

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DORNOCH HERITAGE SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(DHSCIO), HELD ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

PRESENT ~ John Barnes (Chairman), and Jill Barnes, Jean Birkett, Janette Bremner, Hazel Cameron, Shirley Fagg, Peter Fairgrieve, Mary Gall, S. Gardiner, Stuart Gardiner, William Grant, Sue Higgins, Mary Littlejohn, Willie Mackay, David Maclean, Graeme Muckart, Gwen Muir, John Muir, Christine Murray, Tony Rundle, Vivienne Silkstone, J.F.Stuart, Shiona Stuart, William Sutherland, Peter Wild and Sally Wild.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Ken & Mary Bromage, Ursula Dawson, Helen Fairgrieve, David & Susan Findlay, Sue Helal, Fiona Macdonald, Marion Madge, Jimmy Melville, Elizabeth Oakes, Kate Robinson and Judi Sutherland.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON 27TH SEPTEMBER 2012: The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting. The Chairman referred to two matters arising: the SCIO had now acquired the lease of the museum building, but this document was awaiting registration. Also, refreshments were now being provided on lecture nights.

Proposed ~ Jean Birkett; Seconded ~ Peter Wild.

3. UP-DATE BY DHSCIO CHAIRMAN: John Barnes reported that the DHSCIO Board had met on two occasions since the 2012 AGM, both meetings being of a purely administrative nature.

4. REPORT OF DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY COMMITTEE: George Munro gave a report on behalf of the committee. Reference was made to ~

1. the Society's main fund-raising activities, namely the Coffee Morning (£824) and the Burns Night (£424);
2. the six lectures which had been held during the winter months, in connection with which he thanked the contributing speakers;
3. the DHS/Historylinks presence at the Sutherland Show;
4. the members' summer outing to Fort George;
5. the departure of Robin and Ullabritt Ashby, and the role played by Peter Wild in taking over the production of the Society's newsletter,
6. the on-going difficulty experienced in recruiting members to sit on the Society's committee, and to act as office bearers.

He thanked the members of the Committee for their work over the previous 12 months, and wished the Society every success for the future. In this connection, John Barnes stated that George would not be standing for re-election, and thanked him for the five years' service which he had given as Chairman of the DHS committee.

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

1. the confirmation of the museum's 5* VisitScotland grading on 13th April;
2. the MGS grant-aided purchase of a cash register, and flat-screen TV, arising from recommendations made by VisitScotland;
3. the decrease in visitor numbers, which had been partially allayed by the reinstatement of an A frame advertising board at the 'bus stop;
4. the important contribution made to the museum's finances by the shop;
5. a steady flow of donated and loaned acquisitions, and the satisfactory progress of cataloguing and, in the case of the Image Library, up-loading images;
6. the Dewar Report exhibition, which had been mounted during the first quarter of the year, and the negotiations which were taking place to resurrect the Dornoch Primary School centenary exhibition;
7. the publication, by the museum, of the police occurrence book "A Policeman's Lot", which would be launched at the conclusion of the AGM. He thanked the museum team responsible for the transposition and proofreading of the book, and made particular reference to assistance given by Sally Wild, George Glass and Dave Connor. He stated that a co-operative venture to produce a "Granny's" history booklet was in its final stages;
8. outreach activities, including two archaeological events for the Allsorts After School & Holiday Club. A further event "Story of Cairns" would be held during the Highland Archaeological Fortnight, in conjunction with the Woodlands Trust;
9. the intention to broaden HL's outreach projects by collaboration with community Alzheimer groups. Events would be held on 22nd November and 6th December, when assistance would be appreciated;
10. the MGS accreditation which was awarded in August 2013, following submission in December 2012, and representations which had been made to MGS for this to be a once-only process rather than following the current overbearing two-year cycle;
11. the 90% MGS grant for the installation of solar panels, and the potential for a substantial saving in the museum's electricity costs;
12. the Easyfundraising facility, for which there was a link on the HL web-site. £80 had been raised for museum funds to date, and he encouraged members to support this venture;
13. assistance given by three young volunteers ~ Alexander Kennard (Sasine scanning), Elizabeth Higgins (Reception) and Patrick Grey (WWI project). He also welcomed new adult volunteers Isobel Bruce and Elizabeth Oakes;
14. new displays during 2014, namely a travelling exhibition about Sheep Farming, a display about Land Use, and an exhibition in July/August to coincide with the centenary commemoration of the start of the Great War.

6. FINAL ACCOUNTS ~ DHS AND HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM: The Income & Expenditure statements of the two organisations were circulated for consideration by the meeting. Members were reminded that the accounting period for these accounts was 1st February 2012 to 31st March 2013 (14 months compared with the 2011/12 accounting period of 10 months) and, accordingly, some distortion of the financial information had occurred. The Chairman stated that the full accounts, which had been submitted to OSCR recently, were of a far more complex nature. 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 was that no change should be made in the level of annual subscription. It was **agreed** that the Board's recommendation be accepted.

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. The meeting was advised that Robin Ashby had resigned on 20th May 2013, prior to moving away from the area, and George Munro was standing down, and did not wish to stand for re-election. It was proposed by George Munro, and seconded by Peter Wild, that Jean Birkett be appointed as a member of the SCIO Board. Agreed.

b) Dornoch Heritage Society Committee: The meeting was advised that George Munro and Jimmy Melville had indicated that they were standing down, and did not wish to offer themselves for re-election. The remaining members of the Committee, namely, Jean Birkett, Ursula Dawson, Shirley Fagg, Fiona Macdonald, and David Maclean, were willing to stand for re-election. It was **agreed** nem con that these members be re-elected.

c) Historylinks Museum Committee: The meeting was advised that the following members of the Committee were willing to stand for re-election ~ John Barnes, Peter Fairgrieve, John Muir, Elizabeth Ritchie, Tony Rundle, William Sutherland and Peter Wild.. It was **agreed** nem con that the above named be re-elected as members of the Historylinks Museum Committee.

9. CLOSING REMARKS: John Barnes reiterated the importance of people coming forward to assist Historylinks, and the need for there to be some element of succession in the museum's operation. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.