

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF INQUORATE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 17, 2002

CHAIRPERSON Sylvia Park who opened the meeting at 7.40 pm and closed it at 8.08 pm

1. **Sederit** – Robin Ashby
Apologies – Helen Fairgrieve, John Muir, George Munro, Rena Oman, Ian Ross Harper, Margaret Wight
2. **Minutes of last meeting read and held over for approval until such time as a quorum exists.**
3. **Matters arising**
 - a) **Rosamund Pilcher** – Richard Butterworth will contact her after Easter, but points out that she is a very private person.
 - b) **DVD and Railway Video** – to be dealt with by Trustees only.
 - c) **VGES AGM** – was attended on our behalf by Helen and Peter Fairgrieve.
 - d) **Membership** – Direct Debit forms have been distributed and a database created.
 - e) **Reminiscences Evening** – went well and it is proposed that it should be an annual event, partly replacing the Annual Dinner (see below)
 - f) **Annual Dinner** – was attended by 63 members and guests. The net take for the dinner was £94.50 minus printing costs for the tickets. The net take for the raffle was £92. Because of problems arranging the dinner in early January and the number of similar functions at that time of year it is proposed to move the Dinner to the Spring to mark the end of the lecture season and the opening of the museum.
4. **Correspondence**

Roland Ross requesting the text of Rod Houston's lecture. Sylvia has replied.
5. **Fundraising**
 - a) **Tiles** – 17 pledges so far. Sylvia to keep contact with Angela Glover.
 - b) **Car Boot Sale** – was successful. It is proposed to take part again.
 - c) **Summer Raffle** – The prize list for the draw was decided as follows:
First prize – One weekend's DBB for two people at any Shearings' hotel – donated by Shearings.
Second prize – One box of 12 full-size bottles of wine delivered by Mark and Spencer – current cost £76,50
Third Prize – One Christmas hamper delivered by Mark and Spencer – current cost £66,50
Fourth Prizes – Waterstone vouchers to a value of £10 to five winners.
Printing costs for the tickets will be £45 making an estimated total cost of £238 which is within the £250 limit agreed at the committee meeting of November 22, 2001.
 - d) **Quiz Walk** – was discussed. A summer activity in which participants start from a given place (Historylinks) and follow a trail of a couple of miles through Dornoch and ending up back at the start. During their walk they answer multiple-choice questions (about a dozen) that have been put up along the route in advance. The questions would be general knowledge ones with a number of particular Dornoch heritage ones included. Participants pay for their answer sheet. Prizes are awarded to those with the highest number of correct answers. The answers and winners are published in the local papers to create added interest for the activity. Experience from abroad shows this to be a popular activity if run on a monthly basis.
6. **Lectures** - discussion about **Bookings** and **Newsletter for Spring** held over until next meeting.
7. **Treasurer's Report** - held over until next meeting
8. **A.O.C.B**
 - a) **Coffee Mornings** – to held preliminarily on 5 May and 16 November when the draw of the Summer Raffle will take place.
 - b) **Acting Secretary** – Robin Ashby until further notice
9. **Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 13 February 2002 at 7.30 pm.
10. Helen and Sylvia would be grateful for apologies in advance from committee members unable to attend.

19 January 2002

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FEB 13, 2002

CHAIRPERSON Helen Fairgrieve

1. *Present* – Robin Ashby, Robbie Banks, John Muir, Sylvia Park, Margaret Wight
Trustee – Cliff Reddin
Apologies – Ken Bromage, George Munro, Rena Oman, Ian Ross Harper
2. *Minutes of meetings of Nov 2001 and Jan 2002 read and approved.*
3. *Matters arising:*
 - a) *Rosamund Pilcher* – Richard Butterworth will contact her after Easter, but points out that she is a very private person.
 - b) *DVD and Railway Video* – to be dealt with by Trustees only. This committee will be informed of progress. Fundraising aspects of the project are dealt with under the appropriate heading below.
 - c) *Membership* – Direct Debit forms have been distributed and a database created. However fewer subscriptions than expected have been paid. A postal reminder is to be sent with a reply slip. This will also help reduce some of the anomalies in the database.
 - d) *Annual Dinner* – was attended by 63 members and guests. The net take for the dinner was £157.50 minus printing costs for the tickets, not £94,50 as earlier reported. The net take for the raffle was £92. Because of problems arranging the dinner in early January and the number of similar functions at that time of year it is proposed to move the Dinner to the Spring to mark the end of the lecture season and the opening of the museum. The charge of £15 should not be raised for several years if same venue used.
4. *Correspondence* – An invitation to attend the AGM with talk of the Bonar Bridge Local History Society on Feb 18, 2002. Members to be informed at meeting on Feb 14 and Secretary to reply.
5. *Fund-raising Ideas:*
 - a) *Tiles* – 17 sold so far. Ready for delivery by end of February.
 - b) *Quiz Walk* – The scheme was outlined in the minutes of Jan 19. It was agreed to go ahead with one walk a month on Sunday afternoons in May (a dummy run for members), June, July and August. If the scheme seems to be going well an additional walk in August and one in September is planned. Start ticket would include admission to Historylinks while walk is in progress. Attention must be paid to advertising especially on caravan sites.
 - c) *Raffle* – A specimen ticket has been drafted and small alterations to the text describing the main prize are to be made before presenting ticket for inspection by VGES soonest. The raffle is to be launched at the Spring Coffee Morning, May 4, and drawn at the Autumn one, November 16.
 - d) *Railway video launch* – several activities were discussed but no decision made:
 1. The renting of Clashmore Hall on June 3 for three-course meal. Those mostly involved in the film to be dressed in railway uniform or period costume. This alternative could involve fairly high costs if food supplied by caterers and a video-projector has to be rented. The committee felt there was great potential fun but feared problems with organisation due to Jubilee Celebrations.
 2. A cold buffet or enhanced tea at West Church Hall with the video running non-stop on ordinary equipment. Drop-in and donations.
 3. Similar activities as in 2 but in borrowed marquee set up at Station.
 4. Some evening viewings at the ex Station Hotel, now run by Shearings, free for the guests together with raffle (see above). This activity would be complement activities 1 to 3.
6. *Lectures:*
 - a) *Newsletter for the Spring* – to contain amongst other things Opening Times for Historylinks, an Appeal for volunteers for manning and Information about coming fundraising events.
 - b) *Spring lectures* – Adrian Baggott's talk on Waterloo is postponed until December. Instead Mrs Bridget McKenzie will talk about her family's life in Canada in April.
 - c) *Autumn lectures* – Mrs McKenzie is prepared to talk about Vikings. Donald Omand is to be contacted.
7. *Treasurer's Report:*

Our current balance is in excess of £15,000. We are making a Direct Debit monthly payment for insurance which should be borne by the Trust. Robbie to contact Peter Fairgrieve about this.
8. *A.O.C.B*
 - a) *Shops etc.* – It was agreed to photograph new shops etc. as a record. Cliff has made a start.
 - b) *The Trust* – Cliff informed the Committee of ongoing and planned activities of the Trust.
 - c) *Skibo Castle* – a third trip is to be made. Robin to contact and organise.
9. *Date of next meeting:*

Thursday 25 April, 2002

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2002

Chairperson: Sylvia Park

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Helen Fairgrieve, John Muir, Ian Ross Harper, Margaret Wight
Trustees – Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild
Apologies – Robbie Banks, Ken Bromage, George Munro, Rena Oman,
2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a) *Membership* – payment of subscriptions have increased noticeably after recent mailshot reminder. The database is not up-to-date and a routine for keeping it so has been established.
 - b) *Newsletter* – John was thanked for the years he has put into the layout and editing of the newsletter which then became the responsibility of the secretary. Distribution by the buddy system is to be replaced by the post and the number of issues reduced to two. During the summer our information can be included in the monthly leaflet put out by Historylinks. Next issue to come out in good time before AGM and to include subscription reminders to members who have not signed Standing Orders. Ian to supply a list of buddies so that they can be thanked for their service.
 - c) *Railway film launch* – cancelled since film will not be ready this summer
 - d) *Skibo visit* – last visit to be held on May 1
4. **Correspondence** –
 - a) *Rosamunde Pilcher* – declined an invitation to speak
 - b) *Forest Enterprise* – postponement of trips to Morangie Forest until qualified minibus driver available
5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**
 - a) *Tiles* – 17 completed, orders amount to 25 and there is still a demand
 - b) *Quiz Walk* – trial run with no fee or prize on May 12. Regular runs on Sundays 9 June, 14 July, 11 August to be advertised in NTs North Summer 2002 issue. Possible trail to be reconnoitred on 5 May by committee.
 - c) *Raffle* – doing well. Historylinks volunteers will be encouraged to push sales.
 - d) *County Show July 20* – stall already booked from last year. Low profile. Leaflets and sale of raffle.
6. **Lecture Programme:**

Proposed series of meetings

| | | | | |
|------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2002 | Sept 12 | AGM | | |
| | Oct 10 | SNH | Knockan | Cliff to contact |
| | Nov 14 | Curator of Dunrobin | | Robin to contact |
| | Dec 12 | Adrian Baggott | Waterloo Part 2 | |
| 2003 | Jan 16 | Thomas Tew | | Ian to contact |
| | Feb 20 | Bridget MacKenzie | Vikings in Sutherland | |
| | Mar 20 | Ian Ross Harper | | |

Helen is to investigate possibility of getting a speaker on genealogy
The above dates avoid school holidays.
Entry to the meetings to be free for members who have paid their subscription
7. **Treasurer's Report:**

Not presented since treasurer was absent.
The treasurer is to delegate duties in advance, at meetings etc., if not able to attend personally.
8. **Heritage Trail:**

This would be reviewed at the same opportunity as the reconnoitring of the Quiz Walk.
9. **A.O.C.B**
 - a) *Society Dinner* – sometime in April to mark end of lecture season
 - b) *Historylinks* – opening dates 25 May to 28 Sept Mondays to Saturdays. New exhibits about golf and the railway this year. An evening to brief volunteers is to be arranged.
10. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday **30 May**, 2002 at 7.30 at Historylinks

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2002

Chairperson Helen Fairgrieve

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Robbie Banks, Ian Ross Harper, John Muir, Sylvia Park, Margaret Wight
Trustee – Cliff Reddin
Apologies – Ken Bromage, George Munro, Rena Oman,

2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**

3. **Matters arising:**

- a) *Railway film* – Scottish Screen Archive has informed us that the film reels of ‘Proud Sutherland’ which we gave them are damaged and it will take some time before we receive a video copy. Peter Fairgrieve is to call a meeting of the film sub-committee.
b) *Memberships* – At present we have 189 paying members. A reminder of next season’s subscription will be included in the next Newsletter. A new application form has been produced.
c) *Skibo trips* – The third and last has been successfully completed.

4. **Correspondence:**

- a) *Forest Enterprise* – E-mail contact has been made about trips to see birdlife in Morangie Forest in late June and early July. Details need firming up.
b) *Highland Archaeological Week 2002* – An enquiry whether we are organising an event which we are not.

5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**

- a) *Tiles* – Approx. 30 completed and mounted or ordered
b) *Quiz Walk* – First real walk on June 9. Cliff to open and Sylvia to mind Historylinks. Robin and Ullabritt to run walk and Helen and Peter to take down questions.
c) *Raffle* – More than 90 sold. To be pushed to Historylinks visitors.
d) *County Show/ Wemyss Fair* – stalls at both, Helen to supervise.

6. **Lecture Programme:**

| | | | | |
|------|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 2002 | Sept 12 | | Joint AGM with Historylinks | |
| | Oct 10 | SNH | Knockan | Not yet agreed |
| | Nov 14 | Curator of Dunrobin | | Robin to contact |
| | Dec 12 | Adrian Baggott | Waterloo Part 2 | |
| 2003 | Jan 16 | Thomas Tew | Golf | |
| | Feb 20 | Bridget MacKenzie | Vikings in Sutherland | |
| | Mar 20 | Ian Ross Harper | Dornoch Cathedral and its Characters | |

7. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Assets are approx. £16,000.

It was discussed whether part should be placed in a high-interest account with instant access. The treasurer is to liaise with Historylinks’s treasurer on this.

8. **A.O.C.B**

- a) *Historylinks* – There will be a promotional evening on June 13 for managers/owners of hotels and B&Bs
b) *Society Dinner* – A preliminary date is Saturday 26 April 2003. Cliff is to inquire about a food-only alternative at both the Burghfield and Royal Dornoch Golf Hotel.
c) *Buddy system* – The system is to be retained for purposes for which it is suited, but regular distribution of newsletters etc. will be by mail or e-mail. A letter will be sent to current buddies thanking them for past services and advising them of the change in routines.
d) *Newsletters* – Regular newsletters will be published in August and January.

9. **Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 2 July 2002 at 7.30 in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2002

Chairperson Helen Fairgrieve

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Robbie Banks, Ken Bromage, John Muir, Sylvia Park, Margaret Wight
Trustee – Peter Wild
Apologies – George Munro, Rena Oman, Ian Ross Harper

2. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

3. Matters arising:

- a) *Railway film* – Recording equipment has been obtained and recordings are to be started soon.
- b) *Memberships* – Paid-up members = 191. There is also interest in new membership. The situation overall is good.
- c) *Morangie Forest Trips* – Two were held on July 2 and were much appreciated.
- d) *Social evenings at Historylinks* – The two held so far have been well attended. A final evening will be held after the close of Historylinks and it is suggested that the draw of the Summer Raffle take place then if enough tickets have been sold.

4. Correspondence:

- a) *VGES Newsletter*
- b) *Highland Archaeology Week* – Invitation to organise event. Peter Wild to arrange.
- c) *Highland Council* – Advice of higher rates for hiring Council Chambers. Robin to book for 2002 – 3.
- d) *Reay Clarke (to Edderton CC)* – Need for heritage group to preserve and maintain heritage sites, artefacts and documents in Edderton. This Society encourages foundation and will support such a group.

5. Fund-raising Ideas:

- a) *Tiles* – Net income in excess of £180.
- b) *Quiz Walks* – Not well attended so far. More posters to be displayed.
- c) *Raffle* – Present ticket sales = £195.
- d) *County Show* – Erection group to meet at Historylinks at 8.30 am on 20 July. Robin to produce promotional material for display to balance display of Historylinks.

6. Lecture Programme:

| | | | | |
|------|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2002 | Sept 12 | | Joint AGM with Historylinks | |
| | Oct 10 | Ian Ross Harper | Dornoch Cathedral and its Characters | |
| | Nov 14 | Curator of Dunrobin | | Robin waiting for reply |
| | Dec 12 | Adrian Baggott | Waterloo Part 2 | |
| 2003 | Jan 16 | Thomas Tew | Golf | |
| | Feb 20 | Bridget MacKenzie | Vikings in Sutherland | |
| | Mar 20 | SNH | Knockan | Not yet agreed |
| | Apr 26 | | Annual Dinner | |

7. Treasurer's Report:

Peter Fairgrieve has agreed to help set up high-interest account. Otherwise nothing pertinent to report.

8. A.O.C.B

- a) *Membership cards* - This card shall be produced in order get free admission to lectures. A notice to this effect to be included in next newsletter.
- b) *Outing* - An outing to Dunbeath was proposed for the end of September/ start of October. Sylvia to contact.

9. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 5 September 2002 at 7.30 in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 SEPTEMBER, 2002

Chairperson Sylvia Park

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Robbie Banks, Ken Bromage, Helen Fairgrieve, Ian Ross Harper, Trustees – Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild
Apologies – George Munro, Rena Oman, John Muir, , Margaret Wight
2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a) **Railway film**– Recordings have been made and the director contacted so as to complete filmed interviews before museum railway closes for the season.
 - b) **Memberships** – Increasing number of paid-up members
 - c) **Social Evenings at Historylinks** – The draw of the raffle will take place at Historylinks at 7.30pm on November 16 at a gathering of Historylinks volunteers. The press are to be invited.
 - d) **County Show** – Judged a success both economically and marketing-wise.
 - e) **Dunbeath Visit** – It was decided to postpone the visit until the Spring.
4. **Correspondence:**

Historylinks Trust has advised of the change in dates of their financial year with the proposal that the Society do the same. It was agreed that such a change would be included in the Treasurer's Report for the AGM.
5. **Newsletter:**

The new format and distribution method were regarded as successful.
6. **AGM:**

The agenda for the AGM was discussed.
The first step in creating the rota for the standing-down of committee members according to the constitution was taken. It was agreed that Ken Bromage, John Muir and George Munro would form this year's group. Of these only Ken Bromage seeks re-election.
7. **Fund-raising Ideas:**
 - a) **Tiles** – 31 sold to date
 - b) **Quiz Walks** – Participants have praised the idea and it was agreed to run them next summer concentrating on July and August with Sunday afternoon opening of Historylinks for five to six consecutive weeks. More advertising is required. A sampler of previous questions is to be presented at the AGM.
 - c) **Raffle** – It has now covered its costs.
 - d) **'Geriatrics'** – This group of Golfers at RDGC donates money during the summer season. A letter of thanks from the Secretary is to be sent by the end of October addressed to Hugh Steele.
8. **Lecture Programme:**

The lecture programme has been decided with the exception of the March talk which Cliff will organise. Members have been informed of the programme both through the newsletter and their membership cards.
9. **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report at the AGM will not contain audited accounts since the time between the end of the financial year and the AGM is too short to organise this. There will be a discrepancy about the Balance per August 31, 2001 in this year's report and last year's, when the balance included a calculated income since the relevant bank statement was not available then. This year's Report will state a balance based on the bank statement and thus will supply the true sum.
10. **Date of next meeting:**

There being no other business, the next meeting was set for Wednesday 6 November at 7.30pm in Historylinks.

September 10, 2002

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2002

Chairperson Robin Ashby

1. **Present** –Robbie Banks, Ken Bromage, Jimmy Melville, Ian Ross Harper, Margaret Wight
Several Society members
Apologies – Helen Fairgrieve, Rena Oman, Sylvia Park

2. Objection to planning application

It was agreed to object to a planning application for a dwelling at 10 Carnaig St in Littleton on the grounds that it would spoil an area of historical interest worthy of conservation, it would be prejudicial leading to further spoiling and the proposed vehicular access would impair road safety in River St.

3. Position on future planning applications

The Society is to request that Littleton be included in the Dornoch Conservation Area. It is to work closer with the Community Council on planning issues where there is a significant heritage-preservation content.

11 October 2002

Robin Ashby

Copy of letter to planners overleaf

The Planning Officer
Sutherland Area
Highland Council

11 October 2002

Dear Sir

The Dornoch Heritage Society objects to the planning application for a 'cottage-style dwelling' at 10 Carnaig Street, Dornoch, on the following grounds:

Chiefly, it would seriously damage the appearance of Littleton. The area is a fine example of early town-planning with good examples of vernacular architecture on one side of the lane and the provision of gardens on the other, presumably originally for food-production. The preservation of this post-Clearance milieu is of historic importance.

However the proposed building would effectively make two distinct compartments of the property and wipe out its unity which is quintessential for Littleton. The effect would be so much greater as the property is in the centre of the area.

Secondly, the granting of this application would be prejudicial. Neighbours, looking to maximise the economic value of their plots, may in the future effectively double the number of dwellings in the area thus changing its character out of recognition.

Finally, road safety will be impaired by the proposed vehicular access to the property from River Street.

The Society is also of the opinion that Littleton should be included in the Dornoch Conservation Area if it is not already.

Yours sincerely

Robin Ashby
(Secretary)
'Kommevalla'
Edderton, Tain
IV19 1LQ

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kommevalla@supanet.com

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF INQUORATE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2002

Chairperson Sylvia Park

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Jimmy Melville, Margaret Wight and Trustee Cliff Reddin
Apologies – Robbie Banks, Ken Bromage, Helen Fairgrieve, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper
2. **Minutes of meetings of 5 September and 10 October:** read but approval carried forward to next quorate meeting.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a) **Railway film** – interview-filming is complete and there is a basis for editing a selection of the material for presentation. Some more archive film has appeared, but no news about 'proud Sutherland' yet. The landscape footage has yet to be shot.
 - b) **Social event November 16** – 66 invitations have been sent out, but only about half that number are expected to attend. Sylvia agreed to organise the refreshments. NT is to be invited to send a reporter.
 - c) **Planning application for 10 Carnaig St** – the Society has submitted an objection and has been given an opportunity to speak before the Planning Committee. The Conservation Officer of the Highland Council has supplied some information to support our case. It was decided to speak before the Committee.
4. **Correspondence:**

VGES – invitation to attend AGM on November 22. Sylvia, Helen, Jimmy, Robin and Ullabritt Ashby to attend.
5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**
 - a) **Tiles** – still a few to execute
 - b) **Coffee Morning November 16** – all arrangements have been made.
 - c) **Raffle** – Jamie Stone to draw winners at Social event Nov 16. Tickets to be available both at the Coffee Morning and the evening event.
 - d) **Ideas for future activities:**
 - Quiz Walks in revised form concentrated to high holiday season.
 - Dedicated fund-raising for a clearly defined heritage project
 - A summer lecture by well-known speaker or interesting subject like genealogy
6. **Lecture Programme:**
 - (a) **Speaker for 20 March 2003** – Cliff still waiting for definite response.
 - (b) **Suggestions for speakers for season 2003/2004:**
 - Fraser Simms – nature photographer
 - Alan Lannon (Thurso) on the Pope family – Jimmy's cousin
 - Lord Strathnaver
7. **Treasurer's Report:** N/A
8. **Membership Report:** A net gain of 6 members so far.
9. **Access to Library and Archives:** Item carried over to next quorate meeting.
10. **Trustees' tenure:** Item carried over to next quorate meeting.
11. **A.O.C.B:** The Secretary is to enquire of NT their rates for inclusion in Coming Events section
12. **Date of next meeting:** Provisionally Wednesday 22nd January 2003

I would like to remind committee members that this was the second inquorate meeting this calendar year. It makes the business of the committee difficult to conduct. So please let me know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend on the proposed date. If it appears that the meeting will again be inquorate we shall have to rearrange it.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2003

Chairperson Sylvia Park

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Robbie Banks, Helen Fairgrieve, Jimmy Melville, Ian Ross-Harper, Margaret Wight
Trustees – Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild
Apologies – Rena Oman, Ken Bromage
2. **Minutes of 5 September, 10 October and 6 November 2002 read and approved.**
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a) **Railway film** – The rostrum work is to be shot soon. A two-hour sample of the interview material will be supplied in February for our suggestions for editing.
 - b) **Planning application 10 Carnaig St** – Notification has been received that planning permission was refused.
 - c) **VGES AGM** – Sylvia, Helen, Robin and Ullabritt Ashby attended.
 - d) **Coffee Morning 16th November** – Net income was £447.21
 - e) **Social Event 16th November** – The event was successful. Jamie Stone MSP drew the raffle which made £268 net with over 50 tickets sold during the event.
4. **Correspondence:**

None separate from other items.
5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**
 - a) **Tiles** – One more to go up.
 - b) **Raffle** – It was decided not to arrange another draw for 2003, but to review the situation for 2004.
 - c) **Ideas for the Future** –
 - ◆ Coffee Mornings on 3rd May and 15th November. *Robin* to book an advert on back page of the NT.
 - ◆ A stall at the Wemyss Fair on 21st June
 - ◆ A stall at the County Show on 19th July, *Robin* to book
 - ◆ Quiz Walks on Sunday afternoons during July and August coupled to new opening hours at Historylinks.
 - ◆ Possible summer lecture. *Ian* to contact possible speaker on genealogy.
6. **Lecture Programme:**
 - a) **Speaker 20th March – Jan** Breckenridge of SNH on the Knockan Cliff Geological Trail
 - b) **Speakers for next year** –
 - ◆ Fraser Simms, Allan Lannon
 - ◆ *Robin* to contact Lord Strathnaver and Sheila Duncan, the latter to get the name of a speaker from Inverness
 - ◆ *Ian's* contact on genealogy if a summer lecture is not organised
 - c) **Publicity** - In future lectures will be advertised under dates to remember in the NT starting with that on 20th March. *Robin* to arrange.
7. **Newsletter:**

The contents were discussed and it was agreed that it would come out once the arrangements for the annual dinner had been finalised.
8. **Treasurer's Report:**

The Society has a balance exceeding £17,000. An interest-bearing account has not yet been opened since information from Inland Revenue is required but has yet to be supplied.
The Society is still registered for VAT but hopes for de-registration.
9. **Membership Report:**

Members who have yet to pay their annual subscription will receive a reminder with the newsletter mail-shot. The membership secretary is to supply the secretary with a current list immediately prior to the mail-shot.
The introduction of life membership and honorary life membership is to be discussed at the AGM.

10. Access to Library and Archives:

The Librarian will purchase literature after the request of members and will accept donated literature if it fits the Society's collecting policy. The Librarian's decision is final.

The collection is to be housed in the front office of Historylinks and made available on request for reference only.

11. Trustees' Tenure:

Trustees are nominated for a three-year period and are required to resign in a rotation agreed among themselves one month before the AGM. This system to start in 2003.

12. A.O.C.B:

- (a) **Annual Dinner** – *Helen* is to approach the Burghfield soonest.
- (b) **Burns Supper** – It was proposed that the Society arrange a Burns Supper in 2004
- (c) **Golf Trophy** – The Society is to show its gratitude to the golfers of RDGC who support the Society by raising money at their weekly meetings by providing a competition trophy. *Cliff* to organise.
- (d) *Margaret Wight* announced her intention of resigning from the committee at the next AGM.

13. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 5 March 2003 at 7:30 pm in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5th March 2003

Chairperson Robin Ashby

1. **Present** – Robbie Banks, Helen Fairgrieve, Rena Oman, Margaret Wight
Trustee – Cliff Reddin
Apologies – Ken Bromage, Sylvia Park, Ian Ross-Harper
Absent - Jimmy Melville
2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved with the change of date of the Spring Coffee Morning to 3rd May.**
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a) **Railway film:** The rostrum work is complete. Hopefully the visiting film team will supply us with aerial shots. The recorded interview material is still to be collated.
 - b) **Annual dinner:** Cliff produced a list of earlier participants for Helen to copy for herself and Sylvia. Reminder calls to those on the list will be made nearer the deadline for booking. Cliff agreed to organise the raffle.
4. **Correspondence:** None
5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**
 - a) **Coffee Morning:** The hall has been booked. The question of third party liability insurance was raised and discussed. It was agreed to ask Peter Fairgrieve to check if Historylinks' insurance covers this event and, if not, could an addition to the policy be made. (Peter has subsequently reported that the event is already covered.)
 - b) **Summer lectures:** Various speakers were suggested; Jimmy Henderson, Rod Houston, Christine Murray, someone from the genealogy section of the Highland Archive in Inverness. The possibility of a series of lectures, two in July and one in August, using the West Church Hall in the late evening, 8pm or later, was discussed as well as the question of sponsorship. Robin is to research.
 - c) **Outings:** One in June and one in August were proposed with Castle Leod and Dunbeath Heritage Centre as the goals. The Strathnaver Trail and the possibility of linking Dunbeath with the Laidhay Croft Museum or the Clan Gunn collection were regarded as alternatives.
There will also be an organised members' walk along the Historylinks Trail when completed to provide feedback.
6. **Lecture Programme:**
 - a) **Ideas for the future:**
Burns Supper – The problems with full-scale catering would be too great. However the occasion could be marked by serving light refreshments at the January meeting as well as choosing a recognised popular speaker.
 - b) **Speakers for next season's programme:** Apart from earlier suggestions it was agreed that Robin would contact John Thurso. Also that he would contact Creich Heritage Society to find out who had given them a talk about Migdale Hospital.
 - c) **Publicity:** The cost of advertising in the NT under Dates to Remember was discussed. It was concluded that this cost plus the cost of hiring the Council Chamber equalled what we could expect to take in admissions, thus adding nothing to our funds. The NT advertising is to be discontinued. Instead advance information should be posted under Dornoch in Out and About section and that the the Tain & Dornoch Picture Post should be also given this information.
 - d) **Date of AGM:** Preliminarily Thursday 4th September 2003.
7. **Newsletter:** Robin was congratulated on good work.
8. **Treasurer's Report:**
No significant change since last meeting.
(Addendum: Jean Gozzett has donated £50)

9. Membership Report:

Three new members since last meeting. The reminders sent out with the newsletter have resulted in more subscriptions being paid but there is still a number of outstanding subs. It was agreed that if the subscription had not been paid for two consecutive years, membership would be withdrawn. (This applied on 6th March to 17 single or family members. Sec.)

10. Future Committee Membership:

Helen and Margaret announced their intention to resign from the committee at the AGM. Replacements are to be actively sought by committee members. Several suitable persons were discussed. Moreover it was decided to ask the AGM to amend the constitution regarding the quorum, reducing the number of committee members required to three including the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman or the Secretary.

11. A.O.C.B

- a) Rena inquired about progress on the Dornoch History book. Cliff reported the troubles the author has been having problems finishing the manuscript but the writing is nearing completion. The funding is still in place.
- b) A discussion about life and honorary members was tabled for the next meeting.

12. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 24th April at 7.30 pm in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24th APRIL 2003

Chairperson Sylvia Park,

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Robbie Banks, Ken Bromage, Helen Fairgrieve, Rena Oman, Margaret Wight
Trustees – Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild
Apologies – Jimmy Melville, Ian Ross-Harper

2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**

3. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Railway film:** *Proud Sutherland* has been supplied in two VHS copies and one Betacam. A social evening for the Committee, Trustees and their partners will be arranged on May 26 at 7.30 pm to view the film. Donald McDonald and Jim Henderson are also to be invited. The event will be in The council Chamber if available. Peter Wild will supply a video-projector and Robin Ashby a VCR. Alternative venue will be Historylinks and then Helen will supply combined VCR and TV.
- b) **Annual Dinner:** 49 attended and the dinner was greatly appreciated. The same organisation and time of year should be chosen next year, but the booking must be done earlier. Suitable evenings are Friday or Saturday.

4. **Correspondence:**

- a) Historylinks has requested support in their appeal about treasure trove. The Secretary to formulate reply.
- b) Lt Col McKay with a donation for help received in tracing his family. The Secretary to reply.

5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**

- a) **Coffee Morning:** The same organisation as normal, however fewer volunteers available. Robin to design flyer and Cliff to post them.
- b) **Summer lecture series:** It was agreed that the Council Chamber would be the most suitable venue. Admission £1 and a raffle to be organised. Members free. Small flyers to be distributed at Dornoch Hotel.
- c) **Wemyss Fair:** June 21st. Sale of bric-à-brac, books etc. Provisional booking of a stall from Dornoch Focus group through Robin.
- d) **County Show:** July 19th. Same organisation as last year. The stance is booked and paid for.

6. **Lecture Programme:**

- a) **Outings:** Lord Strathnaver has invited the Society to visit Dunrobin in September. It was agreed to accept his invitation, hopefully making the visit soon after the AGM (September 4th)
A second outing to Knockan Crag and Ullapool Museum under the guidance of Jan Breckenridge is planned for a weekend at the beginning of October. Robin is to contact Jan.
- b) **Lecture dates:** Preliminarily 2003: 9 October, 13 November, 11 December 2004: 15 January, 19 February, 18 March
- c) **Speakers:**
Approached: Fraser Simms, Allan Lannon, Frank Roach
To be approached: The McDonalds of Dingwall about Norse rule, John Thurso, David Houston about the Battle of Carbisdale, someone about Migdale Hospital.

7. **Treasurer's Report:**

Lt Col McKay's donation (see above). Otherwise no real change.

8. Membership:

- a) **Membership level:** 26 new names are on the membership roll, but the true identity of two (S Anderson and ? Grant) has yet to be revealed.
Robin to place a membership list at Historylinks.
- b) **Life and Honorary membership:** Rena is to supply a list of long-standing members for consideration as honorary members.
- c) **Future Committee:** Jimmy Melville has agreed to act as co-chair after the AGM. Ullabritt Ashby has expressed her wish to serve as committee member and is prepared to take on the post of Membership Secretary.

9. A.O.C.B

- a) **Jimmy Bell:** The Committee wished Jimmy a speedy recovery from his present illness and decided to send him a card and flowers through Jessie.
- b) **Publicity:** Helen is to work for inclusion in the parish magazine. Flyers can now be run off at Historylinks.
- c) **Quiz Walks:** To be run in July and early August. Historylinks will be open most of Sunday and a volunteer has stepped forward to attend. Robin to organise the quizzes.

10. Date of next meeting:

Monday 2nd June at 7.30 pm, Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2003

Chairperson Sylvia Park,

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Robbie Banks, Jimmy Melville, Rena Oman,
Trustee – Cliff Reddin
Apologies – Ken Bromage, Ian Ross-Harper

The Chairperson welcomed Jimmy as new co-chair and Ullabritt as new committee member.

2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**

3. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Railway film:** The film is nearing completion. A second cut had been commented on and sent back to the director for the final cut. Before it can be shown a decision about the most suitable format has to be made by the Trust and the appropriate equipment purchased. The need to furnish Historylinks with an audio loop for about £1,000 was also discussed.

4. **Correspondence:**

- a) **John Thurso:** thanks for rearranging October talk at short notice.
- b) **Struan Robertson:** thanks for honorary membership
- c) **Association of Highland and Islands Heritage Societies:** invitation to join which had been accepted.

5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**

- a) **Coffee Morning:** Last one in May raised as much income as normal, i.e. approx. £400. The next one on 15 November is to be run by the same routines as usual. Surplus sellable articles to be sold at Edderton car-boot sale.
- b) **Summer lectures:** The two given this year were well received and it was agreed to expand the number of talks next summer. Possible subjects are "History of Dornoch" and "Bridging Dornoch Firth".
- c) **Wemyss Fair:** Posters and second-hand books did well, but the stall rental of £15 was regarded as high. New cheaper stalls will be available in 2004
- d) **St Andrew's Fair:** The Society will man the hot chestnut stall on 29 November on behalf of the Fair organisers.
- e) **County Show:** The Society's presence kept its profile high and attracted some new members. Sales however hardly exceeded the £40 rental. Sponsorship to cover the rental should be sought in the future.
- f) **Quiz Walks:** Very few people participated in the four walks in July/August. No quiz walks are to be organised in 2004.
- g) **Tiles:** Three more tiles have been sold

6. **Lecture Programme:**

- a) **January meeting:** Advertised as "A Taste of Burns" in the information sent out to members, it was agreed that a working-group consisting of Rena, Jimmy and Robin should investigate whether a full-blown Burn's Supper was feasible at the Royal Golf Hotel.
- b) **Outings:** A guided tour of Dunrobin Castle by Lord Strathnaver of 24 September and a visit to Knockan Crag and Ullapool Museum have been organised and information given to members. Robin to co-ordinate.

7. Re-appointment of Trustees:

Graham Park (proposed by Jimmy and seconded by Robbie) and John Gall (proposed by Sylvia and seconded by Ullabritt) were re-appointed.

8. Treasurer's Report:

There has been little change in the overall finances since the last committee meeting. The decision by the Clydesdale Bank to limit opening hours is causing Robbie added problems. The possibility of moving the account to the Bank of Scotland was discussed but uncertainty about how easily existing Standing Orders could be moved prevented a decision being taken.

9. Membership

A Roll of Honour of Honorary Members is to be created for display in Historylinks.

10. A.O.C.B

- a) It was suggested that Denise Ferne should be invited onto the Committee; however it was pointed out that she would not be able to join while still an employee of Historylinks.
- b) Rena enquired about how prizes for raffles were obtained and was told that most are donations.

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 26 November at 7.30 pm, Historylinks

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2003

Chairperson Robbie Banks,

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Ken Bromage, Rena Oman,
Trustee – Cliff Reddin

Apologies – Sylvia Park, Ian Ross-Harper

Absent – Jimmy Melville

2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**

3. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Standing orders:** It was agreed to make no change at the present to bank as it would require each member to submit a new order. Reminders are to be sent out to members who paid cash last year but have failed to pay their sub this year.
- b) **Railway Film:** It is nearing completion and the estimated cost will be approximately £1200. The trustees are discussing the most suitable format for viewing and what equipment Historylinks should acquire. A proposal for DVD format and the procurement of wireless headphones is being considered.
- c) **Heritage Trail:** The interpretation signage is nearing completion and the final draft of the audio manuscript is imminent. It stills looks as if all the major components will be in place by the new museum season. Moray Firth Partnership is applying for funding for two projects that would affect Historylinks and the Trail. One is a virtual trail detailing all sites of heritage interest, natural and cultural, round the Moray Firth. Rena pointed out that there was a current leaflet compiled by another body on Highland museums which lacked Historylinks. The other project will eventually involve a variety of heritage projects. One geographical area being considered is the Dornoch Firth as far as it is tidal. An initial project-planning grant is being applied for and Dornoch Heritage Society could find itself playing a major part in the consultations involved if it wishes to.
- d) **St Andrew's Fair:** Members are to run a stall serving hot chestnuts on behalf of the Flowers and Fairs committee of Dornoch Focus Group and selling second-hand books on behalf of the Society. Good trading was done despite the weather.
- e) **Newsletter:** The next issue is to appear at the end of January. The sub reminder will be distributed at the same time. Details of the annual dinner must be decided prior to publication.

4. **Correspondence:**

- a) **Highland Council:** Formal advice that the planning application for 10 Carnaig St to which Dornoch Heritage Society had objected had been refused.

5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**

- a) **November Coffee Morning:** The morning grossed £420. Cliff proposed that the May event be altered and that its organisation should be an item on next meeting's agenda. Possibilities considered included holding it at a later date, both indoors and out, a tea afternoon instead of coffee morning.

6. **Lecture Programme:**

- a) **January 22:** Since the Golf Club has decided to put on a full Burn's Night Supper it was decided to organise a more limited function than that envisaged at the last committee meeting. Robin is to invite Jamie Stone to speak. Failing that a more impromptu entertainment could be supplied by the members themselves. Robin is to enquire about the cost of a small portion of haggis and a dram by December 11 in order to inform those members that attend the talk then about the arrangements for Jan 22. It was agreed to show Proud Sutherland to the members.
- b) **Annual Dinner:** Friday 26 March 2004 was agreed as the preliminary day. Robin is to get sample menus from the Castle and the Royal Golf and Robbie from the Burghfield with a view to making a decision at the next committee meeting.

7. **Treasurer's Report:**

There has been no significant change in our bank balance.

Cliff raised the possibility of providing a trophy as thanks to the senior members of RDGC who regularly donate to Dornoch Heritage Society. The trophy could be competed for in May or June. The various merits and demerits of different materials and designs for the trophy were discussed.

8. A.O.C.B

Rena wondered who was to give a talk on Proud Sutherland to the Golspie Heritage Society but none of the committee members knew.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 7 January 2004 at 7.30 pm in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2004

Chairperson Jimmy Melville,

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Robbie Banks, Ken Bromage, Rena Oman, Sylvia Park
Trustees – Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild (Item 3 only)

Apologies – Ian Ross-Harper,

2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved with the following amendments:**

First sentence under 3d which should begin “Members are to run a stall ...”.

Item 8 should begin “Rena wondered who was to give a talk ...”

3. **Matters arising:**

a) **Golspie History Society:** Robin is to find out who will be addressing that society on ‘Proud Sutherland’.

b) **Newsletter:** Robin said he wished to distribute the newsletter within a week so that details about the Taste of Burns event could be spread to all members. Subscription delinquents would receive a reminder at the same time.

c) **AGM:** It is to be held on 2 September 2004.

d) **Golf Trophy:** ‘The Geriatrics’ are to compete annually for a trophy donated by Dornoch Heritage Society in recognition to their contributions to the funds of the Society. This year’s competition is to take place on 16 June. Cliff is in the process of arranging a suitable trophy made of Brora limestone on a wooden plinth.

e) **Railway Film:** Peter reported that the final version was almost complete. All informants would receive a personal copy and be invited to the premiere. It was agreed that this would be held in May but the venue and date are yet to be decided.

f) **Historylinks Trail Project:** Peter reported on progress with the trail and showed what some of the signage looked like.

4. **Correspondence:**

None

5. **Fund-raising Ideas:**

a) **Coffee Mornings:** It was agreed to hold two events according to the usual routine on Saturdays 8 May and 13 November. Cliff is to book West Church Hall. Robin is to secure adverts in the VGES box of the Northern Times.

b) **Wemyss Fair:** DHS is to be represented to promote Historylinks and sell museum products and second-hand books.

c) **Sutherland County Show:** DHS is to be represented to promote the Society and sell Historylinks products. Jimmy undertook to find sponsors for the event.

d) **Antiques event:** The October lecture slot is to be filled with two activities. Firstly identification and appraisals by an outside expert, possibly Mr Marr of Beaulay, of objects brought to the meeting. Secondly a competition to identify a series of objects. There will be a charge for each appraisal and to enter the competition. The venue has yet to be decided. The event is to be well advertised in Tain and Golspie as well as Dornoch.

e) **Tiles:** Three more are ready for setting.

6. **Events Programme:**

a) **A Taste of Burns:** 22 January. Peter Wild is to borrow RDGC’s video projector to show ‘Proud Sutherland’. The first part of the evening will be the showing of the film and renditions etc. of Burns’ work. The second half will commence with the Address to the Haggis, the serving of haggis and a dram and more renditions. £5 will be charged for the second part of the evening. A running order is to be prepared at the beginning of the evening to ensure that anyone who has offered to perform does not get left out.

- b) **Annual Dinner:** To be held on Friday 26 March at the Burghfield. Royal Golf was regarded as too expensive and Dornoch Castle had too small a bar, nor could it make the function completely private. Sylvia and Ullabritt agreed to receive bookings. Together with Cliff they are to agree a menu similar to last year's when 49 members paid £15 for 3 courses and coffee including £1 tip. Robin agreed to make the appropriate contacts.
- c) **Castle Leod:** Robin is to arrange a visit in May, preferably a private viewing.
- d) **Summer Lectures:** It was agreed to organise a series this year as well. Suggested speakers were Frank Roach on Highland railways, Angus McLaren on Carnegie and Skibo and someone on the Cathedral. Rena is to approach Sanda McDonald about the last topic.
- e) **Next season's lecturers:** The following speakers were put forward. Duncan Allan, Jimmy on 'Dornoch Fifty Years Ago', the unknown speaker on 'Proud Sutherland' in Golspie (*It turns out to be James Henderson Esq.. No surprise there. (Sec)*), Donald Goskirk and Margaret Thomson on changing farming practises.

7. Treasurer's Report:

No significant change in assets.

8. A.O.C.B

- a) Rena communicated an offer from Clashmore SWRI to deposit the minutes of the organisation with Dornoch Heritage Society. Sylvia said she would pass on the offer to the Secretary of the Trust.
- b) Rena is to research when Dornoch Heritage Society came into existence. Its twenty-fifth anniversary is within a few years.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday **3 March** at 7.30 pm in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2004

Chairperson Sylvia Park

- 1. Present** – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Robbie Banks, Jimmy Melville, Rena Oman,
Trustee – Cliff Reddin, Graham Park (item 2)
Apologies – Ken Bromage, Ian Ross-Harper

2. Remarks by Dr Graham Park, Secretary of the Trust

As of 1 April Historylinks will have three employees: Estelle Wood will act as curator one day per fortnight, while Peter Wild will act as part-time assistant curator. A seasonal supervisor will also be employed.

John Gall will take over the chairmanship of the Trust after Peter Wild. A new trustee can be appointed by the Society at the AGM or the Trust may co-opt an extra member if they see fit. Graham is to write about these changes in the next Society newsletter.

Historylinks opening hours are to be considerably expanded. It will open on Good Friday (9 April) and will welcome visitors between 10 am and 4 pm on a Monday to Friday basis (open Easter Saturday and Sunday as well) until 22 May. Thereafter it will be open seven days a week until 27 September when it will revert to Monday to Friday opening until closing for the season in mid-October. Out of season it will be open a few days a week.

3. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

4. Matters arising:

- a) Newsletter:** Robin reported that newsletters had now been sent to all members and the fault that resulted in some members not receiving the latest issue has been identified and remedied.
- b) Golf Trophy:** Cliff displayed the trophy. It was agreed that Hugh Steele be asked to present it. An anonymous donation of £20 has been made to cover the cost of the trophy. The Committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the donor.

5. Correspondence:

None

6. Fund-raising Ideas:

- a) Coffee mornings:** Adverts in the NT for the mornings in May and November have been ordered and paid for.
- b) Wemyss Fair:** to be discussed in detail nearer the time.
- c) Sutherland County Show:** Robin is to book a space as last year when bookings are invited.

7. Events Programme:

- a) A Taste of Burns:** The evening was highly successful and a similar event should be arranged in the future.
- b) Annual Dinner:** Sylvia and Ullabritt are to arrange the menu and seating plans as well as take bookings. Robin is to arrange advert in NT. Cliff is to arrange the raffle.
- c) Castle Leod:** June is the most suitable month. Robin is to arrange a private tour on a weekday and possibly a guided walk round Strathpeffer.
- d) Railway film premiere:** A showing is to take place in the afternoon of Saturday 15 May in the West Church Hall for those who have participated in the film, their partners, the Trust and their partners as well as the Committee and their partners.
Proper invitations to be sent out. Cliff to book hall. Audio-visual system required.
Afternoon tea will be served: home-baking and sandwiches made fresh at the Hall.
- e) Summer lectures:** Proposed speakers are Ron Gibson MSP to talk on drove roads and Tibby Fenelon to describe her recent visit to China. An evening based on the railway film is also proposed. Robin to organise.
- f) Next winter's lecturers:** Robin is to approach Duncan Allan about a talk on the provosts of Dornoch and Ian Marr of Beaulieu about the antiques event. Jimmy is to ask Donald Goskirk to talk about his own family and is to talk himself on 'Dornoch Fifty Years Ago'. Sylvia is to approach Margaret Thomson to talk about farming practises.

8. Treasurer's Report:

No significant change.

9. Next year's committee:

Sylvia and Robbie are standing down. Robin is to approach John Barnes. Jimmy is to find out whether George Munro is prepared to come back.

10. A.O.C.B

Robin is to write to the Royal Golf Hotel to thank them for providing such a pleasant venue for the Society's lectures.

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 28 April at 7.30 in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL 2004

Chairperson - Sylvia Park

- Present** – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Robbie Banks, Jimmy Melville, Rena Oman,
Trustee – Cliff Reddin
Peter Wild (item 6B)

Apologies – Ken Bromage, Ian Ross-Harper,

- Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**

- Matters arising:**

Golf Trophy: The trophy is now complete and will be competed for on June 16. Hugh Steele has agreed to present it.

- Correspondence:**

None

- Fund-raising Ideas:**

- Coffee Morning 8 May:** everything organised. Robin is to place details together with Historylinks' opening times in Northern Times.
- Wemyss Fair 26 June:** the group is to take a stand and concentrate on promoting the group and selling books.
- Sutherland County Show 24 July:** Robin is to book a place. Jimmy is to look for a possible sponsor for supplying electricity.

- Events Programme:**

- Annual Dinner:** The Society was invoiced for the full amount despite the unsatisfactory vegetables. After negotiation a discount of 8% was made. The possibility of having a lunch at the Castle in 2005 instead of a dinner was discussed.
- Afternoon Tea 15 May:** The railway film will be shown in the West Church Hall for those involved in its making. Jimmy will hand over presentation copies of the film to those who appear in it and interview them on stage. Arrangements for the serving of sandwiches and cakes for upwards of 60 people were made.
- Summer Lectures:** Rob Gibson MSP and Tibbie Foderow have agreed to talk. Duncan Allan has yet to decide if he will. The talks are to be held in the Carnegie Building. Robin is to produce a flyer for distribution to accommodation providers.
- Summer Outing:** Private visit to Castle Leod one evening in June. Robin is to organise.

- Preliminary Lecture Programme etc.:**

| | | | | |
|------|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2004 | Sep 2 | AGM | | |
| | Oct 14 | New Anglican priest | | Ken as contact |
| | Nov 11 | Margaret Thomson | Organic farming at Ospisdale | Sylvia as contact |
| | Dec 12 | Jimmy Melville | The Dornoch he knew | |
| 2005 | Jan 20 | Burns celebration | | |
| | Feb 17 | Helen Fairgrieve | Letter from Canada and Rosehall | |
| | Mar 17 | Donald Goskirk | | |
| | April | Annual Lunch | | |

The antiques evening will held over to 2005/6 since Ian Marr, Beaulay, has yet to reply to the Society's invitation to partake. Robin to approach again.

8. Next Year's Committee:

Robbie is to resign from the committee and post of treasurer. Sylvia is prepared to stay on the committee but not to act as office-bearer. Uncertainty about Ian's active contribution because of poor health was raised. John Barnes has agreed to consider joining the committee. Jimmy is to talk to George Munro about returning, possibly as co-chair and/or treasurer. Rena is to contact Fiona ??? née McDonald.

9. Treasurer's Report:

The books for 2003/4 have been done and audited. Robbie is to open a Treasurer's account with Bank of Scotland and transfer the bulk of the assets held in the Clydesdale Bank. The current account is to remain with the Clydesdale since our members' standing orders are only valid for it. Signatories on the new account are to be the chairpersons, secretary and treasurer.

10. A.O.C.B

Historylinks Trail Project: Completion is near. Details are to be given to members in the next newsletter. The project however is facing a cash flow problem as invoices have to be paid before the remaining grants are paid out. It was agreed to grant the project a bridging loan of £10,000 and a cheque for the amount was given to the project co-ordinator, Robin Ashby.

11. Report from the Trustees:

Peter Wild has been appointed to run Historylinks two days a week all year round with a seasonal supervisor in the summer. This allows for seven days per week opening during the summer season. During the winter the museum will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays since these are the days Shearings deposits visitors in the town.

Planning permission has been applied for a purpose-built shed.

A secure display cabinet is to be acquired so that loans from other museums can be received.

Christine Murray has agreed to become a trustee.

The winding-gear from the sluice-gates at the Mound has been accepted and will be erected outside the museum.

Brenda Tassell has made a tailor's dummy for the soldier's uniform.

There is no progress on the history of Dornoch book, but Ian's booklet on the ministers of the Cathedral is finished.

12. Date of next meeting:

23rd June at Historylinks.

22 May 2004

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2004

Chairperson - Jimmy Melville

- Present** – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Robbie Banks, Rena Oman,
Trustee – Cliff Reddin
Apologies – Ken Bromage, Sylvia Park, Ian Ross-Harper

2. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

3. Report from the Trustees:

The secure display unit will be delivered to Historylinks by the middle of July and the army uniform will be put on view. Otherwise nothing significant to report.

4. Matters arising:

- Golf Trophy:** The trophy was competed for on June 16 under atrocious conditions. John Robertson was the worthy winner. The event was much appreciated.
- Film premiere:** The arrangement was well received by all those who took part. A special thanks to all those who provided the tea.
- Historylinks Trail:** The project is on budget and first repayment could be made.

5. Correspondence:

The Secretary has written to Jessie Bell expressing the Committee's sorrow at the death of Jimmy.

6. Fund-raising Ideas:

- Wemyss Fair 26 June:** A half stall has been booked for £15. Helpers are to turn up by 12.30 for a 1pm start. Cliff, Ullabritt, Robin and Sylvia are to man the stall.
- Sutherland County Show 24 July:** Robin has booked and paid for a table. The same activities as last year are to be promoted. Contact by phone to arrange manning rota.

7. Events Programme:

a) Summer Lectures:

Wed 28 July **Duncan Allan**
Wed 4 August **Rob Gibson MSP**
Wed 11 August **Tibbie Fenelon**

The talks are to be held in the Carnegie Building at 8pm. Robin is to book venue and produce a flyer for distribution to accommodation providers.

- Summer Outing:** Private visit to Castle Leod one evening in late August. Robin is to organise and promote through the newsletter.

8. Preliminary Lecture Programme etc.:

| | | | | |
|------|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2004 | Sep 2 | AGM | | |
| | Oct 14 | New Anglican priest | | Ken as contact |
| | Nov 11 | Margaret Thomson | Organic farming at Ospisdale | Sylvia as contact |
| | Dec 9 | Jimmy Melville | The Dornoch he knew | |
| 2005 | Jan 20 | Burns celebration | | |
| | Feb 17 | Helen Fairgrieve | Letter from Canada and Rosehall | |
| | Mar 17 | Donald Goskirk | | |
| | April | Annual Lunch | | |

9. Next Year's Committee:

George Munro may agree to serve in some capacity.
Jimmy is to talk to Fiona McDonald.

10. Treasurer's Report:

The new account with the Bank of Scotland will become operable when Jimmy has supplied his signature.

11. A.O.C.B

Jimmy Bell: An appreciation is to appear in the next newsletter. If Jessie is agreeable, the Committee would like Struan Robertson to write it.

12. Date of next meeting:

25th August at Historylinks.

1 August 2004

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24th AUGUST 2004

Chairperson: Sylvia Park,

1. **Present** – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Robbie Banks, Jimmy Melville, Rena Oman
Apologies – Ken Bromage, Ian Ross-Harper

2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved.**

3. **Matters arising:**

- a) **County Show & Wemyss Fair:** The Society was represented at both events and attracted a fair amount of attention. The financial gain was small, but it was felt that the presence of the Society was important.
- b) **Summer Lectures:** The three lectures by Duncan Allan, Rob Gibson and Tibby Fenelon were well attended by different audiences. Rob Gibson has offered to give a further talk on his subject at a later date. Several new members joined. The event should be repeated next year.
- c) **Historylink Trail:** Robin reported that the project was coming in on time and within budget. Repayment of the Society's loan would take place when the final grant payments had been received, which will take place under October.

4. **Newsletter:**

Struan Robertson was complimented for his fine tribute to Jimmy Bell and Robin for his editing.

5. **Correspondence:**

None

6. **Fund-raising Ideas:**

Coffee Morning: The next one will be held on November 13th following customary routines.

7. **AGM:**

- a) **Agenda:** It was agreed on after discussion
- b) **Committee Members:** Ian, Robbie, Robin and Sylvia are due to step down. Robbie declines re-election. Robin and Sylvia are prepared to serve again. Robin is to ask Ian whether he is available for re-election. Robin is also to contact John Barnes to ascertain whether he is still available for nomination. Jimmy reported that George Munro unfortunately is not prepared to join the committee. It was agreed to appoint a new Treasurer at the next Committee meeting and Robbie agreed to fill the function until then.
- c) **Honorary Members:** It was agreed to make Jessie Bell and Betty Paul honorary members. Robin is to write to them to inform them of the decision.

8. **Winter Lectures:**

The programme has been publicised to members.

It was agreed to repeat the Burns Celebrations in the same manner as last season. Hopefully Father Mel Langille and Donald Goskirk will be persuaded to join the event and provide music in addition to the talks they are scheduled to give.

9. **Membership:** Total membership is hard to calculate since the database as originally set up does not differentiate between single and family membership. However it is estimated that the register of individual members is in excess of 200. Members who have not paid their subscription for the last three seasons have been sent a letter informing that they will be struck off the register if they fail to pay for the current season by 1 October. Other members who have not paid and who do not have standing orders have been sent a reminder. Five new members have been registered since the last Committee meeting.

10. Treasurer's Report:

Apart from the fact that the savings account with BoS is now active, there was nothing significant to report.

11. A.O.C.B

- a) Jimmy thanked *Sylvia* on behalf of the Committee for the years she had ably chaired their meetings.
- b) No opinion on the *proposed housing development* in The Square could be expressed by the Society as it had not proved possible to form a quorum of the Committee before the last date for submissions had passed.
- c) Rena reported that the annual week-long visit from Sutherland's *twin district Zetel* would take place from 27th August. It was agreed to recommend the trustees invite the German delegates to visit Historylinks free of charge.
- d) It was agreed to rent a portable PA system from Edderton Gardening Club for talks. Sylvia to arrange.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 6th October

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2004

Chairperson Jimmy Melville

Present – Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Robbie Banks, John Barnes, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman

Trustees – none

Apologies – Ken Bromage, Sylvia Park, Ian Ross-Harper

1. The Chairman welcomed John Barnes and Jean Birkett onto the committee.

2. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

3. Matters arising:

a) **Historylinks Trail Project:** Robin reported that the project had now officially been completed even if the actual printing of the booklet was yet to take place. The budget had been kept to and £5000 of the loan from DHS had been repaid. The remaining £5000 would be repaid when CASE/CED had paid their promised grant, which could take several months as they apply complicated auditing measures.

4. Correspondence:

Miss Betty Paul thanking DHS for making her an honorary member.

5. Fund-raising Ideas:

a) **Coffee Morning:** The next one is on 13 November following the usual routine.

b) **Dornoch Games 2005:** DHS could be represented to promote Historylinks and sell museum products and second-hand books. The possibility of presenting a DHS prize for best local piper or dancer was discussed. Rena is to talk with Billy Grant.

c) **Spring Social Event:** The possibility of arranging an event when members would be encouraged to bring a non-member friend with them was discussed.

d) **Antiques event:** The Secretary is to renew efforts to find an expert willing to take part in the event later in 2005.

6. Events Programme:

No changes

7. Treasurer's Report:

No significant change in assets apart from repayment mentioned in 3 a).

8. Appointment of Treasurer

Robin Ashby was appointed to take over from Robbie Banks whom the Chairman thanked warmly for her services over the years. Signatories on the accounts are to be Jimmy, Robin and Sylvia.

9. A.O.C.B

a) The minutes are to be displayed publicly in Historylinks and the Carnegie Building and to be mailed to Historylinks staff as long as they do not contain information about the Society's role as employer.

b) The Secretary pointed out that the constitution needs revision on a number of points and should be discussed with a view to presenting proposals to next year's AGM.

c) £35 is to be donated to sponsor Tibby Fenelon's next trek in appreciation of the talk she gave in August.

d) Hospitality is to be offered speakers after talks at the Royal Golf Hotel. It was suggested that a contribution from the raffle proceeds could fund this.

e) Ken has agreed to act as co-chair.

10. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday **3 November** at 7.30 pm in Historylinks.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2004

Chairperson Sylvia Park,

Present – (Committee) Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, John Barnes, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
(Others) –Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies – Ken Bromage, Jimmy Melville, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Coffee Morning November 13:** Cliff reported that it would be run on the same lines as usual. It was agreed Ullabritt would have a table to collect subscriptions. It was also agreed that the success of the autumn coffee morning would be monitored since there are now similar events on an almost weekly basis.
- b) **Prize at Dornoch Games:** Rena has not had an opportunity to discuss with Bill Grant as he is on holiday.

3. Correspondence:

- a) **Volunteer Groups East Sutherland:** invitation to nominate board members and to attend AGM. DHS declines to nominate board members but will be represented at the AGM on November 26 at 7.30 Golf Club, Golspie, by Jimmy, John, Robin and Ullabritt.

4. Events Programme:

- a) **Spring Social Event: probably** in May at Historylinks. Highland Games have a marquee that could be loaned through Billy Grant. Tourist accommodation providers could be invited again.
- b) **Burns Celebration:** similar to last year, as Royal Dornoch Golf Club is planning a full Burn's Supper. Hugh Steele and Helen Fairgrieve are to be encouraged to recite again and Mel Langille and Donald Goskirk to play. A general invitation to members to perform is to be made at lectures.
- c) **Possible future event:** Helen and Peter Fairgrieve show their film about Canada.
- d) **Possible outing:** Dunbeath Heritage Centre.
- e) **Spring lunch:** Sylvia and Ullabritt are to discuss staging a Saturday lunch for max 50 at the Royal Golf Hotel.

5. Treasurer's Report:

No significant change in assets. The process of registering new signatories at the Clydesdale Bank is under way.

6. Membership

Reminders to those members who have not paid their dues for 2004/5 are to be sent out with a list of the remaining lectures. The status of standing orders must be checked first against the bank statement due soon.

7. Historylinks:

Cliff could not report from any trustees' meetings as he had not attended any recently.

Peter reported:

- That the old clock from the RDGC club-house would be installed during the winter and a roof made for the winding-gear outside.
- He and John Gall were in negotiation with Inverness museum about the loan of artefacts.
- No progress had been made on the Dornoch Book
- The Historylinks Trail booklet would be enlarged to A4
- The museum would be open most Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the winter season.

8. Request for funds from Trust

The Trust wishes to make a case in the children's room to exhibit children's displays produced in liaison with the schools. They also wish to move the volunteer's uniform to a new dedicated case nearer the front of the building, out of sunlight to prevent fading. The case could be purpose-made locally. The high-security that houses the

uniform now would be available for artefacts loaned in from other sources.
The committee authorised the treasurer to make a grant of up to £1000 towards the cases without further discussion.

9. A.O.C.B

- a) It was agreed that Scandinavian delegates to the Small Town Networks Conference in April 2005 be offered free admission to Historylinks subject to the approval of the trustees.
- b) It was agreed that a 'no treating' tradition be proposed to encourage more socialising in the bar at the Royal Golf Hotel after lectures.

10. Date of next meeting:

Thursday **16 December** at 7.30 pm in Historylinks followed by socialising in the Eagle.

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2004

Chairperson Ken Bromage

Present – (Committee) Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
(Others) –Cliff Reddin

Apologies – John Barnes, Jimmy Melville, Sylvia Park, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize at Dornoch Games:** Rena reported that the games committee would like to see the prize go to a local junior light event, such as putting the light ball. It was agreed to allow Dornoch Games to choose a suitable event and that the prize should not exceed £30. Robin is to write to Bill Grant.
- b) **VGES AGM:** John, Robin and Ullabritt attended this event. It was deemed a pleasant and informative evening.

3. Correspondence:

Volunteer Groups East Sutherland: invitation to renew subscription. Robin to renew.

4. Fund-raising:

The Coffee Morning in November raised over £400 despite fears that the many similar arrangements could reduce income. It was agreed that the admission charge is to be raised to £1 in the future.

5. Events Programme:

- a) **Spring Social Event:** to be discussed fully at next committee meeting.
- b) **Burns Celebration 20 January:** A price of £5 for Haggis and a dram has been agreed with the Royal Golf Hotel. Cliff is to arrange a raffle as usual. The event is to be publicised in the next newsletter.
- c) **Possible outing:** Dunbeath Heritage Centre was discussed.
- d) **Spring lunch:** Sylvia and Ullabritt are to decide a date in April for a Saturday lunch for max 50 at the Royal Golf Hotel. A quote for two course plus coffee is to be obtained.
- e) **Coffee Mornings:** Saturdays 7th May and 19th November (alt. 12th). Cliff is to check availability and competing events.
- f) **AGM 2005:** Thursday 1st September, venue to be decided.

6. Newsletter

Robin is to put out the winter newsletter with similar contents as last year early in January.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Apart from proceeds from Coffee Morning no significant change in assets.
Robin proposed that DHS opened a Halifax current account for treasurers at Bank of Scotland. He argued that it would receive considerably more interest than the account with the Clydesdale and that it would facilitate transfers between it and the Savings account already at BoS. However to avoid the problem of asking members to change their standing orders, the Clydesdale account would be retained to receive subscriptions only. The meeting agreed to the proposal and instructed the Treasurer to open the new account and to reappportion assets as he thought appropriate.

8. Membership

10 subscriptions have been received. No new reminder is to be sent with the newsletter.

9. Historylinks:

Cliff reported:

- Peter Wild had obtained a 100% grant to acquire two new computers and other hardware with supporting software.

- A number of improvements are to be made following a disability access report including an alarm in the disability toilet and hearing loops.
- The Historylinks Trail booklet has been enlarged to A4.

10. Outline Planning Application for houses in the Square

The Committee felt that it had received insufficient feedback from members to express an opinion to Highland Council that clearly represented the view of the majority.

11. A.O.C.B

Rena suggested that Royal Golf Hotel could have a suitable PA system for the venue that the Society could loan instead of renting the one owned by Edderton Gardening Club. Robin is to investigate.

12. Date of next meeting:

Robin to contact the trustees to determine whether 12th or 13th January was more convenient.

(The meeting is to be held at Historylinks on **WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 2005** at 7.30)

31 December 2004

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2005

Chairperson Jimmy Melville
Present Robin Ashby, John Barnes, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
Apologies Ullabritt Ashby, Ken Bromage, Sylvia Park, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. **Resignation:** Regrettably Sylvia Park has offered her resignation following the death of her mother. The Committee wishes to extend its heartfelt condolences to Sylvia and Graham in their time of grief. (The burden of Sylvia's grief has subsequently doubled after the death of her father.)

2. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved**

The meeting planned for 12 January was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

3. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Prize at Dornoch Games:** Robin is yet to write to Bill Grant.
- b) **VGES subscription:** The organisation requires two contacts for its records. Robin and Rena were selected.

4. **Correspondence:**

None apart from Sylvia's resignation.

5. **Fund-raising:**

- a) **Coffee Mornings** are to be held on May 7 and November 12 as agreed earlier.
- b) Rena informed the meeting about events in the past including a cheese and wine evening to which members brought an interesting object for others to identify.
- c) **County Show :** Robin is to book.
- d) **Summer lectures:** Robin is to book the West Church Hall for four meetings during July and the start of August.
The following speakers were proposed: Bridget McKenzie, Jamie Stone, Manish Basu, Sander McDonald, Angus McLaren, Mrs ?. Dudgeon, John McDonald, John Robertson (Spinningdale), Rev. Susan Brown and Rev. Angus Lamont (Free Church).

6. **Events Programme:**

- a) **Burns Celebration 20 January** was deemed a great success.
- b) **Annual lunch:** Details have been spread via the newsletter. Saturday 9 April at the Royal Golf Hotel, 12.30 for 1 pm. Main course and a sweet and coffee for £12.50. Pre-booking to Ullabritt.
- c) **Spring Social Event:** Thursday 26 May at Historylinks. Wine and nibbles. The erection of a marquee is to be considered.
- d) **Dunbeath Heritage Centre:** Robin is to arrange a trip for a weekday in June.

7. **Treasurer's Report:**

A detailed report could not be given due to computer malfunction, but the treasurer could report that the overall situation had changed little since the last meeting.

8. **Historylinks:**

No report

9. **A.O.C.B**

None

10. **Date of next meeting:**

Saturday 9 April at 11.30 at the Royal Golf Hotel immediately prior to the Annual Lunch.

29 March 2005

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2005

Chairperson Jimmy Melville
Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Ken Bromage, Jean Birkett,
Apologies John Barnes, Rena Oman, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize at Dornoch Games:** Robin is waiting to hear back from Bill Grant about what event they wish a trophy for.

3. Correspondence:

None

4. Fund-raising:

- a) **Coffee Morning** on May 7 to follow usual routines.
b) **County Show** : Robin has booked. The same activities as at former shows.
c) **Summer lectures:** Robin has preliminarily booked the West Church Hall for four meetings on consecutive Wednesdays starting on 13 July. It was decided to use the small hall unless audiences exceed its capacity. Admission charge for non-members. Refreshments are to be served and donations accepted.
In addition to the speakers listed in previous minutes, the following were proposed: Rev John McGregor (Fearn Abbey or chaplaincy in the Territorial Army) and the owner of Orcadian Stone, Golspie.

5. Events Programme:

- a) **Spring Social Event:** Robin and Peter Wild are to organise on Thursday 26 May at Historylinks. Wine and nibbles. No charge but donations accepted. A more prominent permanent donations box should be considered at Historylinks.
b) **Dunbeath Heritage Centre:** Robin has arranged for a visit and guided walk for Tuesday 21 June. He is to ask the Castle to allow car access through the top gate so that the cemetery can be reached by all.
c) **Winter programme:** West Church Hall has been booked for AGM on 1 September. Royal Golf Hotel has agreed to host other meetings except in October and third week of November. Robin is to propose venues and dates at next committee meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer could report that the overall situation had changed little since the last meeting, since the project group for the Historylinks Trail had yet to receive its final grant payment from CASE, a prerequisite for paying back the £5,000 still owed to the Society. A net trading profit of £761.77 had been made during 2004/5 and Historylinks had received £456 of the max. £1,000 promised for a display case.

7. Membership Report:

No significant change.

8. Historylinks:

No report

9. A.O.C.B

Jimmy informed the committee that he intends resigning at the AGM in September. Sylvia Park has indicated that she would be prepared to serve on the committee again but not as an office-bearer.

10. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 26 May at 18.30 at Historylinks immediately prior to the Social Event.

3 May 2005

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2005

Chairperson

Present Robin Ashby, John Barnes, Ken Bromage, Jean Birkett Rena Oman,
Peter Wild

Apologies Ullabritt Ashby, Jimmy Melville, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize at Dornoch Games:** Robin has received the wording for the cup for Junior Piping (March) and will arrange for the purchase, engraving and delivery of the cup.

3. Correspondence:

Robin has conveyed the Society's sincerest condolences to Christine Henderson on the death of her husband, Jimmy, one of the Society's best appreciated speakers.

4. Fund-raising:

- a) **Coffee Morning** on May 7 was successful raising roughly £420.
b) **County Show** : Robin is to coordinate shifts on the stand.
c) **Summer lectures:** Following problems with arranging speakers, 10 August has been added to the possible list of dates.

5. Events Programme:

- a) **Dunbeath Heritage Centre:** The visit was cancelled due to lack of interest shown.
b) **Winter programme:** West Church Hall has been booked for AGM on 1 September. Royal Golf Hotel has agreed to host other meetings on provisionally 24 November, 15 December, 19 January, 16 February and 16 March. West Church Hall is proposed venue for the meeting on 13 October.
A short list of possible speakers was agreed: Bridget Mackenzie, Sanda McDonald, David Hutchinson (Golspie chairs), Ian McKay and/or Glen Grant (curling), John Muir, John Mackintosh (Embo), Ann Coombs, someone from Tarbat Discovery Centre and John McDonald (Rogart) if he does not do a summer talk.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- a) **Current position:** The treasurer could report that the loan to the Historylinks Trail had been repaid in full. £10,000 had been transferred to the BoS savings account. The display case at Historylinks cost just under £700.
b) **New signatory:** The meeting agreed to appoint Rena Oman as signatory together with Robin Ashby and Sylvia Park for the Society's accounts in light of Jimmy Melville's resignation.

7. Membership Report:

No significant change.

8. Historylinks Report:

John Barnes explained that the new improved website for Historylinks would have a section for Society information and explained how it could be updated.

Peter Wild reported that:

- the building had two operational sound loops
- the winding gear outside, now protected from the elements, would soon receive interpretation signage.
- Sue Higgins was performing her job as receptionist well
- the display of loaned objects could be in place for three years
- the book on the history of Dornoch by Mike Hook had expanded to roughly 600 pages, much bigger than originally intended. It is almost complete and sections are already being proof-read. However publication will involve higher costs than the grants received.
- three events will be arranged in Dornoch during Highland Archaeology Fortnight 1 – 16 October
- Golspie Heritage society will visit Historylinks in December

9. A.O.C.B

None

10. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 18 August at 7.30 at Historylinks

3 August 2005

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2005

NB NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Chairperson

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman,
Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies John Barnes, Ken Bromage, Jimmy Melville, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

None

3. Correspondence:

None

4. Fund-raising:

Summer lectures: The three lectures were deemed a success. The possibility of using the Dornoch Room at Ross House or the Free Church Hall as an alternative venue to West Church Hall for meetings during the summer season is to be considered for next year.

5. Events Programme:

a) **AGM:** It is the turn of Rena and Ken to stand down this year. Provided they are re-elected there will be four vacancies following Jimmy's resignation. Sylvia Park has indicated that she is not prepared to rejoin the committee this year. It was decided that Jean would approach the Littles to see if one or either of them would be prepared to come onto the committee.

It was decided that John Barnes should be nominated for the position of Co-chairman in recognition of the fine work he is doing at Historylinks. Robin agreed to continue as Secretary and Treasurer if elected. The most suitable time for a new Treasurer to take over would be at the beginning of the new financial year on April 1.

It was decided to make Hugh Steele an honorary member. (Jessie Bell is already one.)

b) **Winter programme:** The programme was approved. Detail in annex 1.

6. **Newsletter:** It will be distributed within the next week. Peter Wild suggested some items that should be included.

7. Treasurer's Report:

a) **Current position:** The treasurer could report that the Society has more than £22,000 at its disposal.

b) **Contribution to Historylinks:** The Trust has requested a donation from the Society of £3,500 towards the cost of publishing Michael Hook's history of Dornoch. It was agreed to make the donation.

8. Membership Report:

No significant change.

9. Historylinks Report:

Peter Wild gave a summary of the report he will be giving to the AGM.

The organisation of the Society's library was discussed briefly. The matter will be put on the agenda at a future date for further consideration.

10. A.O.C.B

Robin reported that Historylinks and Tain through Time had decided to buy a video projector jointly and had secured funding. However Tain had not been prepared to purchase the equipment until late October when certain grant money was due them. Robin had talked to Tain and explained that a request for a bridging loan from the Society (similar to that given to the Heritage Trail project) would be met favourably and that they should start the purchasing process.

11. Date of next meeting:

The Trustees are having a meeting on Wednesday 21 September (our original choice) so we will meet on **Thursday 22 September** at 7.30 at Historylinks instead.

28 August 2005

Robin Ashby

Annex 1

| COMING EVENTS | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 2005 | | |
| September 1 | AGM - Dornoch Heritage Society | <u>WEST CHURCH HALL</u> |
| October 1 - 16 | <i>Highland Archaeology Fortnight</i> | |
| October 13 | Professor James Hunter <i>History at UHI</i> | <u>WEST CHURCH HALL</u> |
| All further meetings in <u>ROYAL GOLF HOTEL</u> | | |
| November 12 | <i>Coffee Morning</i> | |
| November 24 | Anne Coombs | <i>Looking for the First Herring Lassies</i> |
| December 15 | David Hutchinson | <i>219 Rossal, Rogart - an Abandoned Croft</i> |
| 2006 | | |
| January 19 | <i>Burns Celebration</i> | |
| February 16 | Ian Mackay | <i>125 Years of Dornoch Curling Club</i> |
| March 16 | John Muir | <i>Education, Education - Education?</i> |
| April | <i>Annual Lunch</i> | Date and venue to be announced |

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2005

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett,
Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies Ken Bromage, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Video-projector:** Tain through Time has now bought its projector which is available on loan to DHS and Historylinks. Robin is to contact Tain to come to an agreement regulating terms and conditions.
- b) **History of Dornoch:** The book now appears to cost less than when Historylinks asked for a contribution from DHS. Our contribution will be comparatively less than agreed on earlier.
- c) **Highland Games trophy:** the committee was informed of the details of the purchase and the event it was awarded for.

3. Correspondence:

The Secretary is to send the Society's condolences to Tom Tew on the occasion of the death of his wife Sylvia.

4. Marketing:

John reported on a visit to an event in Strathpeffer at which historical societies in Easter Ross presented their activities. He wished to see DHS market itself in a more enterprising way at events.

The following measures were agreed:

- More pictures with different themes at each event
- First theme to be clubs in Dornoch
- Peter to construct more panels for hard copy pictures
- Laptops or TVs to be used if power is available
- Sale of Historylinks merchandise , but not s/h books
- Provision of tiered display stands
- Ullabritt to source samples of suitable fabric for table covering e.g. hessian

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Morning: Same procedure as last time. All arrangements are in hand.

6. Events Programme:

Spring lunch: Members wish to mingle more so a buffet lunch should be considered. Robin is to get a preliminary quote from the Castle to compare with our target of 2 courses with coffee for £12.50.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society has approximately £20,000 at its disposal after the agreed contribution to the *History of Dornoch* has been taken into account.

8. Membership Report:

A few new members have been registered. It was agreed that Robin would reword the application form and future reminders.

Ullabritt is to supply Historylinks with a new membership list and Peter or Sue will issue receipts for members paying there. (Ullabritt and Peter have now agreed it would be simpler if she supplies him with membership cards to issue directly.)

9. Library:

DHS asks the Trust to consider taking over the responsibility of running the library from the Society. Further it asks the Trust to identify Historylinks' library needs so that the Society can provide the Trust with suitable funding.

10. Historylinks Report:

Peter Wild reported that a group from Inverurie had visited Historylinks prior to setting up their own museum. VisitScotland and Highland Council had carried out their inspections.

The museum has sought to acquire two artefacts deemed treasure trove: a medieval matrix for sealing letters and an earlier gilded mount. The museum wishes to acquire the matrix in particular: it will cost more £500 or more, but grants are available.

The WW2 mine has been positioned in the car park and will be freshened up.

11. A.O.C.B

None.

12. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 3 November at 7.30 at Historylinks.

15 October 2005

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Happy New Year!

Next committee meeting on Thursday 12 January.

My apologies for changing the date, but I have just learnt that I have to work on Tuesday the 10th. Nor can we have a meeting on the Wednesday evening as the trustees have theirs then.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2005

Chairperson Ken Bromage

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, John Barnes, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Video-projector:** Robin is to contact Tain through Time to exchange information about when the equipment will be required by either party and to inform them that we would require the laptop as well as the projector. He is to enquire about warranties and propose that DHS makes an annual contribution of £50 to a maintenance and repair fund.
- b) **History of Dornoch:** The book is to be launched after the talk on 15 December at a discounted price to members. Peter is to supply details for Robin to publicise. Robin is to bring forward the next issue of the newsletter to accommodate this.

3. Correspondence:

Robin reported that he had send condolences on behalf of the DHS to Tom Clegg, Edderton, on the death of his wife Grace who had been a potential speaker for the 2006/7 season.

4. Marketing:

For the recruiting events of 2006:

- Ullabritt's choice of fabric for stalls was approved.
- Themes: clubs, schools, fishing in Embo, crofting
- Displays of unidentified pictures and objects for identification by the public
- Peter to construct one more panel.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Morning: All arrangements are in hand. Ullabritt is to chase up late subscriptions. Jill Evans has offered to sell Husband John's book on George Dempster and donate £5 per copy to DHS. The Committee gratefully accepts the Evans' kind offer.

6. Events Programme:

Spring lunch: Robin has yet to get a quote from the Castle.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- a) **Current position:** The Treasurer could report that the Society has approximately £20,000 at its disposal after the agreed contribution to the *History of Dornoch* has been taken into account.
- b) **Current account at Clydesdale Bank:** It was agreed to retain the account to service standing orders despite the planned closure of the Dornoch branch and the transfer of the account to the Brora branch.

8. Membership Report:

Currently 35 members have failed to pay their current subscription and will receive polite reminders with the next newsletter.

John is to receive a membership form for inclusion on the website.

9. Library:

Shelves for the reference library are being erected. A number of heritage handbooks have been ordered.

10. Historylinks Report:

Peter Wild reported that Historylinks has been awarded four-star status by VisitScotland and will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in January and February free of charge to all visitors. Residents will be encouraged to lend old photos for inclusion in the archives to be returned after scanning.

Historylinks has also been awarded the 13th century matrix as treasure trove at a net cost of £250.

The above information is to be publicised in the next newsletter.

Funding is available for staff to go on training courses.

The museum is a member of CASVAG (Caithness and Sutherland Visitor Attraction Group).

Display stands in Perspex will be purchased.

11. A.O.C.B

- a) Fionalagh Macleod was suggested as a potential speaker on Gaelic.
- b) DHS will be represented at the AGM of VGES by Ullabritt, Robin and Cliff.
- c) Members are to be reminded at the next talk of the society's custom of no treating at the bar.

12. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 12 January 2006 at 7.30 at Historylinks.

(Subsequently amended from 10 January due to circumstances not known on 3 November)

15 November 2005

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2006

Chairperson Ken Bromage

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, John Barnes, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Video-projector:** Tain has agreed to our proposal.
- b) **History of Dornoch:** The book has been successfully launched. DHS is to contribute £1,320 to its publication. Copyright information should appear in future editions. Copies of the book are to be given to the speakers this season as thanks.
- c) **Newsletter:** The number of issues should be three a year with the next one coming out in late spring.
- d) **AGM of VGES:** For a variety of reasons DHS was not represented.

3. Correspondence:

Robin is to send the Society's condolences to Dr Struan Robertson on the death of his wife Rhoda.

4. Marketing:

Additional activities at events, including coffee mornings

- Displaying unidentified items for help with identification.
- Slide show

5. Fund-raising:

- a) **Coffee Mornings:** Cliff is to check the availability of the Church Hall for 6 May and 11 November.
- b) **Lottery:** It was agreed not to run a lottery.

6. Events Programme:

- a) **A Taste of Burns:** all arrangements have been made including two pipers.
- b) **Spring lunch:** Robin was quoted £12 by the Castle for essentially pub grub. The committee did not find the offer appealing and asked Robin to negotiate with the Royal Golf Hotel for a menu of up to £14. The date was set for Saturday 18 March.
- c) **Summer lectures:** It was thought that the lectures had failed to attract enough of their target audience, the visitors, and should be discontinued. As an alternative, Robin is to research the use of a storyteller to run some guided walks around the centre of Dornoch.
- d) **Excursions:** Possible destinations -
 - The excavation of the croft at Rossal, Rogart, in connection with Dave Hutchinson's talk
 - Strathpeffer. Robin is to research.
 - Margaret Thomson's farm in connection with her talk last year

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society still has approximately £20,000 at its disposal after the agreed contribution to the *History of Dornoch* has been taken into account.

8. Membership Report:

Approximately 200 members have paid their subscriptions this year.

9. Library:

Peter reported on five short reference books that have been ordered for reference purposes.

10. Historylinks Report:

Peter reported that *A History of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch* is to be sold to members at £10. The Dornoch Book Shop is selling it at £1 above the RRP. Agreement on royalties has yet to be reached with Michael Hook: no contract was signed with him at the outset. A new railway film is to be produced for sale to the public. Barry Turner has written a manuscript. A film-maker is lined up who estimates the cost at roughly £2,000. It was agreed that DHS and Historylinks would finance the project on a 50/50 basis. A grant to obtain the matrix has been approved.

11. A.O.C.B

- a) The possibility of offering a prize for a history project, particularly from secondary pupils, was discussed. The winning project(s) would be displayed at Historylinks.
- b) Photos of Dornoch Academy pupils are to be collected.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 22 February 2006 at 7.30 at Historylinks.

15 February 2005

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2006

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
Peter Wild

Apologies Ken Bromage, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved on condition that the second sentence of 6b reads "The committee did not find ..."

2. Matters arising:

- a) **History of Dornoch:** The RRP has been raised to £12.99 in line with what Dornoch Bookshop is charging. Members will still be able to buy it for £10. Michael Hook has yet to sign a contract regulating royalties etc.
- b) **Prize for history project:** It was agreed that the subject of each project should be preferably local history, but Highland, national or world history would be acceptable if this fitted better with national curricula. The committee would wish to see a rough plan of the project at the start in order to read up on the subject. Candidates would be expected to give an oral presentation regardless of which medium is used for the actual report. This could be done under classroom conditions. The winning team will be invited to present their project to Society members at a lecture meeting.
A prize of £50 annually is to be made to the best group report which balances good content with clear and interesting delivery.
Robin is to discuss with John Garvie and report back with the reactions of Dornoch Academy.

3. Correspondence:

Mary Gall wrote to draw the attention of the Society to the deplorable state of Skelbo House and Castle. She also supplied information about what had been attempted by the Society during the last two decades.

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Historic Scotland for advice on how to preserve as much as possible, in particular how to carry out a professional photographic report.

4. Marketing:

The Secretary is to request a power supply at the Sutherland Show to run a TV, DVD player etc. If not available, a car battery could be used to power a laptop through an inverter.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Mornings: Cliff has booked the West Church Hall for 13 May and 11 November.

6. Events Programme:

- a) **Spring lunch:** Robin has negotiated a £12 menu with the Royal Golf Hotel. Ullabritt is to take bookings up to 13 March. The lunch is at 12.30 for 1 on Saturday 18 March.
- b) **Excursions:** Robin has yet to research the excursions proposed earlier.

c) Lectures during next winter season:

Proposed speakers/themes:

- Tom Tew on Donald Ross
- Skelbo and Loch Fleet – Christine Murray, John and Mary Gall, Elizabeth Beaton
- Vernacular architecture – Elizabeth Beaton (if she does not attend the Skelbo evening)
- Aeronautical history – Jim Hughes
- Sander
- Robin to get tips from Golspie Heritage Society
- A Taste of Burns

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society still has approximately £21,500 at its disposal after the agreed contribution to the *History of Dornoch* has been taken into account.

8. Membership Report:

Approximately 200 members have paid their subscriptions this year out of 219 enrolled. Ullabritt was congratulated on this high proportion.

9. Library:

It was agreed that Elizabeth Beaton's *Sutherland: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* (June 1995) be acquired for reference.

10. Historylinks Report:

Peter reported that he had got unseen footage of the Dornoch Light Railway from a contact in London for the new film. It was agreed to appeal for more footage, stills and memorabilia through the media.

He could also announce the very near completion of the backlog cataloguing which was most heartening.

He described his plans for further simple display cases.

11. A.O.C.B

Rena reported on the reward given to Mari Mason née McAskill from Dornoch for her work with the Red Cross. She is to forward the details to Historylinks.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 12 April 2006

7.30 pm at Historylinks.

13 March 2006

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 April 2006

Chairperson John Barnes
Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
Peter Wild
Apologies Ken Bromage, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. **Minutes of last meeting read and approved on condition that the Secretary changed the typos.**

2. **Matters arising:**

- a) **Prize for history project:** John Garvie has welcomed the offer and will consult with the teachers at the Academy. Jean presented the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme) and highlighted its use to allow volunteers to retell their experiences as part of the teaching of history. Robin is to discuss this aspect with John Garvie.
- b) **Skelbo:** Robin has been in touch with Anne Coombs and a site visit will be arranged when her new inspector is in post.

3. **Correspondence:**

Rena has received a letter from the Rennies' daughter thanking the DHS for what we had done for her parents. Rena is to reply on our behalf.

The Society sent a letter of condolence to Graeme Ross on the death of his mother, a former active member.

4. **Marketing:**

Sutherland Show has not replied to our request for power at the Show: Robin to follow up.

The next Coffee Morning is to be used as a rehearsal for the Show with albums on a computer and photos of people that we need identifying. Ullabritt is to finish the clothes and Peter to make the third stand.

5. **Fund-raising:**

Coffee Morning: Nothing to add except the proposal to put posters up in the Tall Pines restaurant and take down afterwards.

6. **Events Programme:**

- a) **Spring lunch:** It was generally agreed that this year the food was better and the spacing better.
- b) **Excursions:** Robin is to make arrangements for a visit to Rossal not earlier than July. He is also to get quotes for a bus trip to Strathpeffer and Knockfarrel for August or September. A tale-telling guide would cost £65 for half a day. Preliminarily the cost of the trip would be split so that DHS would supply the transport and the participants would pay the guide.
- c) **Lectures during next winter season:**
Proposed speakers/themes:
 - Tom Tew has agreed to talk on Donald Ross. Proposed venue is the RDGC clubhouse. John Barnes offered to help Tom with a PowerPoint presentation.
 - An evening about Skelbo and Loch Fleet – Christine Murray and Christine Henderson have agreed with reservations; John and Mary Gall and Elizabeth Beaton have yet to agree
 - Vernacular architecture – Elizabeth Beaton (if she does not attend the Skelbo evening) has yet to be contacted.
 - Aeronautical history – Jim Hughes has declined our offer to talk
 - Sander has yet to be contacted
 - Robin has asked for tips from Golspie Heritage Society but no response yet
 - A Taste of Burns
 - Peter plans to attend a talk that Nic Lyndsey will give in Brora about Dornoch Jail 1813 – 1840. Assuming Peter's report is positive, Nic will be invited to repeat his talk for us.

7. Treasurer's Report:

a) **Current position:** The Treasurer could report that the Society still has approximately £22,000 at its disposal. Some of the surplus is to be used for the benefit of the members on the excursion to Strathpeffer (see above).

b) **Signatories:** In compliance with demands being made by banks these days, it was agreed that the signatories of the Dornoch Heritage Society shall be the Chairman, The Vice-Chairman and the Treasurer.

It was further resolved that an Asset Reserve Cheque Account be opened with Halifax plc and that the officers named in Section A of the application form be authorised to operate the above account as indicated in the withdrawal instructions in Section B of that form.

8. Membership Report:

No significant change.

9. Library:

Elizabeth Beaton's *Sutherland: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* (June 1995) is out of print. A new railway book is on order.

10. Historylinks Report:

Peter reported that many of the burgh documents 1900 – 1924 had been catalogued. A bonspiel medal from 1912 won by R.R. Johnstone (the chemist) had been donated. A new quiz has been produced, a popular activity with the younger visitors.

The new large display case will take 16 weeks to acquire, but the small one for the MacKay shooting prizes should arrive soon.

Railway film: The loco 'Dunrobin' will be in steam in Canada during the summer and Peter has arrangement for video footage to be shot. The Duke's carriage is in the Railway Museum, York, and permission to film can be obtained. The question of copyright about the footage we received from the Screen Archives is still to be resolved.

A group of farmers' wives visited the museum on 11 April and P4 Dornoch Primary had visit earlier. The Inverness Historical Society with 40 participants is to visit.

The museum is now mentioned in several promotional leaflets. Postcards of the 'The Morning Train' are now on sale.

The matrix seal is to arrive later in April.

11. A.O.C.B

- a) Mari Mason née McAskill from Dornoch is to send Rena some information and photos.
- b) Jean presented a series of six short books about Bonar edited by Sara Horne who could be a possible speaker. Jean is to order the books needed for the complete set.
- c) Next newsletter to come out in August.

d) Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 28 June 2006

7.30 pm at Historylinks.

6 May 2006

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

28 June 2006

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairperson | John Barnes |
| Present | Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild |
| Apologies | Jean Birkett, Ken Bromage, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper |

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved on condition that the Secretary included the letter of condolence sent by DHS to Graeme Ross under item 3.

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** Jackie Aitken (see 10 below) could help organise as part of her outreach work in schools.
Robin and Peter to investigate.
- b) **Skelbo:** Robin reported on his site visit with the Historic Scotland inspector, Olwyn Owen, and Anne Coombs. Ms Owen was very enthusiastic about the site and had proposals that DHS members could carry out work like clearing vegetation to secure the ruins better. She would also support a dig in the middle of the site which contains most variations of medieval castle architecture. Robin has written to HS expressing interest in preserving the site and requesting that stabilisation work be done. HS cannot move until the owner has been traced and has given his permission.
Robin to contact Highland Council Planning to find out who the owner is. If this fails, he is to contact the Land Registry with an enquiry.
It was suggested that Malcolm Bangor-Jones be contacted for advice and support.

3. Correspondence:

- a) **From Mary Gall:** Photocopies of an article by Malcolm Bangor-Jones about building work at Skelbo 1723 – 1787.
- b) **To Col. John Swallow:** Condolences on the death of his wife Cynthia.

4. Marketing:

Peter reported that the set-up of the computer at the latest Coffee Morning had worked well. It was agreed to repeat the exercise at the Sutherland County Show on 22 July.

Robin to ensure that power was available and to arrange a rota of volunteers to erect, manage and dismantle the stall.

Peter to supply a third stand with photos that we need identifying.

Articles and books from Historylinks to be sold, in particular stuff for children..

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Morning: £460 was raised, best result in a while. Norman Tulloch (dentist) has kindly promised to donate plants for each spring sale and requested pots to put them in.

6. Events Programme:

a) Excursions:

Rossal: Robin reported that The Rogart Heritage Society preferred a later visit, towards the end of August or early September.

Strathpeffer: To be held on Saturday 23 or 30 September, 1pm to 6pm, with a maximum charge of £3 for individual members. Booking through Ullabritt.

Robin to organise. Queries about charge to visit Pump Room and what size coach can access Knockfarrel.

b) AGM: Thursday 14 September in the West Church Hall. To celebrate 25 years of DHS with slide show. Refreshments. Only Ullabritt is required to step down

It was agreed that Society events should be photographed as a record.

c) Lectures during next winter season: The timetable below is preliminary; dates and speakers will vary as contact is made.

Date

Activity
Venue

Sept
14
AGM
West Church Hall

Oct
19
Tom Tew on Donald Ross
RDGC

Nov
16
The history of crofting – John Gall and or Russell Smith
Royal Golf Hotel

Dec
14
Skelbo Night – local experts, Malcolm Bangor-Jones
Royal Golf Hotel

Jan
18
A Taste of Burns
Royal Golf Hotel

Feb
15
Birdlife in the area and the possible effect of windfarms – Ian Patterson SNH or a RSPB rep
Royal Golf Hotel

Mar
15
Allan Kilpatrick on military archaeology
Royal Golf Hotel

- A Taste of T

7. Treasurer's Report:

- Current position:** The Treasurer could report that the Society still has more than £22,000 at its disposal.
- Signatories:** The change of signatories for the current account at the Clydesdale Bank is relatively straightforward and Robin is in the process of arranging for Ken, John and himself to be officially recorded.
Changing the signatories for the Bank of Scotland Savings account is more complicated as the forms do not apply to the situation when two signatories are to be changed at the same time:
Robin to check again with bank.

8. Membership Report:

No significant change.

9. Library:

A new railway book has been bought and small books on Scottish uniforms.

10. Historylinks Report:

Peter reported that Jackie Aitken, Brora, would be working 2 days a month for the next year. Her task is to arrange outreach activities like workshops and community projects..

The matrix is now on display.

The Robert Mackay display is almost complete. It was agreed that DHS would pay for the costs of

approximately £300.

A new large display case with stand is needed at an approximate cost of £800. It was agreed to look favourably at any application for contribution from the museum.

A display about the hotels is planned.

The number of visitors has been satisfactory.

Railway film: an opportunity to film 'Dunrobin' in steam was missed but a new attempt will be made. A clip from the Friese-Green documentary on BBC2 shows the Cambusmore level crossing; negotiations to use are in progress. Peter and Robin are to find out what relevant material is in Dunrobin Castle museum and archives. Historylinks now owns the complete copyright to all footage in the earlier railway film.

The website is to be updated in late July.

11. A.O.C.B

It was agreed that the visitor guide did not yet need revising with regard to changes in displays.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 30 August 2006

7.30 pm at Historylinks.

6 August 2006

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 August 2006

Chairperson Peter Wild
Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman
Apologies John Barnes, Ken Bromage, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** Peter Wild has yet to talk to Jacquie Aitken about her possible involvement.
- b) **Skelbo:** Robin reported Malcolm Bangor-Jones had agreed to speak on Skelbo in December and had supplied the Society with copies of articles which gave clues as to the name of the present baron and landowner. Robin had also received a formal reply from Historic Scotland stating that they could not assist until the land-owner had been found and his permission to carry out work had been received. It was suggested that the local solicitors may know how to contact the baron. An appeal to members for information is included in the current newsletter.

3. Correspondence:

None

4. Marketing:

It was agreed that the presence of the Society at the Sutherland Show had been successful as far as the organisation and presentation were concerned. A few new members had been attracted. Income from the articles sold covered the cost of the stand, but only just.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Morning: Saturday 11 November.

6. Events Programme:

- a) **Excursions:**
Strathpeffer: Robin reported that he had failed to make contact with the story-teller. The excursion was postponed until next summer.
- b) **Liaison with other societies:** following a discussion of the events programme of the Golspie Heritage Society, it was agreed to contact neighbouring historical societies with a view to publicising each others' programmes on society websites.
- c) **AGM:** Thursday 14 September in the West Church Hall. To celebrate 25 years of DHS with slide show. Robin to organise projector and laptop from Tain. Peter to organise refreshments. Jean and Peter agreed to talk to several members about joining the Committee. Robin stated that he felt that with the number of secretary and treasurer posts that he now had that he was not able to give his position as DHS secretary the attention it deserved and he hoped that a replacement could be found. It was recommended that Ken mention in his report to the AGM the reason why DHS had not taken a public stand on the question of the house development in the Square. It was agreed to nominate Mr and Mrs G Larrad as honorary life members in recognition of the enthusiastic support they had given the Society's events.
- d) **Lectures during next winter season:** The timetable below has been distributed in the autumn newsletter.

Date
Activity
Venue

Sept
14
AGM
West Church Hall

Oct
19

Tom Tew on Donald Ross
RDGC

Nov
16
The history of crofting – Alistair McIver
Royal Golf Hotel

Dec
14
Skelbo Night – local experts, Malcolm Bangor-Jones
Royal Golf Hotel

Jan
18
A Taste of Burns
Royal Golf Hotel

Feb
15
Local wildlife – Ian Paterson HC ranger
Royal Golf Hotel

Mar
15
Allan Kilpatrick on military archaeology
Royal Golf Hotel

- A Taste

7. Treasurer's Report:

- Current position:** The Treasurer could report that the Society still has more than £22,000 at its disposal.
- Signatories:** The change of signatories for the current account at the Clydesdale Bank has taken place. Bank of Scotland/ Halifax Savings account needs to be closed and reopened with new names in the pass-book

8. Membership Report:

10 new members.

9. Library:

Nothing to report

10. Historylinks Report:

The main thrust of Peter's report was the progress being made on the new railway film. So far filming had gone well and was due to be completed during the first half of September. Editing would then take several months.

11. A.O.C.B

- Rena pointed out that the path from the Evelix road to the Lonemore road was overgrown. Robin is to contact the HC access officer to ask for maintenance to be done.
- The owners of Proncy Mill Farm have pointed out that the monument to the Ferry disaster by the entrance to their garden was in need of care. Peter agreed to go and see them and the monument.

12. Date of next meeting:

To be decided after the AGM.

Subsequent decision:

Thursday 5 October 2006
7.30 pm at Historylinks.

16 September 2006

Robin Ashby

We have been invited to attend the AGM of Voluntary Groups East Sutherland on Friday 24 Nov at 7.30 pm at the Golf Club in Golspie. Often a good evening.

Guest speaker: HC Convenor Alison Magee.

Please let me know by 15th if you wish to attend.

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 October 2006

Chairperson John Barnes
Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, George Munro, Cliff Reddin
Apologies Ken Bromage, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper, Peter Wild

1. "New" Member

The Chairman welcomed George Munro back onto the Committee.

2. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

3. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** Peter Wild has yet to talk to Jacquie Aitken about her possible involvement.
- b) **Skelbo:** Robin reported that the leads he has on the identity and whereabouts of the Baron of Skelbo have not yet produced a clear result. The Lord Lyon had informed the Society that his organisation did not have the information registered. Arthur & Carmichael had explained why such a registration had not been required in the 1990s and regretted they could not supply any forwarding address.

4. Correspondence:

- a) Condolences from the Society to Mrs Sinclair on the death of her husband.
- b) From Mary Gall – an article about the preservation of ruins in Assynt

5. Marketing:

Nothing to record.

6. Fund-raising:

Coffee Morning: Saturday 11 November. As usual with a computer display of Historylinks archives and goods from the Historylinks shop.

It being Armistice Day, the customary silence will be observed. Ken hopes to arrange for a bugler to play.

7. Events Programme:

- a) **Lectures during next winter season:** The timetable below has been distributed. Robin is to seek clarity about whether the Royal Golf Hotel will remain available. Alternative venues such as the Free Church Hall or the Golf Club were discussed.
Each speaker is to receive a copy of the History of the Royal burgh of Dornoch.

Date
Activity
Venue

Oct
19
Tom Tew on Donald Ross
RDGC

Nov
16
The history of crofting – Alistair McIver
Royal Golf Hotel

Dec

14

Skelbo Night - local experts, Malcolm Bangor-Jones
Royal Golf Hotel

Jan

18

A Taste of Burns
Royal Golf Hotel

Feb

15

Local wildlife - Ian Paterson HC ranger
Royal Golf Hotel

Mar

15

Allan Kilpatrick on military archaeology
Royal Golf Hotel

- Taste

8. Treasurer's Report:

- a) **Current position:** The Treasurer could report that the Society still has more than £22,000 at its disposal. He could not be more exact until he had seen the bank statement covering the standing orders payable on or around 1st October.
- b) **AGM:** It was agreed that modest cost of providing refreshments had been well worthwhile and the practise should be continued in future years.

9. Membership Report:

There is a steady flow of subscription payments, many through Historylinks.

10. Library:

A few donations of books about Dornoch had been made and more would appreciated.

11. Historylinks Report:

Regarding the collections, nothing new to report. Sue Higgins is doing such sterling work it has been agreed to retain her services part-time over the winter. In the future the grants received by Historylinks may not sustain this employment and the Society may be asked to contribute.

12. A.O.C.B

- a) The owners of Proncy Mill Farm had pointed out that the monument to the Ferry disaster by the entrance to their garden was in need of care. No one present had inspected the monument recently. There was a discussion about whether it would be more appropriate to move the monument to Meikle Ferry. (*On inspection, I discovered that the monument commemorates only the Sheriff who died in the disaster and his preaching in a place of worship that used to be located just north of the monument. Robin*)
- b) Jean raised the subject of the airstrip and its previous use. *A Steep Turn to the Stars* by Jim Hughes contains some information; there is a copy in Historylinks library. It was proposed that Jacquie Aitken raise the topic with her oral history group the next meeting of which is on 25th October at 2pm.
- c) Rena Had pointed out that the path from the Evelix road to the Lonemore road was overgrown. Robin reported that the HC Access Officer had promised to inspect the path if DHS told him which one was in question. Robin will ask Rena for clarification and pass on the information to the officer who had promised to see what he could do, although he did not have a maintenance team.

13. Date of next meeting:

***Wednesday 29 November 2006
7.30 pm at Historylinks.***

5 November 2006

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 November 2006

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, George Munro, Rena Oman

Apologies Jean Birkett, Ken Bromage, Ian Ross-Harper, Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** No information.
- b) **Skelbo:** Robin reported on the new leads on the Baron of Skelbo he had got from Highland Council with phone numbers in Russia, Georgia and London. However no contact had been yet made.
- c) **Oral History Group:** It has been meeting regularly, though numbers are still small. Equipment training is complete. Meetings once a month are planned. George is to raise the topic of the airstrip's history at the meeting on 18 December.
- d) **Lonemore path:** Robin reported that he had passed on the information that Matt Dent, Access Officer, had requested but Matt had not committed himself to any action yet.

3. Correspondence:

None.

4. Marketing:

Nothing to record.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Morning: Saturday 11 November. It went well as usual with the added feature of piping and the observing of two minutes' silence. It raised £480 net. The Committee would like to see a breakdown of the figures for the different activities in order to review them prior to the next coffee morning.

6. Events Programme:

With the possible imminent closing of the Royal Golf Hotel, alternative venues were discussed including the Dornoch Hotel (Shearings).

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society has a bank balance of almost £23,800

8. Membership Report:

The Committee reviewed the list of members that Ullabritt had recorded as not having paid their current subscription and could identify some members who could no longer be reckoned as such. Ullabritt also reported that it was sometimes not possible to identify some of the members who had paid by standing order from the details given on the relevant bank statement. It was suggested that the Clydesdale bank be asked to provide the sort codes for these unidentified members.

9. Library:

No report

10. Historylinks Report:

No report

11. A.O.C.B

- a) Several attendees independently raised the subject of the name of the proposed housing development on the Evelix Road. It was agreed that 'The Willows' had little connection with the site culturally, especially as there were no willows growing there or close by. It was agreed that:
 - Robin would write to Tulloch Homes explaining the reaction to the proposed name and ask that it be changed with copies to Duncan Allan and the Community Council.
 - Robin is to find out how names of new streets etc. are decided
 - Ken and or Peter Fairgrieve can take the matter forward in the Community Council if necessary
 - John is to research historically suitable names in the archives
- b) The next newsletter is to include a promotional piece on the Oral History Group stressing the need for both interviewers and interviewees. It is also to invite suggestion suitable name for the new housing developments and the new streets that will be adopted.

12. Date of next meeting:

***Wednesday 24 January 2007
7.30 pm at Historylinks.***

29 December 2006

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
24 January 2007

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, George Munro, Rena Oman, Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies Jean Birkett, Ken Bromage, Ian Ross-Harper,

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

a) **Prize for history project:** Too late to do anything this academic year. Robin to raise subject with John Garvie again.

b) **Skelbo:** No results yet in determining address of Baron of Skelbo. It was suggested that the occupier of the cottage by the approach to the ruins may have details as may the new owner of Skelbo House who is reportedly interested in preserving the site.

George Munro mentioned the expensive possibility of using an enquiring agent. He also raised the possibility of registering interest in a community buyout. This would probably mean forming a Company Limited by Guarantee with around 20 subscribers.

c) **Oral History Group:** No meeting has been held but there are still two active members.

d) **Name of Housing development:** As instructed Robin has been in correspondence with Tulloch Homes about "The Willows". The company assures the Society that the name is a temporary one to easily identify the development and will not be used on a permanent basis later. The name had been prompted by a comment made by Cllr Allan. The naming of streets is the prerogative of the Community Council. Research has not yet turned up an obviously pertinent name for the area.

e) **Newsletter:** the Committee thanked Robin for the latest issue which had attracted great interest. Cliff is to exhibit a copy in the Society's noticeboard by the Library and the key to the noticeboard is to be kept at Historylinks in future.

3. Correspondence:

Robin has completed the annual registration of the Society as a charity with The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

4. Marketing:

Same procedure as last year at the Sutherland Show.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Mornings: Saturdays 12 May and 10 November. The ad box in the Raggie has been booked for the editions immediately prior to the event.

Cliff presented a breakdown of income for the two previous Mornings. A discussion on the sale of books led to the decision to reduce the number of books in favour of plants.

The Society has been kindly offered plants for the event by Norman Tulloch but he requests plant trays and the

use of a cold frame. Rena is to talk to Basil Hellier and Dave Hewson to see if they can help with the cold frame, while John promised to source the trays.

Farmers' Market: the possibility of taking a stall at one of summer markets to sell holiday reading was discussed.

6. Events Programme:

a) **Talks venue:** Following the closing of the Royal Golf Hotel the talk in February will be held in West Church Hall and the one in March in Royal Dornoch Golf Club. Robin is to write to Peter de Savary explaining the connection between the Society and the Royal Golf Hotel in the hope that the Society will be welcome back to the hotel once its refurbishment is complete with the promise that all hotel guests will be welcome to attend our talks gratis and chat with members afterwards.

b) **Taste of Burns:** the event on 18 January was the best yet regarding the programme, while the catering was disappointing. The Society is most grateful to Mary Gall for putting the programme together and inviting so many talented people to take part. Robin is to express these thanks to Mary with flowers.

c) **Annual Lunch:** Robin is to investigate combining this event with the proposed trip to Strathpeffer in May. Possible restaurants were discussed: Storehouse of Foulis, Tulloch Castle or a restaurant in Strathpeffer itself.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society has a bank balance of almost £23,900

8. Membership Report:

Ullabritt reported that a few defaulters have paid after reminders had been sent out with the newsletter. There are still around 25. A list is to be supplied to Historylinks.

9. Library:

No report

10. Historylinks Report:

The film is still in the time-consuming process of editing which has been delayed somewhat by a bereavement for the filmmaker, Brian Anderson. Also he finds the lack of images from before the building frustrating. Peter is to go through archives in Edinburgh to find material. A recording of the "Dunrobin" in steam in Canada has arrived, unfortunately in edited shape. The Society needs to think about how to premiere the film in late spring. The new display case is in place.

Risk assessments have been carried out again and the museum has been promoted for professional guides.

Extra work needs doing to keep the museum's accreditation.

Help is needed to scan in Basil Hellier's postcard collection.

It was agreed to have a complete spring clean on Saturday 10 March with a team of around a dozen volunteers.

Soup and rolls will be provided.

11. A.O.C.B

a) Rena enquired about the crow steps on the roof and whether they could be waterproofed. Peter said that Michael Banks inspected them on a regular basis and recommended treatment every two years.

b) Rena expressed concern that the new owner of the Royal Golf Hotel might infringe on Common Good Land if the property is expanded seawards.

c) Rena expressed surprise that the programme of the Caithness and Sutherland Walking festival, part of Highland Year of Culture 2007, had no events in East Sutherland.

d) George raised the question of the memorial to Sheriff MacCulloch by Proncy Mill Farm. He reported that the railings were rusty and the inscribed text difficult to read. Should any work be done, the present owner's permission is required.

Cliff is to research in the Northern Times archive the circumstances around the monument's erection in 1914 which could indicate who the original owners were.

Peter is to discuss possible treatments with Anne Coombs.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 28 February 2007

7.30 pm at Historylinks.

4 February 2007

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
28 February 2007

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, George Munro, Rena Oman, Peter Wild

Apologies Ken Bromage, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** Too late to do anything this academic year. Robin to raise subject with John Garvie again.
- b) **Skelbo:** Robin reported on a meeting with the inhabitant of the cottage next to the site who added a few details about the Baron but could not help locate him.
- c) **Oral History Group:** No meeting has been held but there are still two active members.
- d) **Sherriff MacCulloch memorial:** Peter has yet to contact Anne Coombs.

3. Correspondence: None.

4. Marketing:

The Farmers' Market organisation wishes its events to be strictly about selling food and does not welcome a bookstall.

It was agreed though to have a stall at the Wemyss Fair if it is held.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Mornings: John has supplied Norman Tulloch with plant trays via Cliff. The use of a green house to grow on the plants has not been solved.

6. Events Programme:

- a) **Talks venue:** Since the Royal Golf Hotel will not be opening during next lecture season, Robin has not written to Peter de Savary. Hopefully Royal Dornoch Golf Club will be able to help next season.
- b) **Taste of Burns:** Robin reported that he had delivered a house-plant to Mary Gall with the Society's thanks for her arrangements.
- c) **Annual Lunch:** Robin had not heard from the storyteller despite several attempts to contact him. Robin and Ullabritt reported that they would look for a restaurant in Strathpeffer

itself since Storehouse of Foulis could not accommodate us. They would also inspect Knockfarrel. The possibility of including a visit to the maritime Museum in Invergordon was discussed. The excursion should take place in May (not the 12th) or June.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society has a bank balance of almost £23,800 having made a slight loss on the Burn's event (£37). The trustees are to request a contribution towards the new display cabinet and Robin was empowered to pay 50% of the invoice when presented.

8. Membership Report:

Nothing significant to report

9. Library:

New addition in the Shires series: Scottish Coins

10. Historylinks Report:

The new display cabinet has been installed and is a success.

School resource boxes have been completed for use by schools within a 25-mile radius. The project has been funded 100% by outside sources.

As part of the Highland Year of Culture 2007, there will be a link between Historylinks and Allsorts with a variety of activities including story-telling and workshops. One target is to produce dressing up kits for Vikings, fishermen, crofting etc. Bob Rigg has been engaged.

The railway film is progressing and the content of the DVD packet is taking form.

Details were agreed for the complete spring clean on Saturday 10 March.

A new computer has been acquired for cataloguing.

Robin agreed to scan in the postcards from Basil Hellier's collection.

11. A.O.C.B

a) Following inquiries it was agreed to update the website with archaeological content.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 25 April 2007

7.30 pm at Historylinks.

18 April 2007

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
25 APRIL 2007

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, George Munro, Rena Oman, Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies Ken Bromage, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved

2. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** Robin has talked to Mike Hook who has promised to look into how the prize could be integrated into the curriculum
- b) **Skelbo:** Robin reported that phone calls he had made had not given any result in finding the address of the Baron. It was suggested he contact the Russian embassy. Malcolm Bangor-Jones has sent a set of photocopies of newspaper articles about attempts to preserve the buildings prior to 1995.
- c) **Oral History Group:** The schools project has taken precedence so there has been little progress apart from an interview of the Grey sisters by Kathleen Charlish.
- d) **Sherriff MacCulloch memorial:** Cliff has copied the inscription. Anne Coombs has recommended that no work be done on the stone. A transcript of the text is to be made and an exhibition prepared once all relevant information has been collected.
- e) **Website update:** Basic archaeological material has been added together with information about the newly formed Dornoch Firth Archaeological Group.

3. Correspondence:

DHS was conducted for information to help publicise the national survey of spinning-wheels that would be holding an event in Rogart on 12 May.

4. Marketing:

- a) **County Show:** A table has been booked.
- b) **"Heritage Road Show":** It was agreed that Historylinks would be represented at Strathpeffer on 5 May.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Mornings: Robin is to emphasise bedding plants on posters and other promotional material. Help to set up on the Friday would be appreciated.

6. Events Programme:

- a) **Talks venue:** Ken Bromage has reached an agreement with Royal Dornoch Golf Club to use the dining-room as our venue during next season free of charge. It was agreed that a staff tip of £100 would be paid and that there would be an exchange of letters regulating the situation.

b) **Speakers:** The following speakers were proposed:

Dr Michael Simpson, Golspie, on the Sutherland Volunteers

Jacque Aitken on the Salt Pans of Brora

Elizabeth Beaton on vernacular architecture

Someone from Tain

Willie Shaw (friend of John Gall) on farming techniques

Tony Mainwood from the local bird group (Cliff to contact)

Also it was discussed whether the new railway film could be premiered in the Dornoch Hotel.

c) **Annual Lunch:** It was decided to visit Strathpeffer on 9 June by coach which DHS would pay for. Robin and Ullabritt are to arrange a restaurant and suitable activities in the spa alone. A short visit to Invergordon was thought too much. Jennifer Maxwell at the Museum of Childhood would be a suitable first contact. The event is to be publicised in the Dornoch section of the NT and at the Coffee Morning.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society has a bank balance of almost £23,500 after making the contribution towards the new display cabinet.

8. Membership Report:

Total number of recorded members was 250 of whom the vast majority had paid their subs.

9. Library:

Architecture of Sutherland by Elizabeth Beaton

10. Historylinks Report:

Amongst donated items was property from the late Miss Lyon, from the Swallow family, including copies of the Edinburgh Almanac of 1816 and 1817.

As part of museum accreditation, a new Forward Plan has been produced and it was distributed.

It was suggested that the preliminary order for the railway DVD should be 200 following a proof viewing by the trustees. It should be launched in West Church Hall if the Dornoch Hotel is not available.

11. A.O.C.B

a) Progress on the Camore amphitheatre was discussed.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 13 June 2007

7.30 pm at Historylinks.

12 June 2007

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
13 June 2007

Chairperson Ken Bromage

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, John Barnes, George Munro, Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild (from 6c)

Apologies Jean Birkett, Rena Oman, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved after the Secretary apologised for not distributing them before the meeting: he was convinced that today's meeting was scheduled for later.

2. Matters arising:

a) **Prize for history project:** No further progress

b) **Skelbo:** No further progress.

c) **Oral History Group:** No further progress temporarily but a renewed effort will be made at the end of the summer according to George.

d) **Sheriff MacCulloch memorial:** No further action on monument. The desirability of an exhibition in 2009 to mark the two hundredth anniversary of the Meikle Ferry Disaster was discussed.

e) **Railway DVD:** The material has been proofed by the trustees. A disclaimer about copyrighting is to be added. The package has been priced at £14.95 for members and the in the museum shop. It will be advertised at £19.95 incl. p&p in magazines.

3. Correspondence:

Following a quick consultation with committee members at the Coffee Morning, the Secretary submitted an objection to planning application FULSU 7/175 for the demolition of Cnoc-Na-Moine, Church Street and erection of larger house on the plot on the grounds that it would significantly impact of the vernacular architecture in Littleton. (*The Society has since received notification that planning permission has been refused*).

4. Marketing:

a) **County Show:** A table with power supply has been booked. The same procedure as last year with two screens and possibility of ordering railway DVD. John is to supply the extra peripherals.

b) **"Heritage Road Show":** Historylinks was represented at Strathpeffer on 5 May with takings of £50 and the recruitment of two new members. The emphasis was on archaeology.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Mornings: A vote of thanks was accorded Cliff for organising the event which raised £562.40 net. See Appendix A for a breakdown of the takings. The plants were most successful (£140) and it is hoped that similar sales can be arranged next year. However Norman Tulloch has pointed out that Easter is earlier in 2008 and he may be on holiday at a crucial period. It was agreed that we should look at doing more of the work ourselves and finding suitable greenhouse accommodation was a first priority. Cliff has thanked Norman on the Society's behalf.

6. Events Programme:

a) **Talks venue:** The Society has exchanged letters with Royal Dornoch Golf Club about using the dining-room as our venue during next season. Robin is to agree dates with the Club Steward.

b) **AGM:** provisionally set for Thu 6 September (*now confirmed with RDGC*). Ken indicated he may resign. Possible new committee members were discussed.

It was agreed not to change the subscription rate.

It was also agreed not to put forward any candidates for honorary membership.

Talks dates: It was agreed that dates should be held on Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 13 (refreshments possibly), Feb 21 and March 20. There would also be a Taste of Burns on 17 or 24 January depending on what the Golf Club is planning: Robin to investigate.

c) Speakers:

Dr Michael Simpson, Golspie, on the Sutherland Volunteers is to be contacted by Peter Tony Mainwood from the local bird group has been agreed with Cliff: Robin to confirm Jennifer Maxwell (Museum of Childhood) has agreed to present Victorian Strathpeffer in March.

Janine Donald (Am Baile) is to be contacted by Robin.

John Wood on the dig in the Square: Peter to contact.

Jacque Aitken on the Salt Pans of Brora is to be held in reserve

d) **Annual Lunch:** A vote of thanks was accorded Ullabritt and Robin for organising the event and the great weather. However it was felt that next year's event, whether lunch or dinner should be in Dornoch and the matter is to be discussed as an item at the AGM.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society has a bank balance of almost £23,700 before paying for the coach to Strathpeffer.

8. Membership Report:

Total number of recorded members was 250 of whom the vast majority had paid their subs.

9. Library:

No new purchases.

10. Historylinks Report:

In September the Dornoch Firth Archaeology Group will be making a survey of a shell midden and plotting the anti-invasion posts on the beach.

As part of the Highland Archaeology Fortnight a walk through Dornoch guided by Anne Coombs, Jimmy Melville and Graeme Ross will be organised under the title "If Walls could Talk". The guiding will be recorded, a booklet produced and tea served after the walk. There will also be an exhibition about the dig in the Square.

Amongst donated items was a bottle found in a house renovation. It contained a note dating 1864 stating it had contained whisky which had been enjoyed by two of the workers.

The Northern Times has a large archive of photos that needs cataloguing. It is hoped that funding will be raised to carry out a partial cataloguing to start with and create a web archive. It is hoped the DVD will be ready for launching in early August. It was decided to premiere it in West Church Hall for members and invited guests who will include sponsors and those who have contributed to the film. Press coverage to be arranged.

As part of museum accreditation, a new Forward Plan has been produced and it was distributed.

11. A.O.C.B

None

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 15 August 2007

7.30 pm at Historylinks.

3 August 2007

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 August 2007

Chairperson Ken Bromage

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Rena Oman, Peter Wild

Apologies John Barnes, George Munro, Cliff Reddin, Ian Ross-Harper

1. Minutes of last meeting read and approved with the following amendments:

6b should read "Ken indicated that he would resign from the Committee."

10 should read "a new Forward Plan was being produced and proposals had been distributed for consultation."

2. Matters arising:

a) **Prize for history project:** No further progress

b) **Skelbo:** No further progress.

c) **Oral History Group:** A renewed effort will be made at the end of the summer. The town walk that is part of Highland Archaeology Fortnight will be recorded and it is hoped older inhabitants will take part and share their memories during the walk.

d) **Railway DVD:** The package is now on sale at £14.95 for members and in the museum shop. It is to be advertised at £19.95 incl. p&p in magazines. A review copy has been sent to Highland Railway Journal and six other magazines will receive copies. It is hoped a taster will be placed on the internet.

3. Correspondence:

The Society has received notification that planning permission has been refused for application FULSU 7/175 for the demolition of Cnoc-Na-Moine, Church Street. The Secretary has conveyed the Society's condolences to Sue Helal on the death of her husband.

4. Marketing:

County Show: the event was as per usual with expected outcomes: £60+ income for the museum shop and a moderate interested to become new members.

5. Fund-raising:

Coffee Mornings: Next one on November 10

6. Events Programme:

a) **AGM:** Thu 6 September

Ken will resign. Robin Ashby, John Barnes and Ian Ross-Harper are required to stand down as their three-year mandates come to a close. Ian is not expected to seek re-election and a vote of thanks at the AGM was deemed most appropriate.

Possible new committee members were discussed and Cliff, Rena and Robin are to approach potential candidates. An appeal to volunteer to come onto the Committee is to be made in the newsletter.

Three venues for the annual lunch were discussed: Tall Pines, West Church Hall with the Patisserie as caterers and Sutherland House – Robin is to check whether the last

proposal is feasible. A decision about the annual lunch is to be taken at the AGM.

Meetings: It was confirmed that meetings would take place in the clubhouse of Royal Dornoch Golf Club on Sep 6, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 13, Jan 17, Feb 21 and March 20

Speakers:

Dr Michael Simpson, Golspie, on the Sutherland Volunteers has been contacted by Peter but has not committed

Tony Mainwood has agreed and wondered whether he should talk about birds or butterflies and moths. The Committee would prefer birds.

Jennifer Maxwell (Museum of Childhood) has agreed to present Victorian Strathpeffer in March.

Janine Donald (Am Baile) has been contacted by Robin but has not committed.

John Wood has agreed to talk about the dig in the Square.

Jacquie Aitken on the Salt Pans of Brora is to be held in reserve

b) **Film premiere:** to be held from 2.30 pm on Saturday 13 October in West Church Hall.

Programme:

Demonstration of the DVD and its contents with a complete running of the micro-light sections.

Tea and biscuits

Main feature: the new film

Presentation of those involved in the new film and a vote of thanks to them.

Admission: the fire officer has established the maximum number of attendees. Once the invited guests, those involved with film in some way, have accepted, there may have to be a ballot for other people wishing to attend. Applications for ticket will have to be with Peter by 30 September to go into the ballot. If this is great demand for tickets a further showing will be arranged. This information is to be highlighted in the next newsletter.

Equipment: Robin is to arrange for the video projector from Tain.

7. **Treasurer's Report:**

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society has a bank balance of almost £23,700 before paying for the coach to Strathpeffer.

8. **Membership Report:**

Total number of recorded members was 250 of whom the vast majority had paid their subs.

9. **Library:**

No new purchases.

10. **Historylinks Report:**

There have been several well-attended events for children who seem to have enjoyed themselves greatly. On 21 July there was a mock archaeological dig. Artefacts, whole or broken were hidden in a large box of sand and the children excavated them. They then had to identify what the objects were or reason around what they might be used for. 32 children attended.

On 7 August there was a Dornoch Detectives' session. The children studied maps from different years noting the differences, they learnt about fashion through the ages and about weaving by producing their own cloth (made from paper strips).

Also Allsorts had after-school activities led by story-teller using the boxes of clothes

supplied by Historylinks.

Peter proposed that the Society and Historylinks hold an open evening in the museum with a 'museum treasure hunt' or similar quizlike activity and refreshments. Details to be determined at the next Committee meeting.

11. **A.O.C.B**

Robin enquired about the planning application for the rebuilding of the Royal Golf Hotel since several members had been in touch about it. Ken reported on the action taken by Dornoch Community Council and it was agreed to take no further action.

12. **Date of next meeting:**

*Thursday 6 September 2007
7 pm at Royal Dornoch Golf Club
A brief meeting prior to AGM*

27 August 2007

Robin Ashby

Appendix A

Coffee Morning takings

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Admission | 106.00 |
| Books | 34.00 |
| Bric-a-brac | 80.55 |
| Cakes | 55.70 |
| Donation | 10.00 |
| Lottery | 25.00 |
| Plants | 140.15 |
| Raffle | 134.00 |
| Income | 582.40 |
| Expenditure | ./ 20.00 |
| Profit | £562.40 |

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
6 September 2007

Chairman John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Steve Dallman, Gerard Fitzpatrick, George Munro, Rena Oman

Apologies Rick Bramley

1. The Chairman welcomed the new members of the Committee

2. Purchases

It was agreed that John and Robin would during September purchase a laptop for not more than £500 to use at the Society's events. Further it was agreed that they research the acquisition of a portable white screen with an area of at least 180 x 180 cm.

3. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 3 October 2007

7 30 pm at Historylinks

8 September 2007

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 October 2007

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Jean Birkett, Steve Dallman, Gerard Fitzpatrick
George Munro, Rena Oman: Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies Rick Bramley

1. Chairman's opening remarks:

John welcomed the new the Committee members. He distributed copies of the constitution and urged all to study it with a view to revising it.

2. Death of Ian Ross-Harper

The Society hereby records its great appreciation for all the efforts made by Ian to promote the Society and create Historylinks. It was agreed that Peter Wild would write an appreciation of Ian for the next newsletter assisted by Rena.

3. Minutes of the meetings held on 15 August and 6 September were read and approved

4. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** No further progress. The offer remains on the table.
- b) **Skelbo:** No further progress. The feasibility of a compulsory purchase order was discussed but no action was decided.
- c) **Oral History Group:** A renewed effort will be made. The town walk on 7 October will be recorded and it is hoped older inhabitants will take part and share their memories during the walk.
- d) **Purchases:** John has purchased a laptop with carrying bag and a 180 by 180 cm screen for £495.30. The Treasurer is to reimburse him. The screen is to be stored at Royal Dornoch Golf Club if possible: Robin to arrange.
The need for an anti-virus program was discussed, but as the laptop is not to be connected to the internet this was not regarded as a high priority. The laptop is to be used mainly for Powerpoint presentations etc. John offered to put together a small presentation to run as people gather for talks with current information about the Society and Historylinks.
Rick Bramley is to be asked if he is prepared to act as the laptop's custodian. John is to enquire if Historylinks' insurance covers this piece of property.

5. Correspondence:

The Chairman has sent the Society's condolences to the children of Ian Ross-Harper..

6. Fund-raising:

Coffee Mornings: Next one on November 10

7. Events Programme:

- a) **DVD launch:**
There will be a sound-check on Saturday 6 October to get the Society's equipment to work with the sound system in the West Church Hall.

On 13 October Peter Wild and Jimmy Melville will act as compères. The programme will start with some of the extra footage: then tea interval: main feature. The number of pre-bookings would indicate that the hall will be almost full and there will be no need for a repeat performance.

- b) **Autumn Social Event:** postponed until a date to be decided.
- c) **Annual Lunch:** the decision taken by the AGM to meet at Sutherland House was noted.

8. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society had a bank balance of over £23,800 before paying for the purchases under 4d and before membership paid on 1 October by standing order has been recorded.

9. Membership Report:

The number of members renewing their subscription has been satisfactory. Ullabritt is to supply Peter with a current list.

10. Library:

A book about Dunrobin Castle..

11. Historylinks Report:

The field-trip to Dornoch Point with the local archaeology group on 23 September had been attended by 12 people with 3 GPS units and had identified the position of 130 anti-invasion posts. The shell middens inspected had been of more than average interest. A display of the dig carried out in the summer prior to the housing in the Square being erected was currently housed in Historylinks
Activity kits for kids had been developed retailing at £1.99.

12. A.O.C.B

a) Constitution:

John asked for a review of the constitution in particular the objects under rule 2. He also asked the Committee to grant approval for talks and film shows in the name of the Society according to Rule 7.3. The Committee was happy to approve.

b) Website: John reported that he had updated the website significantly.

c) Signing in visitors at RDGC: Gerard and Steve raised the question of whether non-members of the golf club needed to sign in. It was agreed to find out what had been agreed between Ken Bromage and the club secretary.

d) Highland Council Trustee: Robin said he had contacted Phil Tomalin, Ward Manager, about a replacement trustee for Duncan Allan. John said that he had written to the HC CEO's office again.

13. Date of next meeting:

Monday 19 November 2007 at 7.30 pm in Historylinks

1 November 2007

Robin Ashby

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 November 2007

Chairperson John Barnes

Present Robin Ashby, Ullabritt Ashby, Rick Bramley, Steve Dallman, George Munro:
Cliff Reddin, Peter Wild

Apologies Jean Birkett, Gerard Fitzpatrick, Rena Oman

1. Chairman's opening remarks:

John welcomed the participants.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 15 August and 6 September were read and approved

3. Matters arising:

- a) **Prize for history project:** The Academy has been reminded. The item is to be removed from the agenda pending a reaction from the Academy.
- b) **Skelbo:** No further progress.
- c) **Oral History Group:** Cliff reported that he and Jean (Reddin) had talked to some of the inhabitants of Oversteps and that their reminiscences should be recorded. The Highland Homecoming Year 2009 may supply more impetus to the Group. The item is to be removed temporarily from the agenda.
- d) **Royal Dornoch Golf Club:** The Club has requested that all non-RDGC members sign in each time they visit the Clubhouse for DHS events. A signing-in list will be available at all events.
- e) **Highland Council Trustee:** Jim McGillivray is now acting as trustee instead of Duncan Allan. He has already contributed to the work of the Trust by helping to resolve planning issues anent the erection of an advertising banner.
- f) **Purchases:** Rick is acting as the laptop's custodian. The screen is currently stored at RDGC.

It was agreed to support the Trust's plans to purchase a video projector, hopefully funded by the ward discretionary fund. It was agreed that a wireless mouse/pointer should be as part of the equipment for talks; John had priced one at about £35.

4. Correspondence:

None

5. Fund-raising:

- a) **Coffee Mornings:** The receipts for the November one were distributed. Although the net amount taken was lower than the May event, Cliff remarked how well attended the event was with regard to the terrible weather that day. He added that the Museum Shop had made in excess of £200 which did not appear in the receipts.
May 10 and November 8 were selected for Coffee Mornings in 2008.
- b) **Plant sales:** Since Easter comes very early in 2008, Norman Tulloch will not be able to get supply the same number of plants as last year unless he receives significant help in pricking out and growing on. An appeal to members to help is to be made in the next newsletter.
A separate plant sale on the Green later in the year was discussed.

6. Events Programme:

A Taste of Burns:

Mary Gall has declined to arrange the entertainment. It was agreed that Helen Fairgrieve be asked to take that task on.

Robin is to negotiate the food and drink with the new catering steward, John Haslam, who ran the Royal Golf Hotel when we initiated the event there.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Current position: The Treasurer could report that the Society had a bank balance of over £25,000 with no invoices pending.

John said that the Trust was considering improving the software so that visitors could access more of the museum's information. Plexus of Cromarty was a possible supplier and the Trust may look to the Society for a contribution.

8. Membership Report:

Ullabritt reported that there were just under 200 members registered of whom 72 had not paid their sub for 2007/8. This number was reduced somewhat after a number of members were identified as having left Dornoch or having died.

9. Library:

East Sutherland Landscape, a photo book by Stonehouse.

10. Historylinks Report:

Scottish Museums are to hold a "Show Scotland" event across the country during the first week in May. The museum will be open for events for children in the afternoon and for adults in the evening. Competitions will feature as part of the event.

The resource boxes had been shown at the Primary School.

11. A.O.C.B

a) Norwegian soldiers:

Cliff reported on a conversation with Jessie Bell who had talked about the Norwegian king planting a tree with a commemorative plaque in the Cathedral shortly after the end of WWII. The tree had now been damaged. The possibility of DHS replacing the tree with the support of the Norwegian authorities was discussed but no action was decided.

b) Sarcophagus: Rick reported that the sarcophagus by the Cathedral needed repairs and a plaque. Rick is to raise the issue with Deacons' Court. It was agreed that information about the sarcophagus should be displayed in Historylinks.

c) St Andrew's Fair: Cliff reported that DHS had been approached about whether they would be prepared to sell hot chestnuts at the Fair like before. Since most of the Committee would be away at the time, the invitation was declined.

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 9 January 2008 at 7.30 pm in Historylinks

27 December 2007

Robin Ashby