



DORNOCH HERITAGE SCIO
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday 8th April 2025

1. **Present:** Alison Davies (Chair), Andrew Senior (Co-Chair), David Bell, Jerry Bishop, Fiona Hampton, Richard Hickson, Fiona McKinlay (Minutes)

Apologies: Peter Wild

In Attendance: Lynne Mahoney

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None

3. **Minutes of meeting held on 11th February 2025**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. **Matters Arising**

Lord John Thurso performed the opening ceremony of the new Heritage Hub on Saturday, 5th April 2025. All agreed that Lord Thurso had been an excellent choice, that the event was a success and that it had been well covered by the media.

5. **Financial Reports**

a: Museum Financial Reports: - JB presented an overview of the year end financial position. Overall, 2024/25 was a good year especially given that the museum was closed for much of April 2024. Fibre Fest Saturday was potentially the busiest day ever in terms of footfall for the museum. JB also presented an overview of current bank and investment account balances.

b: Heritage Hub Finances: - JB gave an update on the current financial position. It is projected that the Lottery grant will have a small unclaimed balance remaining. JB suggested that part of this sum could be directed towards buying a container to store the many items that are currently in storage outwith the museum. A site on which to securely store the container can be rented locally on a long-term basis. FH reminded the Board that the Inverness Castle design team has offered the museum a free hologram projector. The expense of creating the software would be ours or could potentially be claimed from the National Lottery.

6. **DHSCIO Business Plan**

JB and RH will meet to update the plan. The 'Implementation' section will need to be written by those involved in the work, however.

JB presented the Operational Budget Projection and reported that a new 18-month contract has been agreed with SSE, negotiated by a 3rd party whose services were valuable and will be retained.

7. Sub Committee and Curator Reports

a: Museum Committee Report: - the latest draft minutes had been circulated.

A song cycle celebrating the life of David Maxwell Fyfe, Human Rights Lawyer, will be performed by members of his family in the Cathedral on 20th June. It will be followed by a reception at the museum for DMF's family and invited VIPs, including Jamie Stone MP.

A gold stirrup ring found near Stobo Castle has been purchased by the museum, part funded by the DHS.

Dr Jim McPherson, UHI, has offered to help with the publication of the blog book.

AD suggested that she should be replaced as Chair of the Museum Sub Committee, and it was agreed that she will approach her proposed successor.

b: DHS Committee Report: AS spoke in PW's absence, advising the Board that the committee members are happy to change their name to Friends of DHS. They are keen to move forward with the new online membership system. The last evening talk for this season is scheduled for next Thursday and there is to be a coffee morning on 3rd May.

8. HR

a: Curator Job Review: - FM and AD had met with LM to discuss amendments to the curator's job description as it had been previously agreed that the current remit is unsustainable. Two documents had been circulated: - i) the proposed amended job description, ii) a list of the tasks that would no longer be in the curator's remit but that would need to be carried out by another postholder and/or volunteers/trustees. AD/FM will take the process forward, bearing in mind the views expressed by the Board.

b: PVG Applications: - FM advised that applications have been submitted for all volunteers who need PVGs and that we are now waiting for their certification.

9. Governance

a: Succession Planning: - following the suggestion of inviting a UHI student to join the Board, AD has considered that it would be more appropriate to invite a student to join the Museum Sub Committee as it would be helpful to have a younger person to advise on appropriate activities. JMcP will help with circulating information.

b: Treasurer Vacancy: - as JB is standing down in October, the next newsletter will advise members that there are various volunteering opportunities available.

c: Change of Charity Name: - members are to be invited to a General Meeting to discuss a resolution to change the name of the charity to Dornoch Heritage Society and a further resolution to recruit international members. This Special General Meeting will be held on 21st May 2025 at 7.30pm at Historylinks Museum.

d: Bank Accounts/General Purposes Fund: in light of the imminent changes to the charity's name and that of DHS, the need to consider signatories for each of our accounts, and JB's retiral in October, AD proposed that a monthly financial sub committee should meet over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition.

10. AOCB

a: Accreditation:- LM advised that some minor amendments have been requested in relation to the accreditation submission. Once done, the process should be complete.

b: VE/VJ Day Events: VJ Day events are to be held in Dornoch on 15th August this year. It was agreed that further to Neil Dalton's request, the museum will have a similar display to last year's. It was also agreed that the YCC should be involved in the event. As AC is not available for the next meeting on 28th April, LM will attend.

c: Legacies: it was agreed that a message regarding legacies to the benefit of the museum will be added to the website, newsletters, and all other appropriate communications.

11. Date of next meeting

As per the agreed schedule, the next meeting will be held on 10th June 2025 at 10.30am in the Historylinks Museum Community Room.