

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP BUSINESS MEETING**Minutes of DSG Business Meeting held on Tuesday 17 August 2021 at 0930 via Microsoft Teams.**

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

MINUTES**1. WELCOME**

Cllr Struan Mackie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were tendered.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Struan Mackie noted that the minutes of the last meeting – DSG/BM(2021)M0012, 20 July 2021 – had been endorsed by members via email. Members agreed this was a true reflection of the meeting. No issues from the minutes were raised. These would now be circulated to all DSG members for their information.

4. ACTION STATUS

June Love updated on the progress of actions. Most actions were being progressed and expected that the majority would be closed out in time for the September meeting. Discussion centred on:

- DSG(2021)M02/A011: Cllr Struan Mackie to provide a copy of the letter sent to CNSRP. Struan Mackie confirmed he was awaiting a response from an earlier enquiry as to whether this letter could be distributed to DSG. He would progress this with a view to releasing the letter if appropriate prior to the CNSRP Advisory Board (to be held on Thursday 19th July).
- It was also noted that a response had been received from UK Gov Minister for MOD and this had been circulated to DSG Business meeting members for their consideration. It was agreed this would now be circulated to all DSG members for information. DSG(2021)C037 refers.

5. UPDATE FROM SSG MEETINGS

5.1 NDA SSG chair's forum: Davie Alexander updated that a working group of the SSG Chair's forum had been set up to look at and discuss further the role of SSGs with NDA. The

working group had met several times prior to setting up a meeting with Paul Vallance, NDA Director of Communications and John McNamara, NDA Head of Stakeholder Relations. Prior to the meeting an email had been received from NDA to the SSG Chair of Chairs proposing to broaden the discussion with additional topics. The working group agreed they would concentrate on the three areas that had been highlighted via the working group discussions. It was also noted that NDA were currently reviewing the SSG guidance and there was a suggestion that any comments arising from the meeting should be reflected in the draft SSG guidance prior to being issued. The topics discussed with NDA were scrutiny, membership and funding. Of note:

- **Scrutiny:** It was agreed that scrutiny was an integral part of SSGs but each site had a different view of this as a remit. Sellafield and Dounreay appeared to be the two SSGs that ensures a broader remit than site operations by looking at the wider socio economic remit as well. While some felt that some of the SSGs were heavily pro-nuclear the argument was made that did not inhibit the group from ensuring scrutiny was undertaken on issues such as safety, environment and value for money.

It was further noted that the scrutiny for some sites would broaden once the AGR fleet came into NDA ownership. The fusion project, dependent on site selection, may also change the dynamic in terms of scrutiny going forward.

- **Membership:** This was mostly a discussion around NGO representation recognising that some SSGs were quite heavily represented by NGOs while others were not. The NDA already held a forum for NGOs and it was agreed they would encourage those attending this forum should consider representation on SSGs.

There was also a discussion on encouraging younger members to join SSGs and while this was recognised it was also acknowledged it was not an easy thing to do. Generally younger people were involved for limited times due to education arrangements etc. It was noted that DSG did include a younger element in terms of inviting students along to meetings to observe to gather information for their thesis etc and there had also been occasions when Dounreay apprentices/graduates had been invited along to DSG to outline how their career path was progressing.

- **Funding:** This had become an issue with both Magnox and Sellafield with uncertainty that funding would remain to allow SSGs to continue to function appropriately. Questions around the cost of funding NuLeaf and SCCORS had been asked and NDA acknowledged they did fund NuLeaf (SCCORS appeared to be in abeyance at present). The point was made that given the funding provided to SSGs in relation to other funding activities provided good value.

Davie Alexander noted that the NDA guidance and NDA email that had been received by the Chair of Chairs had not yet been received. It was agreed that June Love would ask the Chair of Chairs for an update on this information.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M013/A01: June Love to ask SSG Chair of Chairs for an update on the NDA SSG guidance and prompt for copy of email relating to NDA topics for discussion.

5.2 Pre discussions with MOD Vulcan re social value, 13 Aug 21: Peter Faccenda reported that the meeting had gone ahead although a few members had been on annual leave and had not attended. MOD were keen to engage with DSG (and CNSRP) to identify the social value elements for this contract to allow some input from the community as to what social value impacts would be important to take through to procurement. It was noted that the social

value impacts will have a 10% weighting against this criteria when considering tender submissions for the decommissioning activities. It was also noted that MOD were keen to hold a physical market engagement day at the appropriate time and members of DSG/CNSRP would be invited to take part in this.

Cllr Struan Mackie stated he would be more than happy for DSG members to be made available to represent the community interests at this event and believed it would be important that alongside DSG reps, the Chamber and CNSRP were also represented. This was reflected in the meetings held where DSG, Chamber and CNSRP are already involved in early discussions.

Peter Faccenda believed that having presence at the market day would encourage potential bidders to engage with the community around the social value impacts to strengthen their tender bids.

A further meeting with MOD (Vulcan) had been organised to continue these discussions.

6. DSG MEETINGS – FORWARD LOOK

June Love noted that the next public meeting would be held on 22 September and asked that business meeting members agreed this meeting would continue to be held virtually. This was agreed.

June Love noted that for the October sub group meetings, the socio economic sub group would be held as a trial for blended meetings. Prior to the sub group being held, the appropriate number that can be hosted in the DSRL hub would be checked and if those wishing to attend in person exceeded the number that could be hosted it would be done on a 'first come, first served' basis. Those wishing to attend virtually could still do so and this would allow a trial of the equipment required to ensure that the blended meeting was a good experience for all. If this trial was successful it would allow sometime to identify and order the equipment required and as long as everything was in place and equipment installed in time the December public meeting could be offered to members as a blended meeting also – this would allow members to make their own minds up on whether they wished to continue to meet on a virtual platform or meet in person.

A further discussion with the business would take place following the trial at the October sub group of socio economics to explore whether the blended approach was a good experience for all.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following was raised:

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted that Jill Tilt had been successful in the local by-election and suggested that an invite be extended to her to meet with the DSG Business meeting to provide an aware of the workings of DSG. This was agreed.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M013/A02: June Love to invite Jill Tilt to a meeting of the DSG business meeting.

- Discussions took place on the progress of the PSO for Wick/JOG airport. Concerns were raised about the amount of time it was taking to get procurement underway but recognising that the funding gap was still being progressed. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Maree Todd, MSP to request she try to make progress with this via Scottish Government.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M013/A03: Davie Alexander to write to Maree Todd requesting support for the PSO for Wick/JOG airport.

- Following earlier discussions around the re-opening of North Coast Visitor Attractions (formerly Caithness Horizons) a further update had been received indicating that the soft opening of the facility was further delayed again due to The Highland Council not finishing off the maintenance required for the re-opening of the building. Discussion centred around the disappointment that given the delays to maintenance meant that the facility had not been in a position to re-open during the latter part of the summer months. It was agreed that a letter to Highland Council should be written recording DSG's disappointment at the delays to the maintenance of the facility.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M013/A04: Davie Alexander to write to Highland Council expressing disappointment of delays to maintenance for North Coast Visitors Attraction (formerly Caithness Horizons).

- June Love noted that NDA were currently draft a scope to undertaken social impact studies across the NDA estate. The NDA were keen to ensure that the outcome of these studies would be consistent across the NDA estate. Further discussion had taken place as CNSRP would normally carry out an impact study and it was confirmed that there would be room to include additional scope that could be unique to one area. An early discussion between CNSRP and NDA had taken place and further work to develop the scope would continue.
- June Love noted she had issued the DSG review scope to two independent consultants. Both had experience with NDA and DSG/DSRL. Proposals were due to be provided by the 20th August and once both received these would be issued to the Business meeting so that proposals could be discussed and the most appropriate one agreed. This would allow the review to commence mid-September.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M013/A05: Dawn Clasper to circulate DSG review proposals to business meeting for discussion at the meeting to be held on 31 August 2021.

- Roger Saxon asked what was happening with the Caithness Community Planning Partnership as DSG used to be represented but did not appear to be anymore. June Love said she was aware of changes in secretariat for this meeting and would check the status of DSG representation.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M013/A06: June Love to check status of DSG representation at the Caithness Community Planning Partnership.

- Cllr Struan Mackie noted he had been contacted by representatives of Simba (a charity for baby loss) regarding the use of NDA land (Viewfirth walled garden). Discussions had taken place and it had been confirmed that this project did not impinge on the Community Sports Hub if this project was taken forward. There appeared to be an issue around how the land could be gifted to the charity. Since discussions in April 2021 there had been no further feedback and Simba had requested if DSG could request an update on what progress was being made by the NDA.

It was questioned whether NDA were aware of the community asset transfer (Scot's law) which could be a vehicle to allow the land to be transferred. This would be included in the letter that would be written to encourage progress.

Action: DSG/BM(2021)M013/A07: Cllr Struan Mackie to write to NDA requesting update on NDA property regarding the Simba charity.

8. CLOSE

There being no further business, Cllr Struan Mackie thanked everyone their input and formally closed the meeting.

Cllr Struan Mackie
DSG Chair
17 August 2021

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/BM(2021)M013/A01: June Love to ask SSG Chair of Chairs for an update on the NDA SSG guidance and prompt for copy of email relating to NDA topics for discussion.

DSG/BM(2021)M013/A02: June Love to invite Jill Tilt to a meeting of the DSG business meeting.

DSG/BM(2021)M013/A03: Davie Alexander to write to Maree Todd requesting support for the PSO for Wick/JOG airport.

DSG/BM(2021)M013/A04: Davie Alexander to write to Highland Council expressing disappointment of delays to maintenance for North Coast Visitors Attraction (formerly Caithness Horizons).

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DSG/BM(2021)M013/A06: June Love to check status of DSG representation at the Caithness Community Planning Partnership.

DSG/BM(2021)M013/A07: Cllr Struan Mackie to write to NDA requesting update on NDA property regarding the Simba charity.