Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held at INM, 16 January 2025

Present
Directors: Ailsa Clarke (Aic, by Zoom), Morag Ferguson (MF), Mike Robertson (MJR, in the chair), Anne Livingstone (AL), Memory McDonald (MM), Michelle MacGregor (MMac), Noelle Odling (NO).

Minute Secretary
Bob Hay (BH)

Apologies
Jennifer Baker (JB), David Clarke (DC), Pauline Dowling (PD), Douglas Breingan (DB), Clare Haworth (CH), Julie Livingstone (JL)

1. Approval of the Minutes of 16 December 2024
Proposed MF, Seconded MM. Accepted unanimously.

2. Matters arising from 16 December.
Report from DC on Education and Outreach
Several handling and outreach sessions were run throughout the Easter and Summer holidays of 2024. Using the private collection of one of the board members, volunteers engaged visitors with the opportunity to handle original portable antiquities and coins from the Mesolithic to the Victorian eras. Each one had been chosen carefully as to be relatable to an episode in Lismore's history or a site in the landscape that visitors to the island were familiar with. The use of objects in this way has several real advantages over static displays or text-based exhibits, allowing visitors to engage at a personal level in exploring the objects with their own questions and linking them to their existing subject knowledge. The approach works extremely well with visitors with little or no English who are often excluded from experiencing museums to the fullest. It also is a powerful tool in engaging with children, who are often told not to touch, be quiet, etc., in museums. These spaces often become boring, incomprehensible or forbidding- or all three. Further plans in the summer of 2025 is to replicate this engagement and expand the number of days it is operated on, as well as other events with a specific focus on the Great War, and having living historians stationed in the Heritage Centre's cottage.
The Board thanked the Clarkes for their valuable contributions to the life of the museum.

3. Treasurer's Report (NO).
Bank Balance £34,827.21 (31 December 2024)
Unrestricted £26,886.00
Restricted   £7941.21

NO reported that CELM's finances had never been so healthy.   The reserves had been boosted by the transfer of £10,000 from Taic, thanks to lower that usual expenses, and the excellent performance of the museum shop.

4. Property Report (MM).
MM reported on current work, including the need to service the ground source heat pump; fire extinguishers; and the septic tank biodisc.
The Board approved the replacement of the ageing kitchen dishwasher (Proposed MF, Seconded AiC). MM would source quotes.
Inventory of the Cottage had been completed.
MM and Laura Gloag would resolve the issue of missing Library keys.

5. Taic.
The Board would send flowers to Sarah Jones, Shop Manager, on behalf of CELM and Taic, with our best wishes for her recovery.   She would be out of action for some time but the Shop was in good order for the moment.

7. Curator Report (BH).
Accreditation. With the completion of the formalities in recruiting Alison Diamond as Accreditation Monitor, the preparatory work for submission were now complete. BH would make the formal application before 31 January.

8. Museum Display.
JB had briefed the Board on the difficulties encountered by Laura Major in preparation for the 2025 Water display. JB would meet with her to deal with outstanding issues during February.

9. Taproot.
Board Members were reminded of the remaining 2024/5 Taproot events, including Ron Livingstone's return on 19 January.
The Lismore Dance Bank event scheduled for 30 March will now take place on 6 April.
JB had started planning for 2025/6.

10. ABMHF Website.
BH had forwarded the (delayed) December email to the Board and PD, to see if CELM can take part in this initiative.

11. AOCB.
CELM Computers. (Amended minute by MF).
In view of the difficulties with, and failures of, the office computer and the archive laptop, the Board approved the purchase of the following, quoted by Matrix Computers to our specification (Proposed MM, Seconded MF, unanimously agreed):

The proposed system would cost £699 plus VAT:
Intel Core i5-14400 3.5-4.7GHz, 10 Core CPU
2x 16GB DDR4 Memory (32GB Total)
Mini Tower Case
Iiyama 27" IPS Monitor with Speakers
Wireless Mouse & Keyboard
1Tb Fast NVMe Solid State Drive

Wi-Fi & Bluetooth
Windows 11 Pro
One Year Warranty

There would be additional costs of installing software and migrating records.
The archive laptop would be sent to Matrix Computers in Oban for temporary resolution of problems, with a view to purchasing a replacement in due course.

The Board agreed that this would meet CELM's current needs and would provide some future proofing and suggested that we should follow up with an enquiry on setting up and maintaining this system. The board agreed to renew the current Office 365 licence in the interim but noted that we could move to a new licence for charitable institutions in the future. Matrix have agreed to provide further information on this.

Board members were grateful to Paul Brady at Matrix for his continuing support to CELM.

12. Date of Next Meeting
13 February, 11am