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**DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP BUSINESS MEETING****Minutes of DSG Business Meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 0900 via Microsoft Teams.**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Struan Mackie	DSG Chair
	Davie Alexander	DSG Vice-chair & Socio Economic sub group chair
	Gillian Coghill	DSG Site Restoration sub group chair
	Cllr Willie Mackay	DSG Deputy Site Restoration sub group chair
	Roger Saxon	DSG Honorary Member
	June Love	DSG Secretariat, DSRL
	Dawn Clasper	DSG Minute Secretary, DSRL

**MINUTES****1. WELCOME**

While Chair, Cllr Struan Mackie joined the meeting he asked David Alexander to chair as he had a throat infection and was struggling to talk. David Alexander therefore chaired the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Ron Gunn.

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

David Alexander noted that there were no minutes of the last meeting as this had been an ad hoc meeting just prior to the DSG Public meeting held on 9 June 2021.

David Alexander noted that the draft public meeting minutes circulated to the Business meeting were very comprehensive. June Love noted she was checking one topic for factual accuracy prior to sending draft minutes to all DSG members.

**4. ACTION STATUS**

David Alexander noted that there was an increase in the number of actions which had come from the June public meeting. Of note discussion centred on:

- DSG(2021)M02/A004: DSG Chair to write to MOD, copied to UK Government Minister for Defence setting out the proposal as agreed with regards MOD engagement with DSG.

David Alexander noted that there was a very good balance to the letter and covered the timeline so it could be easily understood by someone who read the letter that was not aware of the historical issues. He confirmed he was happy for the letter to be distributed. This was agreed all members in attendance.

**5. SSG CHAIR'S FORUM WORKING GROUP**

David Alexander noted he had attended the second SSG Chair's working forum, he provided background on why this had been set up and who attends. The main topics being discussed covered scrutiny, membership and funding of the SSG's with the NDA going forward. The Chair of the SSG Chairs Forum working group had written to Paul Valance and John McNamara regarding the NDA's policy going forward and for confirmation of when NDA would be carrying out a review of all SSG's guidance. David Alexander noted that if NDA provides the output of the review it could be that SSGs would not necessarily agree and if that was the case DSG could continue with its own independent review. He also noted that a note for the record had been issued and asked this be distributed to Business meeting members.

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**ACTION: DSG/BM(2021)M011/A001: June Love to distribute the note for the record from the SSG Chair's forum working group.**

David Alexander noted the recent presentations provided by the NDA on an NDA Scottish Strategy. While this was early days and there was still a lot of work to do to develop this further alongside the fact that NDA also needed to engage with Hunterston and Chapelcross. It was further noted the recent announcement from NDA on the AGRs coming into the Group for decommissioning and it would be interesting to see where this workstream would sit within the NDA structure.

There was a general discussion on the topics discussed at the NDA presentation and was slightly disappointing that there had not been further detail and felt this was a missed opportunity. It was also voiced that NDA should really develop this strategy in line with Scottish Governments economic direction which would allow the local areas to feed into that rather than the other way around.

Gillian Coghill felt that the potential topics for decommissioning was far too broad at present and NDA should concentrate on one area to demonstrate it can be done before taking on further activity.

Following further discussion it was agreed that this topic would become a standard agenda item for the DSG Socio Economic sub groups to allow timely updates. David Alexander agreed that we must hold them accountable and put this on the agenda as a standing item as there will be further discussions regarding this.

**ACTION: DSG/BM(2021)M011/A002: June Love to ask Dave Wallace to provide an update at the next Socio Economic sub group meeting and have this as a standing agenda item.**

## **6. JULY SUB GROUP MEETING**

David Alexander asked for an update on the progress of IT for a blended sub group meeting. June Love noted that Dawn had been in contact with DSRL's IT department who had made some suggestions on the equipment that could be required. After further investigation of the equipment suggested it raised a couple of other issues in relation to hardwiring some of the kit and a concern of the bandwidth of broadband to allow the meeting to be a good experience for everyone attending. It was also noted that use of the DSRL's Ormlie hub had been investigated but unfortunately was booked out on the day required. June Love noted that it would be useful to continue on the virtual platform for everyone right now until such times they get to the bottom of the issues identified.

David Alexander noted that using the Ormlie hub might be a sensible suggestion and if that worked well then DSG could explore the purchasing of similar equipment required. It was agreed by the Business group members that the July subgroups would be run over MS Teams.

**DSG/BM(2021)M011/A003: Dawn Clasper to book Ormlie hub for October sub group meeting.**

## **7. DSG SEPTEMBER PUBLIC MEETING**

David Alexander noted that the September public meeting has been moved from the 15 September to the 22 September.

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June Love noted that the change of meeting date was to accommodate a MOD presentation and that it was expected that Commodore Mark Prince would attend to present this update.

David Alexander stated that MOD could not say that DSG were being accommodating given the concerns raised previously. He hoped that this presentation did not get pulled at the last minute. He felt this was MOD's last chance to demonstrate they were keen to continue their association with DSG.

Cllr Struan Mackie noted the dialogue from MOD since the public meeting had been good and DSG's course of action had been justified. He had spoken with the Commodore following the announcement on the 17<sup>th</sup> June and had stressed that DSG was looking for certainty and more information specifically with regards what decision points are required. He added that since the announcement issued on 17 June there would effectively be no significant changes to the Vulcan site as operational matters were being pushed back for three years. He believed that this was something that the community would broadly welcome.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following was raised:

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that Caithness Councillors had written to CNSRP with concerns around how CNSRP/HIE had engaged with UK Government Levelling up fund. While projects had been identified to go forward for funding it was apparent that support was varied in respect to one of the projects. He added that it had been felt this was similar to the engagement undertaken for the City Region deal and it was apparent that lessons had not been learnt. It was felt there was no clear pathway to bring forward job creating projects. He wished this to be raised here and also at the DSG Socio economic sub group to discuss how to improve this and ensure Caithness/NS were in the running for funding from the levelling up fund and Shared Prosperity Fund when these were launched again.

There was a full discussion on this topic and it was agreed that this should be raised at the Socio Economic sub group with a view to getting clarity from CNSRP as to how projects will be taken forward in the future with a very transparent process that allowed all those involved to get involved.

It was agreed that it would be useful to wait for the response to the Caithness Councillors letter from CNSRP and then to invite Peter Faccenda and Eann Sinclair to a Business meeting to discuss this matter.

**ACTION: DSG/BM(2021)M011/A004: Cllr Struan Mackie to provide a copy of the letter sent to CNSRP.**

- Cllr Willie Mackay congratulated Cllr Mackie on chairing the DSG Public Meeting and stated that he had noted that there were lots of apologies and only one deputy in place and at the beginning of the meeting there 40 people attending and by the end of the meeting there were 30 people in attendance. [Secretary's note: There was a number of people linking in as members of the public and had logged off prior to Any Other Business'.]
- Cllr Willie Mackay also wanted to congratulate Cllr Struan Mackie and his fellow councillors on their campaign with the Boundary Commission.
- Cllr Struan Mackie noted the recent NDA announcement of the AGR fleet which appeared to be very similar to Magnox sites. With AGRs coming into NDA for decommissioning initially

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this was put forward as a potential game changer for other sites. He added that the AGR reactors was a far more modern fleet and these had been designed with decommissioning in mind. He added that he had been contacted by the press and asked if this would provide an opportunity for the Dounreay workforce and there would be a need for DSG to gain a better understanding of what the site's role could be and how this could be supported from Caithness. He voiced concerns that it was highly likely that AGRs would be included in the Magnox box within the NDA structure alongside Dounreay and the potential for people to migrate towards the work rather than the work migrate towards the workforce. He would, at the appropriate time, like to explore the strategy for retaining people in the area and whether this idea of work coming to the workforce could be trialled when the AGRs were on board. Roger Saxon agreed that if done correctly this could provide benefits for Caithness. Roger also noted that there was also the issue that the dynamics of the stakeholder groups could change in Scotland.

There being no further business, David Alexander thanked everyone their input and formally closed the meeting.

**David Alexander**  
**DSG Deputy Chair**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**

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#### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

DSG/BM(2021)M011/A001: June Love to distribute the note for the record from the SSG Chair's forum working group. **Action complete:** information circulated on 30 June 2021.

DSG/BM(2021)M011/A002: June Love to ask Dave Wallace to provide an update at the next Socio Economic sub group meeting and have this as a standing agenda item.

DSG/BM(2021)M011/A003: Dawn Clasper to book Ormlie hub for October sub group meeting. **Action complete:** Ormlie hub booked on 29 June 2021 for DSG Socio Economic sub group scheduled for 20 October.

DSG/BM(2021)M011/A004: Cllr Struan Mackie to provide a copy of the letter sent to CNSRP.