



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann
Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held in the library at Ionad Naomh Moluag, 27
April 2017

(Note that the records of the informal meeting on 23 March were approved and
incorporated into these minutes)

Present

Directors: Jennifer Baker (JB) Chair; Lesley Hamilton (LH); Clare Haworth (CH);
Memory McDonald (MM); Mike Robertson (MR)

Taic Directors and Committee Members: Bob Hay (BH); Anne Livingstone (AL);
Noelle Odling (NO, Treasurer)

Apologies:

Davy Garrett; Arthur Cross; Helen Crossan (HC);

1. Minutes of the Meeting 23 February 2017

Approved. Proposed JB, seconded LH

2. Matters arising

BH reported that MJR was now the contact person for the Agricultural Staff,
Oban, in relation to Coilengallanach.

3. Business with OSCR

MJR reported that he had continued to work with OSCR in completing
arrangements for a loan agreement between CELM and Taic. An interest rate of
3% has been agreed. After consideration of the draft accounts to 31/12/16, and
projected business for the year ahead, it was agreed to suggest to OSCR that
capital repayments be made at the rate of £500 per quarter.

4 Treasurer's Report

NO reported on finances for 2017, making use of the budget prepared for the
year. The current balance stands at £11,817, after expenditure of around
£10,000 on property maintenance (heat source pump, new oven, kitchen
equipment). [The board had agreed on 24 November 2016 to set aside
£10,000.00 for Property Maintenance and Equipment.] Having paid
this money, and an additional £1000 donated by D. Garrett for refurbishment of
the decking area, the CELM board agreed to waive Taic's obligations under

the current rent agreement to fund the maintenance of the building. This is because of the high cost of essential and urgent maintenance.

The board agreed also to waive the condition that Taic pays all utility bills out of its own bank account. This is in order that the electricity can be paid through CELM, which can claim VAT. [Taic is NOT now registered for VAT]. CELM will then bill Taic for the electricity cost *ex VAT*. These changes are in line with advice provided by the CELM auditor.

Dr Iain McNicol has kindly donated £2000 that he had earned from public speaking. Bob Hay has raised restricted funding of £4,400 for the Nave archaeological dig in July and £987 for professional examination of the finds from 2017.

The draft accounts for 2016 have been prepared and will be tabled at the next board meeting.

5. Taic Report

(See above for the changes in financial arrangements between CELM and Taic)

AL reported that Dan Johnstone and Pia Dellaman have been appointed manager and assistant manager of the café. It opened on 1 April and will operate seven days a week 11am to 4pm. Planning is in progress for evening meals.

Thanks are due to Day Garret for the decking repair; Duncan Livingston and Duncan Ferguson for installing the drain on the track up to the café; Freda and Duncan Drysdale for library work; and Peggy and Donny Nicolson for painting the foyer. The Centre could not operate without such dedicated help.

The renewed heating system is working well, although there have been problems with the supply of hot water. There will be a review of the system during May. Outstanding jobs include dealing with the potholes at the site entrance; and updating signage. It was suggested that the signs at each ferry should include distances to the Centre. The Taic committee are considering all issues relating to the proposed alcohol licence for the café.

6. Draft Directors' Report for 2016

MJR had prepared notes for the accountants to include as part of the directors report. These were discussed and edited. A final version will be tabled at the next meeting. MJR was thanked for all his recent work as Company Secretary.

7. Taproot Festival

JB gave an update on progress on the programme, which will be issued shortly. Marketing and publicity are in hand. The events will take place in the Public Hall, the Parish Church, the Heritage Centre and the music studios at Carnie and Tirlaggan.

8. HISEZ/Just Enterprise

At the meeting with Mary Riddoch and Kate McKinley of HISEZ earlier that day, it was agreed that HISEZ would devote their 5 days of funded assistance to CELM by helping to draft a business plan and facilitate contact with HIE.

9. Nave Dig 2017

BH reported that sufficient funds had been raised from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Hunter Trust to fund the professional costs and hospitality for Clare Ellis and her assistants. Subject only to securing scheduled monument permission, the dig will take place 15-22 July. There should be no problem about any "clash" with the Lismore Show as the first day's activities will be mainly preparation.

10. Partnership with Lismore Parish Church

The Board confirmed its willingness to continue to work in partnership with Lismore Parish Church in securing the heritage of the church/cathedral and its surrounds. JB would write formally to Rev. Iain Barclay, Minister confirming the continuing partnership.

11. Progress on IT

A report by Helen Crossan, attached to these minutes, will be considered at the next Board meeting.

12. Gaelic Issues

There was no progress to be reported.

13. Transport

The current status of taxi transport on the island was discussed. JB would contact Explore Lismore

14. AOCB

Renfrewshire/Paisley National Mod 2021 Application

Douglas Breingan to report to the Board in due course.

IT Report from Helen Crossan

Please find attached a single sheet which incorporates responses, as well as some of my own thoughts as to what is in place now, and what could be considered for the future. It is by no means definitive; information technology (IT) is a very broad term, often understood differently, and I believe that the Comann Eachdraidh is no exception. I've endeavoured to separate the functions in a meaningful way, and so the attached includes some items which are not actually IT themselves, but which make use of IT along the way (eg website). If I have missed anyone's responses, my apologies; please send again, and I will update.

As you can see, there is quite a lot going on, and a lot still to be considered. A few thoughts:

- Training is a priority; we should be able to offer a (bespoke) package of training for any volunteer.
- Cloud storage/virtual access of some description is a priority.
- Solution(s) should serve the unique requirements of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr; it has to be practical and convenient for those who use it. Decisions around hardware and software should flow from this.
- When so much of this precious archive will ultimately be stored and represented in digital form, it requires serious thought and a professional long-term funded solution.