

**DORNOCH HERITAGE SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (DHSCIO)**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**PRESENT (BY VIDEO CONFERENCING)** ~ Jerry Bishop (Chair), Tony Rundle (Secretary/Treasurer), Alison Davies, Brian Munro, Elizabeth Oakes, and Andrew Senior. Peter Wild in attendance.

**1. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

**2. GOVERNANCE:**

a) Trustee Recruitment: The Chair reported that he had discussed the possibility of Trusteeship with SG, with a particular emphasis on the second phase of the Museum Extension Project. Members also suggested a number of potential trustees who might be able to offer financial expertise to the Board. It was **agreed** that SG be invited to join the SCIO Board, subject to completion of the relevant declarations, and that BM approach JC, with a view to him being invited to either join the Board, or provide professional advice.

b) Volunteer ~ Role Description: Further to discussion at the October meeting, it was **agreed** that, subject to AD making a number of minor typographical corrections, the document be accepted.

**3. FINANCE:**

a) Finance Up-date: Members considered summaries of the Museum and Heritage Society's income and expenditure, together with an overview of current projects. It was **agreed** that the outstanding water rates payments be made before the end of the current FY. TR advised members that, with regard to the Museum Extension Project, an additional payment to the architect should be noted. AD stated that she was investigating sources of additional funding for the YCC.

b) Cash-flow Forecast: JB stated that there was some uncertainty concerning the amount of the MGS Resilience Grant, and this would have a direct effect on the SCIO's financial out-turn at the end of the FY. However, the charity's finances were sufficiently robust to absorb any anticipated deficit.

c) Covid-19 Grant Support:

i) MGS Recovery & Resilience Grant: AD reported that, although HL had been advised that the grant application had been approved, she had, in view of restrictions imposed by the current home-working of Museum staff, asked MGS if there might be some flexibility in the project's completion date. It was possible that only 50% of the anticipated project work might be completed if staff were only working from home. The alteration of the project's timetable was, apparently, a matter for decision by the Scottish Government. The current staffing position similarly affected work on the accreditation process.

ii) THC ~ Temporary Closure Grant: JB outlined the Museum's eligibility for receiving this grant, which was being administered by the Highland Council. It was **agreed** that a decision on making an application for this grant be deferred pending the outcome of the MGS Recovery & Resilience Grant application.

iii) HMRC ~ Business Support Scheme: Members noted that this scheme was, again, available should it be required.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

a) Historylinks Museum: Members were referred to the minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> December meeting of the Museum committee, and were reminded that the next meeting would be on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. She reiterated that work on the accreditation process would likely be disrupted by current staff restrictions.

b) Dornoch Heritage Society: NTR.

**5. EXTENSION PROJECT UP-DATE:**

a) Planning Application: JB advised that a planning application had been submitted, the outcome of which was awaited.

b) Dornoch Free Church ~ Request for Letter of Support: PW stated that he had received a letter from Dornoch Free Church, seeking the SCIO's support for a scheme to convert the upper floor of the church for community use. JB stated that a meeting of the various local bodies currently offering space for community use was being organised, with a view to ensuring that provision of this nature was effectively co-ordinated. It was **agreed** that the Free Church be advised that the SCIO wishes to reserve its views, pending the outcome of the above meeting.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10.30 a.m.