

**DORNOCH HERITAGE SCIO**  
**Meeting of the Board of Trustees, Minutes**  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

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

**Apologies:** Fiona Hampton

**In Attendance:** Lynne Mahoney (part), Peter Wild

2. **Declarations of Interest**  
None

3. **Minutes of meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025**  
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. **Matters Arising**  
LM reported on a VJ Day meeting (15<sup>th</sup> August) she had attended. HL will hold an exhibition in the Lifeboat Station. PW will produce film and photographs of the event.

5. **Financial Reports**

*a: Museum Financial Reports:* - JB presented figures comparing April / May 2025 with the 2019 and 2024 performances. Admissions were initially below expectations, possibly due to a spell of good weather in May, but the last few weeks to date had been excellent. The forecast to the year end currently looks promising.

*b: Heritage Hub Finances:* - JB gave an update on the current financial position on the project which is now drawing to a close. JB/PW are exploring options for renting a storage container locally. Funds are available to reprint the Town Trail and Donald Ross Trail leaflets and for the panels to be refurbished. An application will be made to the Common Good Fund and NHI in addition to make up any deficit.

6. **DHSCIO Business Plan**

RH advised that this is almost complete. AD will revise the Executive Summary and prepare a final draft of the document, bearing in mind that future planning depends very much on available resources.

7. **Sub Committee and Curator Reports**

*a: Museum Committee Report:* - the latest draft minutes had been circulated. A golf outfit exhibition is being proposed. LM had visited The R&A World Golf Museum in St Andrews to establish links and consider ideas. A Pictish Festival may be developed in collaboration with the Tarbat Discovery Centre. An exhibition on illicit distilling in the area is proposed to coincide with the opening of the new Dornoch Distillery building.

*b: DHS Committee Report:* PW spoke on current and future activities. DB suggested the programme of evening talks could be held in the new clubhouse building, with the possibility of streaming them. On a personal level, PW/SW held an Open Garden in June, raising £300 for the Young Curators' Club. As JB is currently busy with year end accounts, he will pass on the membership data to AS for progression.

## **8. HR**

*a: Curator Job Review:* - AD has held a formal performance review with LM which included a discussion on succession planning. There may be an opportunity to reconfigure the current staffing structure. Affordability is the main impediment, as always.

## **9. Governance**

*a: Treasurer Vacancy:* - JB has written a role description which will be forwarded to his prospective successor, a meeting with whom has been arranged for early July.

*b: SGM Review:* - minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 have been circulated. Prior to the meeting, AD met with a member who objected to the proposal to change the charity's name. His views had been brought to the attention of the Board and given due consideration. Both of the resolutions were passed at the SGM and an application has been made to OSCR for permission to change the name to Dornoch Heritage Society.

*c: Heritage Hub Evaluation:* - AS, AD and LM have met with the evaluation team who will now contact all the trustees to arrange meetings, as appropriate.

*d: Policies for Approval:* - the Care & Conservation and the Documentation policies were approved by the Trustees, as was the Access Plan. All will be submitted as required by the accreditation process.

## **10. AOCB**

*a: Snagging:-* JB/PW met with LM to discuss issues that need to be addressed and these will be submitted to the contractor.

*b: Front of House:-* JB reported that a new tablet has been purchased for the reception desk. The old one was sold on eBay with the funds going towards its replacement.

*c: Highland Heritage Day:* - AD attended and reported on interesting discussions such as collaboration, inclusion and sustainability. It seems all Highland museums are facing similar challenges.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

As per the agreed schedule, the next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 10.30am in the Historylinks Museum Community Room.