

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
DORNOCH HERITAGE SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(DHSCIO), HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER 2018**

PRESENT ~ Jerry Bishop (Chair), and Jill Barnes, John Barnes, Joan Bishop, Janette Bremner, Hazel Cameron, Alison Davies, Katherine De Jonckheere, Mora Douglas, Shirley Fagg, Stuart Gardiner, Sue Gardiner, Angela Godfrey, Jerry Horak, Gordon Lawson, Anne Macdonald, Fiona Macdonald, Heather Martin, Jane Mason, Malcolm McGillivray, Jimmy Melville, Graeme Muckart, Brian Munro, Christine Murray, Margaret Murray, Elizabeth Oakes, Ashley Rose, Tony Rundle, Betty Rutherford, Andrew Senior, Lorna Senior, Margaret Wight and Peter Wild. Lynne Mahoney in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Janey Ahearn, Anthea Bannatyne. Ellen Beech, Mary & Kenneth Bromage, Alison Burnett, Lorna Dalton, Monica Dargie, Gordon Davies, Susan Findlay, Val & Frank Gerstenberg, Neil & Fiona Hampton, Margaret Heywood, Andy Kirkby, Kate Lawson, Hazel Lowe, John & Mary Luckie, John & Linda McMurray, Willie & Jennifer Morrison, Diane Rennie, Moira Rennie, Dave Rintoul, Ian Rutherford, Graham & Lorna Sawyer, Liz Sutherland, Sue Taylor, Kim & Norman Tulloch, Todd Warnock, Ian Westacott, and Maggie Whitehouse.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2017: It was **agreed** that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

3. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18: The Chair of the Board of Trustees, Jerry Bishop, referred to the report which had been previously circulated, and stated that the year in question had been an outstanding success for the SCIO and its constituent organisations. He emphasised the importance, whilst recognising its cultural significance, of operating the SCIO in a business-like manner. He particularly mentioned ~

- a) That the Trustees were now meeting on alternate months;
- b) The marked increase in footfall by Museum visitors;
- c) The successful introduction of a Gift Aid scheme, and also a card-payment facility;
- d) The extension of the Museum's opening season;
- e) The completion of an ambitious Museum "Transformation Project" which had benefited both the grounds and the interior of the building;
- f) The continuing planning, by the Trustees, for the Museum's financial sustainability free of any revenue grants;
- g) The proposal to extend the Museum building, in respect of which talks were in progress with the Scottish Land Fund, and other major projects which were in the early stages of preparation;
- h) His appreciation of the support given to the Museum's operation by the committee and members of the Heritage Society, and the increased attendances at the Society's winter talks.

4. REPORT OF HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE: Alison Davies (Chair) gave a report on behalf of the Museum Sub-committee. Reference was made to ~

- a) The intention to involve young people in heritage projects, in respect of which four applications for funding were currently in progress;
- b) The fruitful partnership which was being developed with Dornoch Academy;
- c) The increase in Museum visitors;
- d) Her appreciation of the invaluable help given by Museum volunteers;
- e) Thanks due to John Barnes for his continuing work on cataloguing;
- f) The sterling work carried out by the Museum's Curator, Lynne Mahoney, not only within the Museum, but also in building strong links with the local community.

Lynne Mahoney reported on a number of Museum projects ~ the success of the Fish Tales labyrinth project, the intention to restore the Sheriff McCulloch memorial, the provision of free access to the Museum over the Armistice Day week-end and the involvement of local students in that Sunday's Cathedral service, and the planning of a major archaeological dig at the site of a long-house in the Loch Buidhe area.

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

- a) The membership of the Sub-committee, which had been increased by the appointment of Annie Macdonald and Heather Martin;
- b) The wide-ranging subjects covered by the Society's winter talks, and RDGC's generous accommodation of these events;
- c) The very successful sale of Christmas cards, printed from an original kindly contributed by Sally Wild;
- d) The social events organised by the Society which, as always, were well supported and enjoyed;
- e) The Society's provision of catering at the Sunday session of FibreFest;
- f) The opening event of the 2018/19 programme, namely a visit to the Kirkmichael Project;
- g) The invaluable assistance given to him by members of the DHS sub-committee.

6. ACCOUNTS 2017/18 ~ DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND HISTORYLINKS MUSEUM:

The Receipts & Payments statements of the two organisations for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 were considered by the meeting.

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

7. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: The meeting was informed that the Board had recommended that Voluntary Groups-East Sutherland (VG-ES) continues to act as Independent Examiner of the SCIO's annual accounts. **Agreed**

8. DETERMINATION OF LEVEL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: The Chair of the Trustees advised the meeting that the recommendation of the Board 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.

9. CHANGES TO DH SCIO CONSTITUTION: The Chair stated that, as part of preliminary work associated with a possible extension of the Museum building, discussions had taken place with a representative of the Scottish Land Fund, elements of which related to the SCIO's constitution. Additionally, the Trustees had, as part of the Charity Regulator's (OSCR) annual process, carried out a review of the 2011 constitution document. Accordingly, the need for a number of amendments to the original constitution had been identified. These had been summarised in a document which had been previously circulated to members, and the Chair pointed out that one of the major changes was to ensure that members living within the community (IV25 post-code area) retained control of the SCIO. Trustees would, in future, only be elected from the Full and Honorary Membership. It was unanimously **agreed** that the proposed changes in the SCIO constitution be adopted.

10. ELECTIONS:

a) Honorary Members: Members were notified that the Trustees had recommended that Honorary Membership should be awarded to John Barnes and Tony Rundle, in recognition of their service to the organisation. **Agreed**

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 Tony Rundle was standing down, and was willing to stand for re-election. It was **agreed**

that he be re-elected, and that the remaining members, namely Jerry Bishop, Alison Davies, Brian Munro, Elizabeth Oakes and Andrew Senior also be re-elected to serve on the Board.

b) Dornoch Heritage Society Sub-committee: The following members of the Sub-committee, namely Anthea Bannatyne, Annie Macdonald, Fiona Macdonald, Heather Martin, Brian Munro, Elizabeth Oakes and Peter Wild, had stated that they were willing to stand for appointment. The meeting was advised that, under the provisions of the new constitution, members of the Sub-committees would, henceforth, be appointed by the Board (see note).

c) Historylinks Museum Sub-committee: The meeting was advised that the following members of the Sub-committee were willing to stand for appointment, namely Jerry Bishop, Alison Davies, Heather Martin, Jane Mason, Graeme Muckart, Elizabeth Ritchie, Tony Rundle and Peter Wild.

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

Note: At a meeting of the SCIO Board held immediately subsequent to the Annual General Meeting, all the Sub-committee members detailed in minutes 10 b & c above were appointed.