Muckart, Heather Murray, Elizabeth Oakes, Kate Robinson, Tony Rundle, Andrew Senior, Lorna Senior, Judi Sutherland, William Sutherland, Peter Wild and Sally Wild.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Sheila & Hugh Anderson, Pat Balloch, Linda Eisenberg, Susan Findlay, Stuart Gardiner, Sue Gardiner, Wilfred Hadley, Sandee Mackintosh, Willie Morrison, Brian Munro, Susan Munro, Paddy Murray, Moira Rennie, Hazel Riddel, Caroline Seymour, Gordon Sutherland and Hilary Sutherland.

3. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2020: It was agreed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

4. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21: The Chair of the Board reported on the SCIO's activities during the FY 2020/21. He said that the year in question had been particularly challenging but, nevertheless, the Museum had been able to open to visitors on 18th July 2020. Bearing in mind the shorter opening period, trading figures compared to 2019/20 were favourable, with a particular 100% increase in Gift Aid. Additionally, home-working had been introduced for staff and volunteers, the Historylinks Archive had been upgraded to include video and sound, new acquisitions and objects had been added to the Museum's archives, the Longhouse Project had been completed, Phase Two of the Museum Extension Project had been started, and the Young Curators Club had continued to meet and flourish. In this latter connection, he paid tribute to the roles played by Caroline Seymour and Lorna Dalton.

He remarked that there still remained some vacancies on the SCIO Board, and thanked members of the Board and both sub-committees for their involvement.

5. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES:

Museum Sub-committee: The Chair, Alison Davies reported that ~

a) The sub-committee had met six times since the 2020 AGM, and had welcomed a new member, Anne Coombs. She expressed her appreciation of the sub-committee members, of the invaluable work undertaken by the Curator and Museum Assistant, and of John Barnes' team for their work on cataloguing;

b) Karen Buchanan (Curator, Gairloch Museum) had been appointed as the Museum's mentor in connection with the renewal of its Accreditation status;

c) Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, the Museum had re-opened on 24th April 2021, and had enjoyed a busy influx of visitors;

d) A new exhibition about Childhood had been staged in the children's room, and Museum staff had also carried out a full audit of its artefacts;

e) The Curator was investigating the feasibility of exhibiting a reconstruction of the Spinningdale Bronze Age Woman;

f) The Katherine Gray dress had been featured in a Highland-wide online exhibition of costumery;

g) The external exhibition of domestic artefacts had been enhanced with the addition of new items;

h) The Young Curators Club (YCC) had undertaken a wide range of projects and activities;

i) There was continuing activity connected with obtaining funding, not only related to recovery from the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, but also for the funding of a successful Walks & Workshops programme during the summer of 2021, the continuation of the YCC and, more particularly, the construction phase of the Museum's extension. She commented

that, to date, more than £7,500 had been donated to a local fund-raising target of £30,000 to assist with this latter project.

Dornoch Heritage Society Sub-committee: The Chair, Peter Wild, reported that, due to the Covid restrictions during 2020/21, there had not been any meetings of the sub-committee. The sub-committee had held two face-to-face meeting during the current financial year (FY), and he welcomed two new members; Sandee Mackenzie and Pat Balloch. Following the easing of Covid restrictions, a full programme of 2021/22 winter-season talks and social events had been drawn up.

He stated that the sub-committee had agreed to donate £10,000 to the Museum Extension donations fund, and proceeds from future events would also be applied to this fund.

He expressed his appreciation of the work undertaken by members of the sub-committee, and also thanked the RDGC for continuing to allow the Society use of club facilities.

The current membership of the SCIO stood at 240.

6. FINANCE:

a) **Review of 2020/21 Accounts:** The meeting considered the accounts of the SCIO for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. Members also noted details of invested funds. It was **agreed** that the accounts be noted and approved.

b) **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** The meeting was informed that the Board had recommended that Voluntary Groups Sutherland (VGS) continues to act as the Independent Examiner of the SCIO's accounts. **Agreed**

c) **Annual Subscriptions:** In accordance with the Board's recommendation, it was **agreed** that the level of members' subscriptions remain at £10.

7. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES: The meeting was advised that Jerry Bishop, Alison Davies, Brian Munro and Elizabeth Oakes were standing for re-election, and Tony Rundle and Andrew Senior were, in accordance with the SCIO's constitution, retiring but standing for re-election. It was **agreed** that the above named be re-elected nem-con.

8. EXTENSION PROJECT: The Chair stated that the project had completed its second phase, with full planning permission and a building warrant being obtained. However, costings which had been received recently indicated a substantial increase in the previous assessment of construction costs. Meetings were being held to discuss the possible reduction of these costings, and also to investigate the potential benefits of the Museum registering for Value Added Tax. He also detailed approaches which were being made to a number of potential funders.

The meeting expressed its appreciation of the work undertaken by Jerry Bishop in connection with the development of this project.

9. CLOSING REMARKS: There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for their participation, and closed the meeting.