

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

held on 27th May 2016 at 5.30pm in the Café at Ionad Naomh Moluag.

Present: Iain MacNicol (Chair, IM), Jennifer Baker (JB), Douglas Breingan (DB), Lesley Hamilton (LH), Anne Livingstone (AL), Memory MacDonald (MemMD), Ann MacLean Fleming (AMF), Mike Robertson (MR), Cathie Carmichael (CC), Duncan Drysdale (DD), Duncan Ferguson (DF), Davy Garrett (DG), Bob Hay (BH), Duncan Livingstone (DL), Margaret MacDonald (MMD), Duncan MacGregor (DM), Maureen Mitchell (MM), and Noelle Odling (Treasurer, NO).

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Helen Crossan (HC), Peggy Nicolson (PN) and Archie MacGillivray (AMG).

2. **Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting of 24th March 2016 were read and approved as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Douglas Breingan; Seconded: Cathie Carmichael.

3. **Matters Arising:** The matters arising from the above meeting were:

a) **Book Week** – JB reported that funding for Book Week was confirmed. The Scottish Book Trust will partly fund this. IM reported that Marian Pallister has offered to contribute to Book Week.

b) **Concert** – JB reported that it had been decided that an entry fee of £20 would be charged for Màiri Campbell's concert, instead of there being free entry.

c) **Margaret Miller** – BH noted that Margaret Miller would be visiting the island on 28th May.

d) **Achinduin** – BH reported that the artefacts had been provisionally awarded to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr, although this still had to go before another committee.

e) **Coillengallanach** – BH reported that no further progress had been made on this. Under the new agricultural regulations, due to the change in ownership, it must be surveyed in order to establish boundaries. BH will investigate the situation further.

f) **IT** – BH noted that Liam has helped a great deal with getting the IT back up to a better standard. However, further consideration is needed on how the IT services are used.

g) **Library** – MemMD reported that Argyll & Bute Libraries had donated the Library computer and the software was supplied thanks to an anonymous donation. This was now installed and available for use by the community.

- h) **Roof** - DB reported that the pilot project for the sedum would be completed on 28th May. It is also hoped to try growing it on the island.
- i) **Finance** – NO noted that the £200 previously mentioned with regard to Book Week had been confirmed as having been set aside for this. It was also noted that excess money from the Viking gold cases had not been claimed, so would be included in this financial year.
- j) **James Hilder** – IM reported that he had had a long chat with James Hilder, who agrees that he did not send through his promised report. He has said that he will find it and send it through with modifications. James Hilder also mentioned that 4 islands (Lismore, Kerrera, Luing and Easdale) have appointed a development officer. IM is keen to ensure that Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr is involved in the development plan, especially with regards to transport. This was seen as a positive move, however.

4. **Postponement of AGM and setting of new date:** The AGM had been postponed due to errors with paperwork. JB asked if an advert would have to be put in the Oban Times again for the rescheduled AGM. DD said that there would be no need to re-advertise it as long as every member was notified. There was discussion on whether the Memorandum and Articles state that an advert must be put into the Oban Times. The general feeling was that as long as members are notified, re-advertisement would not be necessary. Proxy forms and nomination forms could be placed on the website, as well as the accounts. There was discussion on a potential date for the AGM and also on the day of the week on which the AGM should be held. Saturday the 23rd of July was agreed, starting at 4.30pm.

5. **Consider actions apparently obstructing CELM:** The question of whether we want to take positive action [regarding recent issues with an unnamed member of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr] was put to the Board and members present. There was extensive discussion on this subject and other matters.

One person present proposed taking action against what they saw as a deliberate plan to undermine Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr. It was suggested that Community Trusts have had a negative impact on volunteer work in certain places.

It was noted by a Board member that it would be good to encourage more people to become Board members of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr, particularly people resident on the island.

It was proposed that advice be sought from OSCR on the situation in which Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr finds itself. It was stated that no complaints have been made to OSCR, who are unaware of the issues Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr has been having. Advice could therefore be sought from OSCR.

There was divided opinion as to whether Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr's current issues were connected with Lismore Community Trust or not. It was stated that the Trust had never acted against Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr and that its Board members always acted professionally and impartially in Trust matters. This was generally accepted.

There was discussion on the membership status and rights of a Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr member. A motion was proposed (DG) and seconded (DD) that this person's life membership be terminated.

Others disagreed that such negative action should be taken. One Board member believed membership should not be stripped from anyone but that dialogue should be sought, with the ultimate aim of working together and benefiting from members' expertise.

The distinction was made between the actions of one individual and the actions of Lismore Community Trust.

It was proposed that OSCR be contacted and that a proposal be put to the AGM regarding action against members acting to undermine Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr, stating that membership would be revoked if this was found to be the case.

The status of correspondence (private, public or open to members) was discussed – clarification should perhaps be sought in future.

There was discussion on altering the article which states that the agreement of 75% of members present at a meeting would be needed in order for expulsion of a member to go ahead.

The privacy rights of members were discussed, as was the need to meet freedom of information demands.

It was agreed to approach OSCR and to put a proposal to the AGM about a quicker disciplinary course of action.

6. **Resignation of Company Secretary:** DD has decided to resign as Company Secretary. Thanks were expressed for his many years of service. IM noted everyone's appreciation of the work put in by DD.

7. **Need to appoint a Company Secretary and a Committee Secretary:** MR has volunteered to support Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr by serving as Company Secretary. MR has been involved with the organisation since its earliest days, so would be happy to do anything to help and to avoid Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr getting into difficulties. The Board unanimously agreed to appoint him.

AMF agreed to take the minutes of meetings and to circulate the agenda prior to meetings.

8. **Taic Report:** MemMD said that a separate report would be provided and that this could be attached to the minutes. Thanks were expressed to all involved in catering for Dorothy Livingstone's funeral, which had been a whole island effort.

9. **Treasurer's Report:** At 24/5/16, Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr had £20, 664 in the bank.

There is approximately £4, 500 in the Taic bank account.

The café has made a loss so far due to set up costs, which is consistent with the business plan.

Heating is still very costly. MemMD noted that they were waiting to hear if the compressor is still under warranty, so they were leaving that just now.

NO stated that the Taic bank balance has decreased because of the refurbishment of the café and restocking the shop.

IM expressed thanks to LH for her help with the refurbishment.

AL pointed out that the "Lios Beag" name should no longer be used in the accounts when referring to the café.

It was noted that Norma Black has kindly volunteered to do the wages for the café.

There was discussion on how monies should be legally transferred from Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr to Taic.

There was discussion on Taic's debt to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr. MemMD mentioned that equipment bought by Taic should perhaps have been bought by Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr, so perhaps this debt could be readjusted.

DD has circulated the accounts to Directors and IM has signed the Chairman's report.

MemMD noted a £20 donation from Lismore Community Transport for their use of the library and a £400 donation from Davie Garrett, to be used in the museum room. She also noted that there are 3 new 100 club members and 2 new life members.

- 10. Planning for AGM:** Issuing notice to everyone – MemMD will send this out, if she is provided with the relevant documents. DD will send her proxy forms and nomination forms for Board members. The special resolution and quorum resolution also need to be sent out. Last year's minutes for Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr and Taic are ready to print.

LH raised the issue of minutes not being on the website. JB said that we are culpable for not having them on.

IM noted that MR is to be co-opted on to the Board.

There was discussion on which Directors will be standing down this year and on the limit of 6 years in office. One third of Directors must stand down.

AMF is to send a letter of thanks to LCT and to DG for their donations.

- 11. Planning for events:** JB said that this is well underway. Everything will be well advertised and Waterstones is being very supportive.

Book week – the bunk house is being kept free for that week.

Archaeology event – BH mentioned the community archaeology dig which is scheduled for the week beginning 12th August, in conjunction with Argyll archaeology. The aim is to work towards exposing and interpreting the nave. HLF has provided funding for this. There is also funding available for fencing to keep livestock off and to allow access to the site. There is the potential for 20 people to be

involved, if there is enough archaeological supervision. The aim is for this to be a community event.

12. AOCB:

- ! AL noted that the road up to the centre is deteriorating, particularly in wet weather. DF is happy to carry out repair work if a plan is made. DF asked for clarification as to whether Taic or Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr would be dealing with this work. The general feeling was that it would be Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr who would pay. DL is happy to assist DF with this work.
- ! JB has procured free advertising in response to a complaint to the Oban Times about lack of support for Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr. This will appear as a full page advert in July. BH noted that adverts will be needed for Book Week and the archaeological even in August.
- ! JB said that the last 4 years have been difficult but what motivates people is the vision of Duncan MacGregor, Duncan Livingstone, Donald Black, Cathie Carmichael, Margaret MacDonald and the others who had set up Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr in the first place. DM said that the culture of wherever you live on this earth must be nurtured. IM said that it was great to see everyone turning up at meetings through these difficult times.

13. Date and time of next meeting: This was set for Thursday 21st July at 4.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.