



**Minutes of the AGM of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr
held on 23rd July 2016 at 4.30pm in Ionad Naomh Mòluag.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and apologised for the rescheduled date of the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from Laura and David Gloag, Helen Crossan, Freda Drysdale and Carol Wormleighton.
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting:** There were two corrections to be made to these – Mike Hyatt and Ian MacKinnon's names will be corrected. Subject to these changes, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous AGM.

Proposed: Douglas Breingan; Seconded: Duncan Drysdale.

- 3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** see separate attachment.

Proposed: Duncan Drysdale; Seconded: Jennifer Baker.

- 5. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer, Noelle Odling (NO), presented her report, highlighting the Independent Examiner's statement on page 5 of the accounts, which indicated that David MacGregor of Simmers was satisfied with the accounts. Attention was also drawn to the last two pages, the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities.

NO went on to speak about incoming resources. Voluntary donations were high, largely due to a bequest by Dr Màiri MacColl of approximately £ 18, 000. Grants received were also considerably up due to the efforts of Bob Hay. The main grant was for the Graveslabs project but a grant was also received for Helen Crossan's work.

Thanks were expressed to all who had paid subscriptions.

Fundraising events included the Mediaeval Weekend and the Textile Week.

'Investment income' refers to the rent which Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr paid to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr.

Under outgoing expenditure, 'Repairs and Maintenance' includes Graveslabs project expenditure. The total cost of generating voluntary income was considerably up, again due to research projects such as the Graveslabs project.

The £10, 542 surplus shows that Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr is in relatively good shape.

On the Balance Sheet, 'Tangible Assets' refers to buildings etc. 'Investments' refers to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr's investments in Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr. 'Debtors' refers to Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr's loan account with Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr – basically rent (17, 628). 'Creditors due in one year' refers to uncashed cheques.

Plots showing financial changes throughout the year were then shown.

There were no questions for the Treasurer.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Davy Garrett and seconded by Duncan Livingstone.

6. **Appointment of Company Secretary:** It was noted that Duncan Drysdale had retired and that Mike Robertson had stepped in to fill this position. It was also noted that Ann MacLean Fleming is the Committee Secretary, taking minutes at meetings.
7. **Appointment of Treasurer:** Noelle Odling had been appointed by the committee and will undoubtedly be reappointed.
8. **Museum Curators' Report:** This was presented by Bob Hay on behalf of the curatorial group. (See separate attachment.)

Following the report, Catriona White spoke, saying that Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr is meant to be educating the public about the history of Lismore. She felt that the February object of the month on the website was a fabrication regarding who was involved in/responsible for a dig which took place. Catriona White had pointed this out, but received no reply. Bob Hay replied to say that Dr. Ewan Campbell said he did do this dig, but Catriona White disputed this, as she knew who had actually carried out the dig. Mary MacDougall confirmed that it was not Glasgow University who carried out the dig. Iain MacNicol proposed that the facts be established later and that the post be corrected. Ian MacKinnon said that Stoddart was the name of the person who conducted the dig, from Cambridge University.

9. **Election of Board Members:** Six members of the current Board were remaining. Archie MacGillivray cannot stand for re-election, but gratitude was expressed for his long service to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr. Nominations had been received for four new Directors. The proposers and seconders for each Director were as follows:

Jennifer Baker – David Garrett, Bob Hay
Douglas Breingan – Duncan Drysdale, Jennifer Baker;
Lesley Hamilton – Mary MacDougall, Douglas Breingan;
Memory MacDonald – Katy Crossan, Lesley Hamilton;

Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr
Charity No: SCO 023503; Company No. SC234832

Ann MacLean Fleming – Douglas Breingan, Ian MacKinnon;
Helen Crossan – Lesley Hamilton, Duncan Livingstone;
David Garrett – Cathie Carmichael, Memory MacDonald;
Arthur Cross – Bob Hay, Memory MacDonald;
Mike Robertson – Bob Hay, Eileen Ferguson;
Clare Haworth – Mike Hyatt, Duncan Ferguson.

10. Article 40 amendment: the previous quorum for Directors' meetings was five but this could be difficult if the number of Directors dropped to six. Julian Wormleighton asked if the proposed definition was sufficiently precise. Ian MacKinnon suggested "The quorum shall be one third of elected directors rounded to the nearest whole number, plus one." This was agreed.

11. Fixing the annual membership fee: this is currently £15 per year, with life membership being £100. It was asked if this should be changed.

Mary MacDougall asked when it was last put up and how many life members sign up each year. There have been a few life memberships recently.

Archie MacColl asked what the reason was for the reduction in membership fees being paid. He also asked about the segregation of members outside the island (on membership lists). Memory MacDonald said that there was no difference in membership, she simply colour coordinated lists to make adding up numbers and answering questions easier.

Mike Robertson read out the definition of each kind of membership from the articles. [to be attached.] This indicates that there is a differentiation made between people who live on the island or are actively involved in the island and those who only have an interest in the island. This can be important for certain funding applications, for example if applying to a funder for a particular geographical area. The membership fee is the same for all.

Archie MacColl said that Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr wouldn't exist without the support of off island people.

Jennifer Baker agreed and emphasised how important off island members are and their huge contribution, including most donations and bequests.

Ian MacNicol views Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr as an asset for the whole of the North Lorn area, although it belongs to Lismore.

There were general calls from the floor that there should be no distinction.

Marlene MacKinnon said the distinction is that associate members cannot be Directors.

Bob Hay said there was confusion – there are ordinary members and associate members. Most associate members are organisations.

Mary MacDougall asked if this was clerical rather than racist.

Lesley Hamilton said that ordinary members are people who live on the island or contribute to it, though living elsewhere. Some, for example, her husband, choose not to vote, as they only visit the island.

Sebastian Tombs asked if there was an idea of what increase would benefit the society.

Iain MacNicol said no increase would be best, as it may put off those who don't visit often but wish to support Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr.

Lorraine King asked when the fees were last raised. Memory MacDonald said this happened five or six years ago.

Harry Morton suggested a patrons' fee for life members who wished to contribute more despite already having paid their life membership. This could allow them to contribute, giving something in return for newsletters etc.

Ian MacKinnon suggested referring this back to the Board to come up with a proposal for next year. This was agreed.

12. Appointment of an Independent Examiner: all seemed to be happy with David MacGregor of Simmers. This was proposed by Mike Robertson and seconded by Douglas Breingan.

13. AOCB: Mike Robertson said that looking back to the time when Donald Black, Margaret MacDonald and the rest of the founding Directors were located in the old school house, he feels that the importance of the Gaelic language aspects of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr which were every important then seem to be less important now. There is a Gaelic gathering to be held in Oban on Saturday 20th August, when the Gaelic language plan, education, culture and more will be discussed. He said that it would be good if people from the island could manage to attend this, although he understands that there are fewer and fewer native Gaelic speakers left on the island. It was noted that Gaelic is also a good source of funding. Mary MacDougall pointed out that the date of this meeting clashes with the Appin Show.

Iain MacNicol spoke of the recent loss of Dorothy Livingstone. She was a great supporter of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr and one of its founders, along with John. The meeting paid tribute to Dorothy with applause from all.

14. Date of next meeting: this will be announced in due course.

Iain MacNicol closed the meeting and handed over to Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr. Bob Hay thanked Iain MacNicol for his two years of service to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr.

Ann MacLean Fleming (Sec)

Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr
Charity No: SCO 023503; Company No. SC234832