Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held at INM, 13 March 2025

Present
Directors: Jennifer Baker (JB), Morag Ferguson (MF), Clare Haworth (CH), Julie Livingstone (JL), Michelle MacGregor (MMac), Memory McDonald (MM), Noelle Odling (NO), Mike Robertson (MJR).

Minute Secretary
Bob Hay (BH)

Apologies
Douglas Breingan (DB), Ailsa Clarke (Aic), David Clarke (DC), Pauline Dowling (PD), Anne Livingstone (AL)

1. Approval of the Minutes of 13 February 2025
Proposed MM, Seconded MJR. Accepted unanimously.

2. Matters arising from 16 December.
Water Display. JB reported on progress in preparation for the museum opening, and confirmed that Phase 2 of the display would be mounted next year.
CELM would provide one stand from store (Action MM). Dowsing rods would be available for visitors to try. Laura would give a Taproot talk in October.
ABMHF Website. BH & JB had still to formulate an up-to-date 200 word summary of CELM, which could also be used by Calmac, the Rough Guide and CHARTS.
Computers. The new office computer was up and running, with a gratifying speed. MF outlined the other developments in hand. MJR would deliver the archive laptop to Matrix for assessment. It was acknowledged that a new laptop might be required to support the work of MF (access to eHive, downloading of dataloggers).
Achinduin. BH had not yet received a response from HES about possible financial support for a conservation survey of the fabric of the castle. MJR confirmed that the insurance cover was adequate.
CELM Futures. The Board approved the plan to apply for support from the MGS Museum Development Fund for finance to commission a full architectural plan for the development of the Centre (closing date 30 April). The application would include text to explain needs (JB & BH); preliminary sketches of the Board's vision (possibilities would be explored by JB, the Board agreeing to expenditure of up to £1,000 - proposed JB, seconded MJR, Accepted unanimously); and an estimate of the full cost of an architectural plan. All preparation to be completed in time for a Futures meeting: 11am, 7 April.

3. Treasurer's Report (NO).

Current Balance	£28,204.64
Unrestricted	£20,263.43
Restricted (all post-ex)	£7,941.21

The accounts were ready to go to the accountant in preparation for the AGM.

4. Property Report (MM).

- The hole in the road at the entrance gate had been concreted but more work on the carpark would be needed.
- A new dishwasher with increased capacity had been installed at a cost of £2307.47 plus vat.
- 5 parasols had been purchased for the balcony and picnic table. £118.71 plus vat.
- The Board confirmed the need to seek a quote for areas of wood rot at the front of the building; and the need to mend the locking mechanism on the door leading to the balcony, failing that to organise a complete replacement of door and frame.
- The last library bookcase was now in place. The two sets of keys had not been located yet.

The Board thanked MM for her tireless work in maintaining the building.

5. Taic Report (AL).

Nothing to report.

6. Curator Report (BH).

Object handling event. DCB had kindly offered to mount a day event, particularly aimed at curators and desk volunteers, but also the wider membership of the Society. He would provide all of the materials to be used. BH would liaise with DCB to fix a date.

Post-Excavation Day Seminar. BH reported that exciting results of the post-excavation analyses of the finds from the Lismore field work were now beginning to become available. He proposed that CELM should organise a day meeting on Lismore in Spring 2026 when the experts could explain and interpret the findings. The Board agreed to the idea in principle and asked BH to contact the experts (Clare Ellis, Angela Boyle and Gemma Cruickshanks of NMS) for their response to the idea.

7. The Cottage.

The Board thanked DC for his very full report on how the Cottage display might develop. As members had not had time to digest the ideas fully, and the proposals involved fairly major changes in policy for the cottage, it was agreed that DCB would be asked to discuss them with DC and report back in due course. The Board was aware of the short period available before the opening of the season at the start of April.

8. Taproot.

JB was actively looking for contributors for the Taproot programme 2025/26, which would follow the successful pattern of 2024/24. Suggestions of musical contributions would be particularly welcome. Following the enthusiastic response of the Lismore schoolchildren, she proposed writing and staging a new play, and would be grateful for any anecdotes of Lismore life that might be re-enacted. It was agreed to continue requesting a donation of £12 for attendance at each event, emphasising the need to cover costs.

9. AOCB.
NO announced that some Odling family watercolour paintings would be available for sale in the CELM shop in the coming season.

Date of Next Meeting 10 April at 2.30 pm