



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held at Ionad Naomh Moluag.
30 June 2019

Present

Directors: Jennifer Baker (JB); Douglas Breingan (DB); Lesley Hamilton (LH); Memory McDonald (MM); Noelle Odling (NO); Mike Robertson (MJR)

Taic Director: Anne Livingstone (AL)

Committee Members: Bob Hay (BH, Minute Secretary); Eilidh Sykes (ES)

Apologies

Arthur Cross (AC); Helen Crossan (HC); Clare Haworth (CH); Peggy Nicholson (PN)

1. Minutes of the Meeting 2 May 2019

The minutes were found to be a correct account of the meeting. Proposed JB seconded LH. Unanimously agreed.

2. Matters Arising

9. Holiday Lets. The contents for the holiday let packs were nearly ready for distribution.

10. Constitutional Issues. Board members were pleased to accept the working document prepared by MJR, which was a very clear setting out of the relationship between CELM and Taic. Proposed MM, Seconded DB. Unanimously agreed. Thanks to MJR for this.

3. AGM

All arrangements were in order for the meeting. A copy of the 2018 Newsletter, and the Suggestions from the Open Day would be available for reference. It was agreed that a Large Print version of the accounts would be made available at the next AGM.

4. Treasurer's Report

The current balance stood at £4345 (Unrestricted £5,113, Restricted £-767).

The next VAT reclaim would deal with the Restricted deficit.

A Paypal donations system was now in place on the CELM website.

MJR would review the text of donation request notices within the building, which should include a statement of the full cost of running the Centre.

NO would explore additional ways of securing donations.

5. Taic Report

The current balance stood at £6490.

There were no issues with the shop or café to report. All going well.

5. Property

Cottage Roof. Neil Nicholson, thatcher from S Uist, who has worked with the Highland Folk Museum and at the HES Shed in Stirling, would visit Lismore on 1 July to review and cost the work. There was also the possibility of training for thatch maintenance. Thanks to DB for arranging this.

Centre Roof. The work of securing the roof with *Sedum* was progressing well, with the most recent area thoroughly stabilized. Thanks to DB and his team of volunteers for this.

6. VisitScotland Visit

LH and NO reported on the recent “mystery shopper” visit by VisitScotland.

The existing star rating would continue.

The findings to note were:

- Generally pleased with the improvements since the last visit 2 years ago
- Lack of signage in Oban, on ferries, and within the island
- Poor appearance of the gate area (“tired and tatty”) but very warm and adequate welcome once in the building
- Suggestion of more local food in the café
- Certain areas for improvement were highlighted in the museum room eg better flow; maintenance of banner boards; non functioning computers and surplus chairs should be removed. The visitors’ book, however, shows great appreciation of the museum room with special reference to ease of access to information and interesting displays.
- JB agreed to take over responsibility for displays and the management of the museum room for 2020.
- Laura Cook has offered to deal with the signage deficiencies

7. Curator and Heritage

Doreen and Roger Evans had offered to sell their Peggy Wreck Bottle to CELM at a very reasonable price. The Appin Historical Society had kindly agreed to

pay half of the cost and the Board was grateful to DB for contributing the other half.

8. Taproot Festival

JB reported that the arrangements, banners and tickets for the festival were in order, including a Taproot page on the CELM website. Julia Fayngruen would attend the next Board meeting, when arrangements were nearing completion.

9. Saturday Nights at the Heritage Centre

The Board agreed that this initiative should continue. BH note that he would need more help in administering and managing the programme.

12 AOCB

JB introduced a letter from Douglas Thorburn suggesting that CELM make permanent records of talks at the Centre. Board members would consider options and bring ideas to the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: 25 July 4pm.