



Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held at
INM, 12 April 2024

Present

Directors: Jennifer Baker (JB), Douglas Breingan (DB), Ailsa Clarke (AiC), David Clarke (DC), Morag Ferguson (MF), Clare Haworth (CH), Noelle Odling (NO),

Taic: Peggy Nicolson (PN)

Committee Member: Bob Hay (BH, Minute Secretary)

Website: Pauline Dowling (PD)

Apologies

Anne Livingstone (AL), Memory McDonald (MM), Mike Robertson (MJR).

1. Approval of the Minutes of 23 February 2024.

Proposed JB, Seconded MF, approved unanimously

2. Matters arising from 12 January.

Stiles (PD) Having consulted landowners, PD would consult with the Island Development Trust, and report in due course

CELM Website (PD). As part of the continuing renewal of the website, PD was updating the Centre submenus. She asked Directors to check these, including the expanded Heritage submenu. Copy for the new museum display was required. The Board members expressed their appreciation of this valuable work.

Volunteer Day. 27 March 2-5pm. Several Board members reported a good turnout of enthusiastic volunteers.

Press Release. The “gold” press release resulted in good coverage in the Scotsman and Oban Times, and a welcome donation of £500 for the post-ex work. Important lessons had been learnt. JB would contact Andreas Wolff at BBC Alba about a possible broadcast feature on the dig artefacts, and write to Alison Weir to thank her for her generous donation.

3. Treasurer’s Report (NO).

Current Balance £28,313.68

Unrestricted £17,861.96

Restricted (all post-ex) £10,451.72

The Taproot Programme 2023/4 had yielded a profit of £1,346.80

BH tabled draft accounts of the post-ex work, which would be circulated to Board members with these minutes. Board Members thanked him for his work.

4. Property Report (MM).

DCB reported that maintenance of the thatch on the cottage was now due. He estimated that it would need a day's work by the thatcher using materials stored at INM.

5. Taic.

The Centre shop was in good order for the new season, thanks to the work of Lesley & Sarah. Taic had concluded a new 5-year contract with Dan and Sarah for the running of the café.

6. Curator Report.

The Hunter Archaeological Trust had confirmed the award of a grant of £5,000 to support the post-ex programme.

The need for update of the format of the cottage recording prompted a review of all the digital recordings in the CELM collection. DC agreed to arrange this work, in coordination with MF.

7. Taproot.

Preparations for the performance by the Lismore schoolchildren, of "Children at Laggan" written and directed by JB, to be staged at INM on 6 June, had begun. It would include fiddle music and poetry. Thanks to Catherine Davies for her Story Board contribution. JB was looking for new music contributions for the 2024/5 season.

8. New Board Member.

JB was pleased to report that Michelle MacGregor had agreed to join the Board of CELM.

9. Education/Engagement.

AiC and DC would run "outreach education days" at INM during the coming school holiday period, with emphasis on involving visiting children. Board Directors were grateful for this initiative.

10. AOCB

Church Futures. Board members noted the date of the open Meeting on 5 May (pre-church tour of the site and post-church open meeting). Board members would continue to serve on the working party, keeping heritage at the centre of the plans for the church building. JB proposed a joint meeting of the Board with the working party before too long.

Presentation. The Board kindly presented BH with a valuable Blaeu/Pont map of the Moray area to mark his retirement from the curatorship of CELM objects. This was an unexpected surprise and deeply appreciated by him.

Date of the Next Meeting: to be arranged.