



Draft

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Meeting of Comann
Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held in the museum room at Ionad Naomh
Moluag, 2 June 2018

Present: Jennifer Baker, Rosemary Barry, Mairi Campbell, Morag Fowler, Richard Fowler, Laura Gloag, Lesley Hamilton, Bob Hay, Sarah Jones, Anne Livingstone, Duncan Livingstone, Archie MacColl, Lorraine MacCormick, Margaret MacDonald, Archie MacGillivray, Duncan MacGregor, Barbara McDougall, Noelle Odling, Mike Robertson, Stuart Ross, Sebastian Tombs, Catriona White

Apologies were received from Helen Crossan, Peggy Nicholson, Memory McDonald

Jennifer Baker in the Chair

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 May 2017

Accepted as a true record. Proposed by Jennifer Baker and seconded by Anne Livingstone

Report from the Chair (Jennifer Baker)

Welcome everybody and thank you for turning out to support our AGM on this amazingly beautiful day. As always, our year has been challenge upon challenge but I think we are getting quite good at meeting them now – we've had plenty of practice.

2017 was packed with events and developments. You will have read the Newsletter, I'm sure – (if you haven't there a few copies available) so I won't go through it all again but it's important to say that, as always, our successes are due to the utter diligence and commitment of those who have dedicated so much of their own time to making this place a success. So I repeat the thanks that I proffered last year - to all our volunteers in general administration (which is huge and gets bigger and bigger the more successful we become); managing and manning the shop and coordinating shop volunteers; carrying out essential maintenance of the buildings; painting and decorating; cleaning; grass cutting, path maintenance; marketing and publicity; fundraising; organising events; liaising with other island groups; maintaining the public library; caring for rare books and others in the David White library carrying out genealogical searches

(please have a look at the excellent display here created by Laura Gloag); maintaining the website, facebook and twitter; maintaining and updating the archive; mounting displays in the cottage and the museum – all and more done out of commitment to the principles on which this place was founded – namely to preserve the Gaelic culture, language and heritage of Lismore. By the way – not all volunteers live on the island – some travel to us to help because they can see the value of the work done here.

A weakness, of course, is our dependence on the goodwill of volunteers. That won't, can't go on forever. We must be aware of that and work towards a more sustainable solution (This is almost exactly what I said last year) So far we haven't found one but we're working on some ideas. A huge step towards fulfilling this ideal, however, has been the securing of funding from HIE and BnG in order to employ a Gaelic Access Officer. Eilidh Sykes took up her post in April and will be with us for at least a year – we hope to fund her for longer if possible. She will be continuing our work with the school as well as holding Gaelic events and forging connections with SMO and other institutions of higher education. She is also working with Barbara on the Gaelic library. This is, of course, going a long way to fulfill the prime purpose of this place

It has been a tremendously busy year but, from CELM stance three achievements stand out,

The Odling Exhibition, The continuation of the nave project and the Taproot Festival. The Odling Exhibition transformed this space – it was very different from what we have done before but proved to be extremely popular and successful. And it was wonderful to be able to celebrate the work of artists who made Lismore their home. Thanks particularly are due to Noelle Odling and Douglas Breingan for the realisation of the exhibition.

The nave project in July, continued the work of the previous year exposing the footings of the nave walls and lots more. Details are in the newsletter and Bob will speak later. What is sure is that it is a very important site and CELM look forward to working even more closely with the church in the near future. A sincere thanks must go to Bob Hay, Clare Ellis and Mark Thaker and the huge team of diggers and helpers. It was a fantastic week with a fantastic atmosphere.

The Taproot Festival in September was an expansion of our now regular Bookweek and, once again we have to thank volunteers for the huge amount of work that was involved in feeding, transporting and accommodating so many people as well as the massive amounts of paperwork needed. Thanks too to the hall who worked so well with us in the run up to and during the Festival. A special thanks must go to Julia Fayngruen for the great logo which was used everywhere and became instantly recognisable – as a good logo should and for a very professional looking FB page. I would like also to give a special mention to our own Mairi Campbell and Davy Maddock, Liz Lochhead (the former Makar), Booker prizewinner James Kelman, Professor Donald Meek, poet Norman Bissell and many others who gave of their work and considerable talents free because they believe in what we are trying to do. Such generosity is vital to the upkeep of the Centre but also to our place in the outside world.

So we continue on but still we look to you and the whole island for ideas and criticisms – both are valuable. We are well aware that, with our heads down focussed on the job, we can sometimes get things wrong – or miss something. To preclude that, we hold the open evening. The attendance at the last Open Evening, not including the Board, was SEVEN, I could say to myself that's because everyone's happy with what we do – or perhaps just not interested enough to turn out on a dark November night.

But – in order that this place should flourish – and I can say tentatively that it might be beginning to – we need new people. We need new ideas – new blood. (I am now entering my 15th year here twice the length of time I was ever in any one job) I'm aware that one can get stale – get into a rut. New people will prevent that happening. I'm still here because I love the place and am forever in awe of the courage and vision that brought it into being. So please – if you don't want to get involved yourself – and, believe me, it's incredibly fulfilling, go out into the highways and byways and recruit. Even a few hours a month makes a difference. Lismore has an invaluable asset in this place. It needs to be taken forward and developed even more.

Treasurer's Report

Noelle Odling presented the 2017 accounts (attached). There were no questions. The Accounts were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Archie MacColl and seconded by Duncan MacGregor.

The reappointment of David MacGregor as independent examiner for 2018/9 was agreed. Proposed by Bob Hay and seconded by Norma Black.

Noelle was warmly thanked for all her work as treasurer, not least the improved discipline in financial control by the use of annual budgets.

Curators's Report

On behalf of the curators of objects, documents, images and the cottage, Bob Hay reported briefly on:

- The Odling Exhibition curated by Noelle Odling and Douglas Breingan
- The visit to the Centre of the CEO of Museums Galleries Scotland, Joanne Orr
- The second season of archaeology at the cathedral, and the national interest in the project
- New accessions, drawing attention to the Lismore Lighthouse telescope
- The work of the curators in improving access to the collections: heritage articles; features in the online Studies in Local History; the Image of the Week feature on the website; and the culmination of the Object of the Month feature in the form of a book published on the day of the AGM and available for sale in the CELM shop.
- Particular thanks to Laura Gloag for planning and curating the new emigrant display

Election of Directors

Following the Memorandum and Articles, three directors retired: Jennifer Baker, Noelle Odling and Mike Robertson. As they were qualified to continue for a further three years, their re-appointment was accepted by the meeting.

The continuing directors for 2018/9 would be: Douglas Breingan, Arthur Cross, Helen Crossan, Clare Howarth, Lesley Hamilton and Memory McDonald.

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- The meeting welcomed Lesley Hamilton back to “active service” after her operation and wished her well for a full recovery.
- The café staff were complimented on a greatly improved service.
- In reply to a question from Sebastian Tombs, Jennifer Baker explained that HISEZ, the Inverness-based consultancy firm had provided CELM with several days of free support in business planning; help with securing funding for the Gaelic Access Officer post; and advice in relation to the planned covering for the café terrace. CELM directors are very grateful for this support.

Jennifer Baker was warmly thanked for all of her work as Chair in 2017/8.