

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mhor, held as a “virtual” meeting by means of “Zoom”, on 9th Oct. 2020.

Present: Jennifer Baker- Chair, (JB); Noelle Odling (NO); Memory MacDonald (MM); Anne Livingstone (AL); Mike Robertson (MR).

Apologies: Clare Haworth (CH); Douglas Breingan (DB); Bob Hay, Committee Member (BH).

1. Minutes of meeting 7th Sept. 2019.

Approved JB, seconded, MM. Agreed.

2 Matters arising:

JB had held a further “Zoom” meeting with Andy Walters regarding the web site. The work is now 95% completed. The site is “robust and working well, with various improvements and additional streamlining”. He will give JB a private link shortly, to enable Board members to comment before the site goes live.

3 Treasurers report:

The current balance for CELM stood at £27,053 (unrestricted £7,006; restricted £20,046.) NO explained that, thanks to various public funds, the financial position for the charity was relatively healthy. Of the Argyll & Bute £10,046 there is £6,953 left. The MGS fund of £6,425 has not, to date, been spent. There is £903 left from the funding for the Gaelic access officer. This will have to be spent on appropriate Gaelic projects, such as translation and signage. There is also £1086 due from HMRC; and £988 from the MacDougall McCallum Foundation, which is earmarked for museum projects. However, there will be ongoing costs over the winter so that much of the general funding will be required before opening in the Spring.

The TAIC funding stands at £11,462. The shop has done well over the summer.

NO went on to explain that she is applying to MGS for further available resilience funding, which requires to be for specific projects. She has listed:- sound proofing of the museum area; projection system and related electrics (Davie Maddox has kindly offered to donate a PA system to go with this); creating a drone type film in relation to the museum; further roof turfing; improved signage, and general matters such as electrics and insurance. All together that should make for an application of about £12 to £14k. All present

thanked NO for her tremendous work in relation to these matters. (Note: there is still a need for lighting improvements in the museum room, but these require the expert advice of DB who cannot visit under present restrictions).

4 Property:

MM reported that the ground source heat pump system requires further attention. The Environmental Health Dept are due to visit next week to inspect the water quality. "Vote of thanks to MM".

5 TAIC report:

AL was pleased to note that the café is still open and trading. It has been decided to drop the rent from the usual £350 pm over the Nov./March period to £100pm in order to help them cope with the pandemic effect. Everything is "up in the air" because of Covid, and TAIC are thinking of a craft fair outside the museum.

NO suggested that the TAIC rent payment to CELM over the Nov./March period should be dropped to £100pm in line with the above. This was agreed.

6 AOCB:

JB had spoken to Julia Fayngruen regarding painting the museum room and improving the IT system (Helen Crossan has a full list of requirements, but there is the question of funding).

MR raised the question of Achinduin, and that of telling the story to the public. JB will check the position re physical story boards within the ruin, with Robin Patel of HES. The web site could also be updated with castle story information. (in that connection it was also noted that the web site should most definitely have information re the café included in it.)

7 Next meeting:

Friday 13th November at 2.30pm, by "Zoom".

