

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DORNOCH HERITAGE SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(DHSCIO), HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2017**

PRESENT ~ Jerry Bishop (Chair), and Anthea Bannatyne, John Barnes, Jill Barnes, Joan Bishop, Alison Davies, Gordon Davies, Jane Hamilton, Val Hawkes, A. Macdonald, Heather Martin, Graeme Muckart, Brian Munro, Patrick Murray, Elizabeth Oakes, Ashley Rose, Jerry Rose, Tony Rundle, Betty Rutherford, A. Senior, L. Senior, Tom Tew, and Peter Wild.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ken Bromage, Mary Bromage, Fiona Macdonald, Alastair & Margaret Ross.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016: It was proposed by Graeme Muckart, and seconded by Heather Martin, that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting. Agreed.

3. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT: The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jerry Bishop, referred to the report which had been previously circulated. He referred particularly to ~

- a) The amount of change during the twelve months covered by the report;
- b) The huge contribution made to the work of the charity and Historylinks Museum by John Barnes, who was standing down as Chair of the two organisations;
- c) The death of Jean Birkett, who had been an active member of the Heritage Society sub-committee;
- d) The up-grading of the SCIO's web-site;
- e) The continuing reduction in the Museum's grant from Highland Council, and the decision to undertake a business review, leading to the formulation of Vision and Mission Statements.

4. REPORT OF HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE: Jerry Bishop gave a report on behalf of the Museum sub-committee. He referred to ~

- a) The eight well-attended meetings of the sub-committee;
- b) The installation of new brown signs on the A9;
- c) The new panel advertising the Museum, on Castle Street;
- d) Hosted collections/displays in the Dornoch Hotel and the Carnegie Courthouse;
- e) The decision to extend the Museum's October opening hours;
- f) The reinstatement of FIT payments, thanks to the efforts of John Barnes;
- g) The launch of the SCIO Gift Aid scheme,
- h) The Fishy Tales project;
- i) The valuable contribution made by the Museum's team of volunteers;
- j) The urgent need to seek a replacement for the Museum's Treasurer, who was seeking to stand down from that position.

He also stated that the Museum had narrowly failed its 2017 Visit Scotland 5* inspection, and gave the meeting details of a comprehensive programme of work which would be carried out during the 2017/18 winter season, not only to address any problems, but also to enhance the visitor experience for the 2018 season.

5. REPORT OF DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY SUB-COMMITTEE: Peter Wild gave a report on behalf of the Historylinks Museum Sub-committee. He referred to ~

- a) The well-attended winter talks, with subjects ranging from 6000 Years at Littleferry, to Highland Omnibuses, which were now held at RDGC;
- b) Income derived from coffee mornings, and the decision to modify the sale of bric-a-brac and second hand books at these events;

- c) Successful social events, including the “Taste of Burns” night, and Films & Fun. In this former connection, he also paid tribute to the contribution made by Jean Birkett to the event’s organisation;
- d) The planned visit, by a representative of NMC, in March 2018, to host a Finds Day and to give a talk;
- e) The invaluable assistance given to him by members of the DHS sub-committee.

6. ACCOUNTS 2016/17 ~ DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM:

The Receipts & Payments statements of the two organisations for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 were circulated for consideration by the meeting.

The Chair advised the meeting that the accounts had been approved, by OSCR, on 4th July 2017.

It was **agreed** that the accounts be noted and approved.

7. DETERMINATION OF LEVEL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: The Chair of the Trustees advised the meeting that the recommendation of the Board, from its 26th September 2017 meeting, was that there should not be any change in the current level of individual annual subscription (£10). It was **agreed** that there should be no change in the level of the subscription.

8. ELECTIONS:

a) Board of Trustees: The Chairman stated that the SCIO constitution required that one of the Trustees should stand down each year, whilst being eligible for re-election. It was noted that John Barnes was standing down from membership of the Board, and not seeking re-election. It was **agreed** that the remaining members, namely Jerry Bishop, Alison Davies, Elizabeth Oakes and Tony Rundle be re-elected to serve on the Board, and that Brian Munro be elected to membership of the Board.

b) Dornoch Heritage Society Sub-committee: The following members of the Sub-committee, namely Anthea Bannatyne, Shirley Fagg, Fiona Macdonald, Brian Munro, Elizabeth Oakes and Peter Wild, had stated that they were willing to stand for re-election. It was **agreed** that the members listed above be re-elected, and that Annie Macdonald and Heather Martin be elected to serve on the sub-committee.

c) Historylinks Museum Sub-committee: The meeting was advised that the following members of the Sub-committee were willing to stand for re-election, namely Jerry Bishop, Alison Davies, Heather Martin, Jane Mason, Graeme Muckart, Elizabeth Ritchie, Tony Rundle and Peter Wild. It was **agreed** that those persons willing to stand for re-election be so elected as members of the Museum Sub-committee.

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