



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held
at Ionad Naomh Moluag on Sunday 30 June 2019.

Present: Jennifer Baker, Douglas Breingan, Arthur Cross, Roger Dixon-Spain, Lesley Hamilton, Bob Hay, Anne Livingstone, Duncan Livingstone, Archie MacGillivray, Duncan MacGregor, Memory McDonald, Barbara McDougall, Mike Robertson, Stuart Ross, Eilidh Sykes, Sebastian Tombs.

Apologies: Rosemary Barry, Caroline Bath, Margaret Black, Helen Crossan, Sarah Jones, Marilyn Whitehead.

1. The Minutes of the last AGM held on 2 June 2018 were examined and found to be a correct account. Proposed Sebastian Tombs, Seconded Noelle Odling. Accepted unanimously.
2. Jennifer Baker welcomed everybody and thanked them for turning out to support the AGM

Chair's Report:

2018 was, very busy and exciting. Our newsletter, which most of you will have already received, gives a detailed account of events. (many thanks to Bob Hay for collating and editing) There are copies available at the back of the room.

Our successes, which are many, are due to the utter diligence and commitment of those who have dedicated so much of their own time. Every year I say the same but I make no apologies for expressing the thanks and gratitude due to the team of volunteers who keep this place at the highest standard throughout. Their contributions include: 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; maintaining the website, Facebook and twitter; maintaining and updating the archive; mounting displays in the cottage and the museum; liaising with the school and island community – 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. Can I repeat – this was all done by volunteers. Again, as every year, I appeal to the wider community for help – even if only a couple of hours a month. The work increases exponentially with the successes.

Eilidh Sykes, our Gaelic Access Officer has been employed this year, funded by HIE and BnG to raise Gaelic awareness. Sadly, her tenure comes to an end next week and we'll be looking for further funding to promote Gaelic language and culture. The Gaelic weekend was a great success with workshops, and walks as well as the Saturday night concert. The Gaelic Cafe was held on a weekly basis during the season. On a personal note, I have found the wider Gaelic community less than helpful. Here at CELM we work hard in the field to fulfil the mission of this Centre but we receive very little help, and Gaelic events are, on the whole, not well attended. Nevertheless, we'll soldier on.

Further work is being done on both roofs -the museum and the cottage. A thatcher is coming next week to give us an estimate for the cottage roof which is overdue a rethatch.

Bob will speak later about this year's exhibition, the dig and the archive – as well as our new archive space. There have been remarkable developments this year which are proving to be tremendously exciting for the future. There are also new publications (eg 'The Story of Lismore in 50 Objects') which are of great interest to islanders and the diaspora. Monthly Saturday night talks are proving to be a great success – both in the variety of subjects as well as the erudition of the speakers. There is always lively discussion afterwards in the cafe over a glass of wine.

Our open day this year, entitled CELM – the Future, was exceptionally well attended.

We worked under 4 headings:

What have been our greatest successes?

What assets do we have?

What should we do more/less of?

How do we get more people to help?

The ideas came thick and fast – there are copies available at the back of the room of the transcription from the tablecloths. As you will see, some of the ideas have been implemented already and others we are working on. Some, such as signage, need funding but we are prioritising that in particular. It seems, too, in relation to ‘grow the population’, that others have obligingly taken that on! I believe the school roll will be 18 next year.

Finally, I am happy to tell you that our spot inspection this year from Visit Scotland produced good results and, despite the more rigorous assessment criteria, we retained our 4 stars. Of course, there were criticisms (most of which you had already highlighted at the Open Day) but we will attend to those forthwith.

So, thank you for your help and support and, please, if you know of anyone who would be happy to join with us in this truly magical place, send them in.

Bob Hay asked to put on record the Society’s appreciation of Jennifer’s contribution to CELM over 3 arduous years as Chair.

3. Treasurer’s Report

Noelle Odling gave a detailed presentation of the CELM 2018 Accounts, answering relevant questions.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Duncan Livingstone, Seconded by Douglas Breingan. Accepted unanimously.

The meeting expressed its appreciation of Noelle Odling’s important contribution to the running of INM.

4. Curator/Heritage Report

Bob Hay Reported on activities since the last AGM, including:

- The new MacDougall display
- Commissioning of the new Archive Storage facility
- New accessions
- Heritage publications, including The History of Lismore in 50 Objects and, on the internet, The Minute Book of the Lismore Agricultural Society, and Mary MacGregor’s Diary
- Community Archaeology including the Early Church findings from 2018 and the 2019 Geophysical survey of the glebe.

5. Election of Directors

Following CELM Memorandum & Articles, Douglas Breingan, Helen Crossan, and Lesley Hamilton stood down.

Douglas Breingan and Caroline Bath were elected in their place.

Unanimously agreed.

The list of CELM Directors now stood as: Jennifer Baker, Caroline Bath, Douglas Breingan, Arthur Cross, Clare Haworth, Memory McDonald, Noelle Odling and Mike Robertson.

6. Membership Fee

After discussion, it was agreed to set the fees for 2019/2020 at £20 (individual), £35 (family) and £150 (life). Proposed Jennifer Baker, seconded Noelle Odling, approved by a majority of those present. These would be reviewed for the next AGM.

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts.

The appointment of David MacGregor of Simmers & Co., Oban was conformed.

Proposed Noelle Odling, Seconded Mike Robertson.

8. Date of the next AGM

To be decided.