

## **Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr**

**held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 4pm in the Café at Ionad Naomh Moluag.**

**Present:** Iain MacNicol (Chair, IM), Jennifer Baker (JB), Douglas Breingan (DB), Archie MacGillivray (AMG), Ann MacLean Fleming (AMF), Cathie Carmichael (CC), Duncan Ferguson (DF), Margaret MacDonald (MMD), Maureen Mitchell (MM) and Noelle Odling (Treasurer, NO).

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Helen Crossan (HC), Lesley Hamilton, Memory MacDonald (MemMD), Peggy Nicolson, Duncan Drysdale, Freda Drysdale and Bob Hay (BH).
2. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were read and the following corrections were made:
  - Taic Report: - AMF stated that it was not legal to transfer monies from Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr to Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr, except in specific circumstances.
  - JB's comment about volunteer time was agreed by all.
  - AOCB – Alan Riach is also confirmed as attending Book Week
  - Date of next meeting – it was agreed this would be on the last Thursday of every second month.

Subject to the above corrections, the Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Jennifer Baker; Seconded: Cathie Carmichael.

3. **Matters Arising:** The matters arising from the above meeting were:
  - a) **Companies House** – a complaint was received by Companies House regarding a member of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr not receiving a list of members in the correct way upon request. IM responded to Companies House on this matter, to their satisfaction. A further complaint was received, regarding lack of information on the status of members. This too was explained to Companies House. Companies House replied that they were satisfied and the complaint was closed. Companies House did inform IM that members are entitled to request a list of current members as often as they wish, as long as a valid reason is given. They also confirmed that Data Protection is overruled by Company Law. At the moment, the membership of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr stands at just over 170. DB asked if members who ask for such information could be instructed not to use the information for anything other than their stated reason. This was discussed.
  - b) **Mike Rayworth** – IM reported that Mike Rayworth has offered to pay for the expensive wood he is working with for the Comann Eachdraidh in exchange for a couple of years membership of the 100 club. The cost of the wood

would be £282. IM proposed giving him 5 years' membership of the 100 club (which would be worth £300), with there being no cost to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr but considerable benefit. This was agreed by all.

4. **Taic Report:** No formal report had been received.

JB reported that MemMD wanted to mention donations made by John Lewis, Lesley Hamilton, Anne Harrell, Margaret Carassik, and Margaret Miller.

**Action:** IM to write to all of the above people to express our thanks officially.

The Board of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr welcomed Katy Crossan as the new café manager and wished her well.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** The accounts have gone to Simmers, so should be ready in time for the AGM.

Taic's current bank balance is £6 582.80.

Taic's income for the year to date is £2 802.44 and expenditure has been £7 440.13, leaving a deficit so far of £4 637.69.

The John Lewis grant was paid into the Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr account but will be spent on the café and shop refurbishment. Most of this money has actually been spent now.

Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr's current bank balance is £24 095.59.

Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr's income for the year to date is £10 528.85 and expenditure has been £13 567.29, leaving a deficit so far of £3038.44.

NO is still in discussion with the accountant about VAT deregistration for Taic. It seems that it may not be possible to deregister Taic without deregistering Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr too. Deregistration would help the café to make money but it would mean that VAT could no longer be claimed back either.

NO asked about £200 set aside in the accounts for Book Week, but there was no Book Week last year. The possibility was discussed that this could have been donations from the previous Book Week.

JB reported that the funding for this year's Book Week is still to be confirmed.

6. **100 Club:** All is going well with this, but there are no additional members. It was proposed that a notice be put into the shop, saying that numbers are still available and also that forms should be circulated at the same time as AGM paperwork. New people to the island should also be encouraged to join.

7. **Board Composition and Quorum:** There are currently seven Board members and the quorum in five. A quorum of five would be fine if there were twelve Board members, but is more challenging when there are so few. There was discussion on considering changing the quorum so that it is not so difficult to obtain a quorum.

JB proposed raising this issue at the AGM. This was seconded by DB.

JB reported expressions of interest from potential new Directors who may join the Board at the AGM.

8. **Plans for AGM:** There was discussion on how the AGM would be advertised, minutes distributed, etc. given that there is currently no Secretary. The advertising must be done six weeks before the meeting (28<sup>th</sup> May), so this should be done by mid-April. JB agreed to do this, having been Secretary at the time of the last AGM.

There was discussion on the need to find a new Secretary and someone to do all of the work required on the day of the AGM.

Notice of proxy votes must now be submitted in advance of the meeting. This will be emphasised online, though will be too expensive to include in the Oban Times advert.

Both a Treasurer's report and a Taic report will be presented at the AGM.

JB reported that Màiri Campbell has donated a concert, which will be held on the evening of the AGM, when food will also be served. That will be the official opening of the new look community centre. There will be no entry fee but donations will be welcome.

9. **Margaret Miller's visit:** She will be visiting for four days. There is going to be an Oban Times article on her book. Attempts are being made to arrange for the Oban Times to come over to Lismore to promote the Comann Eachdraidh as well. If the journalist cannot come over, an article will be sent to the Oban Times.

10. **Season's Programme:** This year's exhibition is in hand. On 13<sup>th</sup> August there will be a suffragette day, in tandem with the World War 1 exhibition. There will be a talk from Elaine MacChesney, formerly of Dunollie, on local area suffragettes. An Edwardian menu is planned. Lismore Lumière will be showing the film 'Suffragette' in the Hall in the evening.

The annual cèilidh is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of August.

Book Week will take place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Book Week will have a Scotland theme. Ideas are still being discussed. James Robertson and Alan Riach are definitely confirmed as attending. A children's author and a poet are still to be arranged.

Sarah Campbell, HC and JB are working on a children's book. A book with a Lismore theme should be produced in time for Book Week.

Waterstones will put out a table with books to be discussed during Book Week and with posters etc.

Further details about the forthcoming half marathon will be shared with Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr once they are available.

MMD expressed thanks to all of the volunteers for their hard work over the last few weeks, in preparation for the new season, including the shop refurbishment and expressed good wishes to Katy Crossan in her new role at the café.

#### 11. AOCB:

- JB read out a report from BH:
  - Accreditation is in hand. We will need Iain as chair to sign off the new documents before 15 April – including the mentor agreement of which he already has a copy.
  - There has been no response from the AFRC Directorate since June last year about the Coillengallanach registration. I emailed them yesterday.
  - Graveslabs project signed off by Historic Environment Scotland yesterday. There is a small additional amount of income to come for the pathworks.
  - No news yet from Treasure Trove about the Achinduin artefacts.
  - \*\*\*\*\*As I asked at least 2 years ago, we have an URGENT need for professional IT support. We need paid help. Our existing systems could collapse at any time. I've taken 3 days so far to try to install Office on the new computer but have been baulked by Microsoft because of security issues with our system.

There followed some discussion on the state of the IT systems. MM offered assistance from her son-in-law and daughter with certain computer issues.

- DB expressed thanks to all involved in securing accreditation.
- DB mentioned a potential topic for next year's exhibition – there had been an offer from NO to do an exhibition on her parents' paintings. DB is willing to assist with this. A lot of space would be required. Opinions were then sought and there was a general expression of interest in this as an exhibition for next year.
- Pilgrim Trails – DB has been in communication with BH about this. A trial run of one of the potential trails should take place soon. There was discussion on a realistic length of trail, which would allow participation by people who were interested, even if they were not at peak fitness levels, and allowing for stops at places of interest.

- DB spoke about the roof. He is researching cost for growing sedum on the roof. There is concern that the roof is becoming exposed as soil washes off, which could affect the membrane which keeps the roof waterproof. Sedum roofs do exist locally, but it is not commercially grown in Scotland, so the logistics of transporting it to the island must be considered. AMG asked about a Lismore turf roof. DB said that the depth and weight of soil which would be necessary made this difficult. This kind of turf could also puncture the membrane, due to there being stones in the soil. The Ionad Naomh Moluag roof was not built with that kind of turf in mind – it is possible to use such, but only when buildings are designed to support the weight of turf. Sedum is expensive, but would be a potential solution. JB asked about the possibility of growing it ourselves. DB suggested incorporating it into bought grass turf, which would have minimal soil. He would like to test a small area using this method.
- MM indicated that she would like to give up as volunteer coordinator next year. She proposed sharing the job month about with other people in the meantime, to allow others to learn how everything works. Volunteer numbers are currently down, although some potential new recruits are possible. Volunteers will be encouraged at the AGM. It is difficult to cover all shifts at the moment. JB suggested considering the possibility of closing on a Monday, which was discussed, but no action taken at this time.
- AMF asked about the business plan. IM said that James Hilder has not supplied this. There is no financial information in the development plan previously circulated, which is a concern for funding the café etc., as Taic currently has only £6 582.80 in the bank.

**Action: IM to contact James Hilder about the business plan.**

12. Date and time of next meeting: This was set for 26<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm.