

**DORNOCH HERITAGE SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
(DHSCIO)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HELD ON 20TH
SEPTEMBER 2018**

PRESENT ~ Jerry Bishop (Chair), Tony Rundle (Secretary/Treasurer), Brian Munro, Elizabeth Oakes, and Andrew Senior

APOLOGY ~ Alison Davies.

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th August 2018

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 9th August 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

a) Rathbones Investment Account It was reported that completion of the investment of SCIO surplus funds was awaiting the availability of the authorised signatories.

b) Extension Project JB reported on advice that he had received from DTAS regarding the Common Good classification of the Museum site.

He also advised that he was in the process of preparing an application to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for preliminary financial assistance regarding valuation of the land, consultants' fees, a public consultation exercise and survey/legal costs.

3. FINANCE

Financial Up-date Members considered Income & Expenditure summaries for the Museum and Heritage Society. It was noted that HL was enjoying a buoyant season, with attendance figures in excess of the same period in 2017. A substantial increase in the use of credit/debit cards by Museum customers was also reported.

4. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Historylinks Museum:

- Seasonal Assistant/Volunteers The Chair stated that it was unlikely that the Seasonal Assistant would return to work during the remainder of her summer contract period. In this connection, members placed on record their appreciation of the additional work undertaken by the Museum's volunteers, and it was reported that a further three volunteers had recently joined their ranks.
- Museum visitor numbers It was noted that numbers exceeded the previous year's figures.
- Projects up-date An application was being made to MGS in respect of the restoration of the Sheriff McCulloch memorial. The Curator had visited the site of the proposed Longhouse Project with a representative of SNH. Although a whisky-themed display would be mounted to coincide with the Dornoch Whisky Festival, the WW1 exhibition would be re-staged during the Armistice Day week-end, when there would be free admission to the Museum.
- HMF re-organisation The Chair reminded members that views had been sought by HMF on the Forum's business plan, which recommended that a SCIO be formed, under the aegis of a new organisation, to be known as Museums & Heritage Highland. Members questioned the need for the formation of a SCIO, and suggested that the plan was unduly ambitious and optimistic. Concern was also expressed that joint marketing and bulk retail-purchasing could lead to an erosion of HL's, and other

museums' unique identities. The Chair was asked to take these views forward to the next meeting of the Forum.

b) Dornoch Heritage Society: EO reported on a very successful group visit to the Kirkmichael Project, and also on the Society's programme of winter talks and other activities, which had been recently circulated to members. Organisation of the Taste of Burns event was in hand, and it was noted that work had already commenced on the compilation of the 2019/20 programme.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a) Date, venue and time: Subject to confirmation of the venue booking, it was noted that the SCIO's Annual General Meeting would be held at the RDGC on Thursday 11th October 2018, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

b) Trustees' Annual Report: It was **agreed** that this should be produced in the same format as in 2017.

c) Notification of constitutional changes to members: Discussion ensued on the period set out in the current constitution regarding notice of the AGM to members, and it was **agreed** that relevant papers should be sent to members by 27th September.

d) Election of Honorary Members: It was **agreed** that TR should be proposed as an Honorary Member, and that John Barnes should also be approached.

e) Election of Trustees: It was noted that all the current Trustees were willing to continue in post. TR to stand down, and to offer himself for re-election.

f) It was agreed that a special meeting of the Board be held immediately after the close of the Annual General Meeting.

PROVISIONAL DATE OF NEXT MEETING (subsequent to 5f above): 6th December 2018 at Whinhill. 2 p.m.