



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios
Mòr held by ZOOM, 14 January 2021
Second Draft

Present

Directors: Jennifer Baker (JB), Douglas Breingan (DB), Clare Haworth (CH),
Memory McDonald (MM), Noelle Odling (NO) Mike Robertson (MJR)

Taic Director: Anne Livingstone (AL)

Committee Member: Bob Hay (BH Minute Secretary)

Apologies:

None

1. Tribute to the late Margaret MacDonald

From Jennifer Baker

Margaret MacDonald, one of the founder members of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr died on Tuesday 5th January 2020 aged 91. As well as the great memories that we all have of her, she has left a magnificent legacy in the form of the museum. Her determination to preserve the particular Gaelic language, music and culture of the island led to the restoration of the cottar's cottage and, later, the building of the Heritage Centre - one of the most important island achievements of the last 30 years and, along with the hall, the hub of island life. It hosts upwards of 3,000 visitors a year so is an important element of the island economy. It also provides employment for young people.

In the early days Margaret served as secretary and later as Chair of CELM. She also ran weekends hosting Gaelic language students and musicians. The booklet of Gaelic Place names was instigated by her so that these unique Gaelic names will forever be remembered. The Gaelic ceilidhs are part of island legend.

Many of us have enjoyed one-to-one Gaelic tuition from her. Such a privilege. Margaret was born and brought up on the island and had an intimate knowledge of its history and people. She worked in the shop and in the school. Freda Drysdale, who was the head teacher at the time, said of her

"I appreciated her intellect, her excellent knowledge of Gaelic language, music and culture and, most of all, her kindness, warmth and humanity".

The many messages we have received echo those sentiments again and again. Her door was always open and the kettle on for so many of us eager to learn about the island we have made our home..

Without Margaret and Donald Black and Cathy Carmichael there would be no Comann Eachdraidh and no Heritage Centre. As long as all this stands, she will never be forgotten.

From Tony Perkins, Project Officer for the new Centre:

I have fond memories of Margaret who became a true and trusted friend as we worked together on the Heritage project. Margaret's dream and vision was as big as it was bold such was her love of her Island, its history and heritage. Her passion and sincerity allowed us to develop a relationship of trust, respect and hope. Margaret carried that hope in her heart, which inspired me to enable her to achieve her dream. Margaret's warmth and hospitality shone through in endless tea and cake every week when we met. As an "outsider" on the island it was Margaret who enabled me to find my place in this unique community by gently guiding and directing so that I could call it home. Precious memories of a very precious lady

2. Appointment of Office Bearers

JB to continue as Chair until the next AGM. Proposed MJR, Seconded MM

NO to continue as Treasurer. Proposed JB, Seconded MM

Agreed unanimously

BH agreed to continue to act as Minute Secretary

3. Minutes of the Meeting 19 November 2020

Approval proposed by JB, Seconded MJR. Accepted unanimously

4. Matters Arising

Help with IT. Heritage Recordings. Julia Fayngruen and Erick Tovar would shortly locate the Lismore recordings identified by Helen Crossan on the office computer. These would be stored on a hard disk in the Museum Archive. they will carry out updating of the software on the office computer.

Projector and Screen. Dealt with under the Treasurer's Report.

Image Collection. Progress to be reported to the next meeting.

Website. JB had circulated the new format of the CELM website. Directors were asked for responses.

MacPherson Legacy. It was confirmed that this year's legacy would be used to finance the 2021 archaeological dig (if COVID regulations permitted) and the new CELM film.

Museum Lighting. To be dealt with at the next meeting

5. Treasurer's Report

NO explained the current financial position, in relation to previous months. The organisation finances were healthy for the moment. The current balance for CELM stood at £36,954 (£14,645 unrestricted, £22,309 restricted).

MGS Recovery and Resilience Progress (First instalment received 22 Dec 2020, £8591; total £11455). Progress report to MGS due 22.02.21.

Museum Room acoustics	Started 01.12.20	Expected completion 28.02.21
Museum Room projection	01.12.20	15.01.21
Café acoustics	01.12.20	15.02.21
Container	01.12.20	28.02.21
Signage	01.12.20	15.03.21
Centre Roof	01.12.20	30.03.21

Later note: Action on the Museum room projection project has been delayed as DB is not able to travel to Lismore due to Covid restrictions.

The café rent would remain at £100 per month until opening of the Centre was permitted.

6. Property Report

MM listed the jobs in hand:

Museum Room painting. Completed

Café partition. Completed by Yorick Paine, to be painted.

Ducting. Cleaning scheduled for mid-February.

Barista coffee machine going for annual service 25 January.

Storage container purchased. Site to be prepared.

7. Taic Report

Current balance £7,217.

It was planned to resume takeaway meals from the café in February.

8. Curator Report

Purchases for the archive. BH would contact the National Library about the Wellesley/Macaulay letter for sale on Abe Books.

DB had purchased a 1770 map to be printed for sale as a poster by the CELM shop.

The Board approved the reimbursement of DB for the expenditure on archive materials from the internet.

The Film. The text had been completed. It was agreed to pay honoraria to Murray Willis for recording the text and Charlie Gray for incidental music.

9. AOCB

The Board expressed their appreciation of the contributions made to CELM by Duncan and Eileen Ferguson, who were leaving Lismore. JB and AL would write accordingly.

Date of Next Meeting. 11 February by ZOOM at 7pm.