



**Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr
and
Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr
Lismore Historical Society
A Company limited by guarantee No. SC234832
Aireamh Carthannais/Charity No. SC023503**

Minute of the Meeting Held in the Library
Thursday 24th September 2015 at 6pm

Present:

- Directors: Iain MacNichol (IM) in the Chair, Freda Drysdale (FD), Bob Hay (BH), Memory McDonald (MMD), Helen Crossan (HC), Douglas Breingan (DB), Lesley Hamilton (LH) & Archie MacGillivray (AG) from 6.45pm.
- Committee Members: Duncan Drysdale (DD) Secretary /Company Secretary, Noelle Odling (NO) Treasurer, Cathy Carmichael (CC), Margaret MacDonald (MD), Maureen Mitchell (MM), Duncan Livingstone (DL).
- Minutes: Ian MacKinnon (IK).

Apologies Received:

- Ann MacLean-Fleming (AM).

Chair's Introductory Remarks:

- IM congratulated and thanked all those who organised, and were involved in, the recent Medieval Weekend, which was a great success.
- IM also thanked those who organised the recent CELM Ceilidh, which was also deemed to be a success.
- IM thanked those who had represented CELM at the recent Argyllshire Gathering. MMD reported that this had generated an income in the region of £150 for the shop.
- IM commented briefly on an Email recently received from AM.

Minute of the Meeting held on 6th August 2015:

- The amended Minute was passed on a motion proposed by FD and seconded by MMD.

Matters Arising:

- MM reported that she and Duncan MacGregor had been contacted by an individual, who she declined to name, advising them that Matters Arising, Para 2, of the Minute of the Community Trust held on 6th July 2015 contained a clear threat to attempt a take over of the site and buildings of ANM. MM stated she is very angry, as is Duncan MacGregor, and that, if this is pursued, there would be consequences for the Community Trust.
- IM stated that he had not received the letter referred to in the Community Trust Minute.
- NO suggested that this may be nothing sinister, and turn out to be part of a general trawl on behalf of the Community Trust to gather information on land ownership on Lismore.
- IM stated that he was concerned, but until he had received, and read, the letter referred to it would be unwise to jump to conclusions and that there should be no further action. He also stated that he would contact Duncan MacGregor.

Treasurer's Report:

- NO reported that a substantial donation had been received from the estate of the late Dr Eileen Marie MacColl and that donations in the calendar year to date now total in excess of £20,000. The meeting expressed appreciation of this donation and delegated the Chair to contact the Trustees of the late DR MacColl to express CELM's appreciation.
- NO also circulated a document summarising income and expenditure in the calendar year to date.
- FD stated that she hoped CELM could ring fence some of this money and not fritter it away. BH responded with brief information on restricted and unrestricted funds.
- The meeting commended NO on the clarity of her report.

TAIC Report:

- FD submitted an extremely comprehensive report covering funding, the website, maintenance of Café equipment, the Library, Shop takings, the new card machine, electricity bills, issues with the ground source heating system, the water supply, the septic tank and the Centre roof.
- TAIC would like to thank MMD, DD, Duncan Ferguson and Stuart Ross for their ongoing work to maintain the Centre.
- Margaret Carassic of the MaCallum / MacDougall Foundation visited the Centre last month.
- There is the possibility of a substantial grant from The Foundation to replace ageing kitchen equipment.
- As previously agreed, LH will claim expenses of 45p per mile for her journeys to and from Lismore, and for attendance at Trade Fairs.

Museum Mentor:

- BH reported that Argyll & Bute Council have withdrawn support from the Museum Mentor scheme with the result that CELM no longer has the services of Sharon Webb.
- BH recommended engaging Robin Patel at an estimated cost of around £300pa in expenses. This was approved nem con.

Website Issues:

- HC met with MMD and Jennifer Baker to discuss various issues. Some issues were resolved at the meeting and others carried forward.
- HC will speak to Andy Walters (website designer) about other possibilities for improving the functionality of the web site.

Project: Reinvigorating Gaelic Dialectology (University of Edinburgh):

- HC reported that there has been an invitation for CELM to participate in this project.
- HC outlined the aims of this project and how it would extend other work previously carried out on Lismore.
- The meeting agreed to participate in the project.
- BH requested that HC take time at the next meeting to present her projects to the Committee. HC agreed to do so.

AOCB:

- BH reported that he has agreed to present a talk on the Grave Slabs project to Argyll & Bute's Museum Forum.
- BH also reported that there is a meeting in November at Museums & Galleries Scotland on the subject "Intangible Cultural Heritage". There are two spaces available and BH suggested that HC attend at CELM's expense. This was agreed nem con.
- BH also stated that if there was another who wished to attend he would give up his place. There was some discussion but no decision.
- BH reported that Kilmartin Museum are to host a two day meeting in November on "Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story". The meeting agreed to request two places for this.
- BH asked the meeting why, bearing in mind Lismore's history, the island is not on a pilgrimage trail. There was a discussion where it was agreed that, if this were to be processed, it would be a long term project which would require to be carried out in association with the Church, the Community Trust and other interested parties.
- MM noted that there had been no report in the Oban Times about the recent CELM Ceilidh. The meeting agreed that this was regrettable and MM stated that she felt that the effort put in by the organisers should be recognised

- IM reported that a meeting between him, Iris Piers and James Hilder took place on 28th August to discuss the Development Plan. He then went on to share a brief summary of the Plan with the meeting which was then briefly discussed.

Next Meetings:

- Extra meeting to see HC's project and discuss the Development Plan to be held in the Museum at 2.30pm on 29th October 2015.
- Thursday 26th November 2015 at 4pm in the Museum.

The meeting closed at 7.53pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

TAIC report for CELM
24th September 2015

Grant Funding with John Lewis

The application for funding from John Lewis was submitted yesterday. Many thanks to Lesley for her hard work in putting this together. We have asked for approx £7.500 to upgrade the shop and café.

Meeting with Website Group

Memory and Freda had a very useful meeting with the Heritage Website Group about setting up donation buttons on the site and clear instructions as to how people can leave us money.

We also discussed setting up an on-line shop.

Andy Walters, the website designer has been asked to give us costings for these additions and we await his response.

Café

All maintenance issues regarding café equipment have now been addressed except for the intermittent fault in the coffee machine.

Alternative methods of coffee making have been supplied to supplement problems at busy times

We are hugely grateful to Memory, Duncan Ferguson and Duncan Drysdale for their unstinting help.

To date the cost of repairing and replacing equipment this year is about £2,400 and there are still some bills to pay.

We are dealing with equipment, which is now over 8 years old so this is to be expected.

Kiki has indicated to us that she wishes to terminate her lease at the end of October but we have had nothing in writing from her so far and we await this.

We hope to run the café in a different way next year – more as a community resource. We will advise you of details at a later date.

Shop

So far this season the shop has taken approx £12,200 and paid out £5,400. Lesley and Memory are currently doing a stock take, which will also impinge on the final figures for this season.

Finances

The bank balance at the moment is £8,470,92

Noelle is monitoring the cost of the new card machine and will report this back to us.

We have had quite a large electricity bill (£2,000) as we changed suppliers and the Hydro board has caught up with estimated readings.

We have also had to use the immersion heater because the ground source heating was not working properly.

Maintenance

Memory, Duncan Ferguson and Duncan D have been working vey hard on this...

Today Steven Forteith came to look at the ground source heat pump.

The compressor has gone on this and we have two options to rectify the situation

We can fit a new compressor, which would cost about £800 -£1000 and solve the problem probably for some time or we could apply for a Government Renewable heat Incentive Grant (not means tested) and get the whole system replaced.

We will make a decision based on Stephen Fortieth's

report back to us.

The building thermostats might not be correct and we need to check this.

The dehumidifier in the cottage seems to be unnecessary now that we have fitted a chimney cowl.

Duncan Ferguson has given us a very comprehensive report on the water pump situation and suggests installing three pressure control units to protect the pump from overheating. The cost of these is about £100 each.

Duncan Drysdale will make up a level monitor for the water tank, which will ensure that we know how much is in it.

We propose to remove the agitator in the septic tank over the winter, as the centre will be closed.

This will protect it from frost.

The septic tank was last emptied two years ago and we have now taken out a contract with Scottish Water.

We have agreed to have a Maintenance checklist drawn up. Freda will do a Toilet check List immediately as this is mandatory for Visit Scotland.

We would like to thank Stuart Ross for his excellent work in keeping the grass cut at The Centre.

Roof

Following advice from Douglas Breingan, we have decided to look at putting sedum matting and seed on the roof.

This requires very little soil, is a native plant, a succulent, and requires little moisture and maintenance.

Douglas will do costings for us.

MaCallum / MacDougall Foundation

We had a surprise visit from Margaret Carassik last month and there is the possibility of us receiving several thousand pounds from The Foundation to replace ageing kitchen equipment.

AOCB

Lesley suggested asking Argyll and Butte Council to pay rent for their use of space in the library.

Douglas also suggested asking them for a computer for public access to Internet in the library.

As previously agreed , Lesley will claim expenses of 45p per mile for her journeys to and from Lismore and for attendance at Trade Fairs.

Freda Drysdale
For TAIC