

Sanday Heritage Group

Minutes of the meeting held at 2.30 p.m. on 3rd February 2016, at the Heritage Centre

Present: Myra Stockton (Chairman); Sylvia Thorne (Secretary); Roderick Thorne (Treasurer); Tony Lee; Heather Collinson; Jim Towrie; Rona Towrie; Liz Brown; Steve Ray; Ruth Peace (Custodian)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9.12.2015 were amended, Rod's error recorded the German U-boat's brief stranding as at Whitemill. This was corrected to Scuthvie; then the minutes were approved, proposed by Jim Towrie, seconded by Rona Towrie.

Matters arising from the minutes:

a. Interpretation Board for The Croft: Sylvia showed the Burnt Mound 'mock-up' Interpretation panel that had been sent by Jo, and it was agreed that a similar layout be followed for the panel to be associated with The Croft. Jim and Rona had provided plenty of ideas for the main illustration. Art Machine would manufacture both A1-sized boards (and also the one already designed for Lopness); while it was hoped Ean Peace would agree to build stone plinths for both. Jo Hambly had also sent samples of 3 different materials which might be used for the panels themselves. It was agreed that Art Machine should advise us about the one most likely to last longest. Costs of panels and labour and materials of plinths would be met equally by SCAPE (Burnt Mound) and Heritage Group (using the 2015/16 Culture Fund grant). * At the end of the meeting, after some members had left because of farm-work and other commitments, it was agreed that on Wednesday 10th February at 2.30 p.m. we'd look at sheds and field, to consider sheds for storage and to try to decide on orientation and siting of plinths (Ruth to ask Ean to estimate costs for both plinths; all to reconvene more briefly, next Wednesday 10th February)

b. Fire Inspection, Risk Assessment, First Aid Training: these had not yet happened (Ruth to remind Raymond Brown – Sanday Fire Brigade, and to liaise with Rosemary Newton to agree mutually suitable times and dates for them to visit. Ruth to undertake First Aid refresher training at SDT expense)

c. Film Night/'The Field': Several members had looked up the film; Rod had ordered it and recommended it for showing at another film night. After discussion it was agreed that there should be another Film night, but that we should now wait until the autumn and book a suitable date after the summer. (Sylvia to book a date in September/October)

h. Disabled Access: No further advice had been given, though Brian Clouston (Orkney Care & Repair) was, it was thought, visiting next week. (Ruth was hoping/expecting to meet with Brian Clouston next week)

i. Leaking Windows: Steve reported that R. Clouston had not replied to his letter. Steve had 'phoned him, but R. Clouston maintains that the seals his firm mended are now fine. Any other problems, he says, are our fault and responsibility. R. Clouston has promised to try to arrange to visit next week and to inspect with Steve. Steve will keep ringing him until he does come. (Sylvia will arrange to show Steve which windows have been attended; Steve is keen for other members to try to attend when/if R. Clouston is known to be coming; Ruth will try to be there)

j. Forward Plan: Myra thanked Ruth for her work in the production of this important document, the initial step towards Museum Accreditation. One or two small amendments were suggested and noted; when these have been made the Plan will be forwarded to MGS. (Ruth to take advice from Gail Drinkel, Orkney Museum, about whether or not The Croft should be included in accession-logging; Myra, Steve and Ruth to sign and send off the document to MGS)

k. Culture Fund 2016/17 application: Rod reported that he had NOT followed up the suggestion of the Iron Age Round House as a restoration/reconstruction/replica project, because it seemed too difficult to cost the idea in time for the deadline for applications – 18th January 2016. He

outlined the application which detailed possible smaller projects, including interior information panels (including a timeline), audio-units for The Croft, and leaflets outlining ongoing Sanday Heritage discoveries. Steve reminded Rod that the Group should notify SDT P&G Officer of future intentions to make grant applications (Rod to email copies of the full application to all members, and to P&G Officer)

I. Appiehouse Stone: Members had been circulated with copies of email exchanges between Gail Drinkell and Stephen Gordon (Historic Scotland). On Gail's advice, no mention had been made of the stone in the 2016/17 Culture Fund application, because it would be April 2016 before the OIC would be considering our request to have the Stone returned to Sanday. Sylvia had written this formal request after the last meeting of the group. (We await developments, but, as pointed out by Rona and Tony, it is likely that some kind of plinth and glass screen/case will be more suitable than 'roping off' an area, because our display space is always so limited. Also, Ruth feels that a case is likely to be more suitable for the approval of the Accreditation process.

Agenda Items

1. **Finance:** Rod reported that he and Liz (SDT Treasurer) had met recently to try to reconcile SDT reporting with his own records of income and expenditure of the Group for the year since April 2015. Small mistakes had been noted in both sets of records. These had been rectified, and there was now reckoned to be close agreement between these records. Overall, the Group's running costs had been more than met by income, though at present electricity bills are being paid by the balance of funding left over from the LEADER project, and not attributed to the Heritage Group's funds. Steve confirmed that staffing costs, and buildings insurance, were costs met from central SDT funds. Ruth reported that more electricity would have been used this year, because of winter openings and more heating, and she was given the go-ahead to order more Shop stock for this coming season. Rod's summary of this year's income and expenditure is as follows...

Income from donations	£1,859.45
Income from Shop	£3,244.50
Income from Fund-raising	£160.50
Total	£5,264.45

Expenditure on Shop stock	£2,435.14
Other expenditure	£2,083.55
Total	£4,518.69

Shop profit	£809.36
Overall surplus since April	£745.76

2. **Battle of Jutland:** Rod and Myra summarized progress towards the Heritage Group's day of events planned for Saturday June 4th; including
 - a. Special exhibition focusing on B-98 and U-70
 - b. Visits by German consul-general (June 2nd) & grandson of B-98 Flotilla commander (June 4th)

- c. Presentation by Angus Konstam
- d. Unveiling of Interpretation board & visit to B-98 at low-tide June 4th
- e. Tidy-up of road-sign, beach & picnic area before end of May
- f. Attempts to acquire copies of the two 1-hour documentaries 'Scotland's War at Sea' for showing (perhaps on June 3rd?)
- g. Refreshments/Lunch on June 4th

(After the meeting, Rod and Myra suggested that there should be a meeting of the Group to plan and publicise the day)

Several members had to leave the meeting after this item, because of other commitments. Those remaining considered the item below...

3. **Blacksmith's bellows offered by George Simpson:** Rona described this offer, which was readily accepted. At present storage is our main problem, and this artefact is quite sizeable. Sylvia offered space in a Nearhouse outbuilding as a temporary measure. Rona set minds wondering whether a future ambition of the group might be to recreate an old-fashioned Smithy.

Here are the 'extras', not discussed because no more time...

- a. Letter to Clare Gee, Arts & Museums, OIC, about OIC website, OIC leaflet, B-98 gun
- b. Letter to Kenny Roy, OIC Roads department re Lopness Road Sign
- c. Agreement to meet next Wednesday, 10th February, 2.30 p.m., to look at the 2 sheds (storage?), and the Heritage field (to decide on siting and orientation of the two panels)
- d. Rod suggests that new Ranger Emma Webb should be invited to join the Heritage Group
- e. Rod seeks approval to reclaim costs of 4 books and DVD (The Field) from SDT Heritage Group Funding (which will include the WW1 Culture Fund grant). Total costs £20.40
- f. Imogen's emailed request for updating of Heritage Group information on SDT website

4. Date of next meeting not yet fixed.