

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DORNOCH HERITAGE SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(DHSCIO), HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

PRESENT ~ John Barnes (Chairman), and Anthea Bannatyne, Jill Barnes, Jerry Bishop, Janette Bremner, Ken Bromage, Mary Bromage, Hazel Cameron, Stuart Gardiner, Andy Kirby, Fiona Macdonald, Lynne Mahoney, Heather Martin, Jane Mason, Jimmy Melville, Graeme Muckart, John Muir, Brian Munro, George Munro, Christine Murray, Elizabeth Oakes, Tony Rundle, Margaret Wight, Peter Wild and Sally Wild.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Eileen Beach, Jean Birkett, Mora Douglas, Gill Evans, Sue Gardiner, Valerie Hawkes, Pete Higgins, Sue Higgins, Gwen Muir, Patrick Murray, Kate Robinson, Gordon Sutherland, Hilary Sutherland, and Tom Tew.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015: The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3. UP-DATE BY DHSCIO CHAIRMAN: John Barnes reported that the DHSCIO Board had held one meeting since the 2015 AGM on 30th August 2016, to note the submission of the SCIO's approved accounts to the Regulator, to recommend their acceptance by this meeting, and to make a recommendation on the level of subscriptions.

4. REPORT OF DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY SUB-COMMITTEE: Peter Wild gave a report on behalf of the Sub-committee, referring to ~

1. lecture evenings, covering a wide variety of topics, which had been held during the previous winter;
2. social events, including the Christmas "Festive Fun" evening and a sell-out Burns Supper, and the DHS' presence at the Sutherland Show, the Firths & Fjords Conference, and the recent Fair on the Green;
3. the healthy level of membership, which currently stood at 175;
4. the 2016/17 winter programme of lectures, which would include talks by Bruce Field (Diary of an Engineer), Todd Warnock (John Sutherland), Elizabeth Ritchie (The Cry of a Young Child), Scilla Aitchison (6000 Years at Littleferry), and John Sinclair (Highland Omnibuses);
5. fund-raising coffee mornings which would be held in November 2016 and May 2017;
6. the continued funding of the Museum's Seasonal Receptionist post, by the Society;
7. the support given to him by officers and members of the Society's Sub-committee.

5. REPORT OF HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE: John Barnes gave a report on behalf of the Historylinks Museum Sub-committee. He referred to ~

1. the confirmation of the Museum's VisitScotland 5* grading, following an inspection in June, and the subsequent work which was in hand to up-grade the Museum's web-site;
2. statistics relating to visitor numbers and shop sales;
3. problems likely to be faced by the Museum in 2017/18, following a 50% reduction in local authority grant, and action which was being taken to ameliorate the situation;
4. the continuing donation, to the Museum, of a diverse range of artefacts, including the acquisition of 400 golf-related photographs;
5. the enduring interest in the Historylinks blog, which was administered by Ebby Ritchie;
6. the Museum's Facebook page, which formed an important presence on social media, and which was administered by Lynne Mahoney and Ebbie Ritchie;
7. the extension of the Museum's network of contacts through its web-site, which had led to

- three requests to use photographs from the Museum's collection in various publications;
8. the seven-fold number of virtual over physical visitors attracted to the Museum's two web-sites and the Historylinks Blog. (see table at appendix);
 9. outreach projects undertaken by Historylinks which had primarily concentrated on the older members of the community, but which also included a Time Capsule event which had attracted 29 children, and an exhibition of posters commemorating the 400th anniversary of golf in Dornoch, which had been produced by children from the local primary school;
 10. the valuable addition to Museum funds from people enlisting in the Easyfundraising scheme;
 11. the sterling work undertaken by the Museum's Curator, and the Seasonal Receptionist, together with its team of volunteers.

6. ACCOUNTS 2015/16 ~ DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM:

The Receipts & Payments statements of the two organisations for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 were circulated for consideration by the meeting.

The Treasurer commented on the various sources of income for the Heritage Society, including membership subscriptions and fund-raising activities. The year in question had resulted in a deficit of £308, and he referred to a non-recurring payment of £500 which had been made to DACIC, to honour the Society's commitment to the funding of the Carnegie Courthouse visitor centre. The Society's major outgoing had, again, been the funding of the Museum's Seasonal Receptionist post and, in this connection, he referred to the substantial assistance given to the Museum by the Heritage Society. Interest of £397 had been earned on investments, and the DHS current account stood at approximately £10,240.

The Museum's Treasurer drew the meeting's attention to the surplus for the year of £2,360. Income from admissions had increased, and a decrease in shop sales had been off-set by a reduction in the cost of purchasing stock. Both organisations had benefited from a significant reduction in the cost of independent examination.

Tony Rundle stated that the full statutory accounts had been signed-off and submitted to OSCR on 1st July, and approved on 11th July. Under new procedures introduced by the Regulator, the DHSCIO accounts could now be accessed on its web-site.

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

7. DETERMINATION OF LEVEL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: The Chairman of the Trustees advised the meeting that the recommendation of the Board, from its 30th August 2016 meeting, was that there should not be any change in the current level of individual annual subscription (£10). The Treasurer commented that, with regard to the increase in subscriptions agreed at the 2015 AGM, the past year should be seen as an interim period ~ some couples had maintained their subscription Standing Orders at £10, and a number of members had, despite being advised of the increase, not amended their out-dated £5 payments. The current membership stood at 175, and it was anticipated that the coming year would see a more stable pattern of payments.

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 Jean Birkett was standing down from membership of the Board, and not seeking re-election. It was **agreed** that the remaining members, namely John Barnes, Tony Rundle and Elizabeth Oakes be re-elected to serve on the Board.

b) Dornoch Heritage Society Sub-committee: The following members of the Sub-committee, namely Anthea Bannatyne, Jean Birkett, Shirley Fagg, Fiona Macdonald, Elizabeth Oakes and Peter Wild, had stated that they were willing to stand for re-election. It was noted that Marion Madge did not wish to stand for re-election. It was **agreed** that

the members listed above be re-elected, and that Brian Munro 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 Graeme Muckart, Elizabeth Ritchie, and Peter Wild. John Barnes and Tony Rundle had indicated that they wished to stand down as Chairman and Treasurer respectively, and Val Hawkes had stated that she wished to stand down as a member of the Sub-committee. It was **agreed** that those persons willing to stand for re-election be so elected as members of the Museum Sub-committee (with the proviso that John Barnes serve as a co-opted member), and that Jerry Bishop, Alison Davies, Heather Martin and Jane Mason be also elected to serve on the Sub-committee.

9. AOCB: Peter Wild expressed his appreciation of the members who had been involved with the wide distribution of Museum publicity leaflets.

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

APPENDIX

	Sessions	Users	Returning Visitors	New Visitors	Pages visited	Pages/ Session
Historylinks Image Library	17,779	12,055	66.2%	33.8%	122,798	6.91
Historylinks Museum	2,706	1,874	33.1%	66.9%	3,591	1.33
Historylinks Blog	9,100					
	29,585					