



Minutes of a blended Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held at INM and by Zoom, 10 December 2021

Present

Directors: Jennifer Baker (JB), Memory McDonald (MM) and Noelle Odling (NO) in person; Douglas Breingan (DB), Ailsa Clarke (AiC), David Clarke (DC), Clare Haworth (CH) and Mike Robertson (MJR) by Zoom.

Committee Member: Bob Hay (BH Minute Secretary)

Apologies: Arthur Cross (AC), Anne Livingstone (AL).

1. Minutes of 8 November 2021.

Approval proposed by JB, Seconded NO. Accepted unanimously.

2. Matters arising.

Illicit Stills. BH would liaise with MJR about a future display.

Lismore New South Wales. JB had made contact with her relations in Australia and would report back in due course.

Taproot Festival. JB reported that, although she would continue to seek funding and organize literary contributions, she would not be able to do the management of the festival. A decision would shortly be made to mount the festival on the weekends of 17th or 24th September. JB asked Board members to consider possible managers and sponsors for the festival.

3. New Director.

The Board was pleased to approve the cooption of Sarah Faraday as Director. Action JB.

4. Treasurer's Report (NO).

Current Balance £11,285

Restricted £678

Unrestricted £10,607

Card-based donations. NO had tested the new QR code successfully. It would be deployed for next season.

Hugh MacPherson Bequest. JB would write to Sara MacPherson to let her know that the Board proposed to use this year's bequest to help fund the renovation of the balcony.

VAT. After taking advice, NO had opted for the Sage software. The first 3 months would be free of charge.

Information Commission. CELM was liable for an annual Data Protection fee of £40.

Music Performance. Directors were grateful that Charlie Grey had given written permission for the music associated with *A Sacred Island* to be played in the museum free of charge.

5. Property Report (MM).

Balcony. Dan Steel had kindly agreed survey the structure to determine how much needed to be replaced. It was expected that full costings would be available by mid-January.

Borehole. Nothing to report.

Ground Source Heat Pump. Failure of the pump during November was being investigated.

6. Taic Report.

Current Balance £19,110. Healthy finances were partly the result of a good shop season.

The Board expressed its gratitude to the desk volunteers who had made this possible.

Around £10,000 would be transferred to CELM before the end of 2021.

7. Curator Report.

Archaeology Costs. BH reported that the post excavation costs for the 2021 dig were estimated at £18,000. The cost of a week's dig in 2022 to complete the work that had been curtailed by bad weather in 2021 would be around £5000 – costs kept down by offering free board and lodging to the professionals.

He had made applications to the MacDougall Clan Association of America; the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland; and the Royal Archaeological Institute. In the new year, applications would be made to the Society for Medieval Archaeology; The Hunter Archaeology Trust; and Argyll & Bute Supporting communities.

However, it was inevitable that we would have to resort to Crowdfunding again in 2022.

Ideas for other sources of funding would be welcomed.

Museum Room Display. Aic and DC outlined their ideas for a “Within Living Memory” display in the museum room for 2022. They would consult with JB and DB, and bring a plan for the display to the next meeting.

Spinning Wheel. Freda Drysdale would arrange for the wheel to be repaired. It would then be accessioned and placed in safe storage. A non-accessioned replacement would be placed in the Cottage for the 2022 season.

Succession. The Board supported a proposal by BH to train a successor to curate the object and document collections.

8. AOCB

Cruise Ship Visits. BH would be in touch with the Collette Company to explain the logistics of bringing parties to the Heritage Centre.

Talks. The Board welcomed the proposal by AiC to give a presentation on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in February. DC was asked to bring forward his ideas for Saturday Night Talks to future meetings. NO and JB were also developing ideas for 2022.

DC was thanked for facilitating the Zoom Meeting.

Next Meeting: 14 January *at 5pm*.