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

Present
Directors: Jennifer Baker (JB), Douglas Breingan (DB), David Clarke (DC), Morag Ferguson (MF), Anne Livingstone (AL), Michelle MacGregor (MMac), Memory McDonald (MM), Noelle Odling (NO), Mike Robertson (MJR).
Accreditation Mentor: Alison Diamond (AD)

Minute Secretary
Bob Hay (BH)

Apologies
Ailsa Clarke (Aic), Pauline Dowling (PD), Clare Haworth (CH), Julie Livingstone (JL).

Welcomes:
To Alison Diamond, newly-appointed Accreditation Mentor
On the return of Douglas Breingan, whose wise counsel had been missed

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

2. Matters arising from 16 December.
Website. In the absence of PD, JB reported that PD was making good progress in organising the archived material.
Dishwasher and Keys. See below in Property Report.
Water Display. Following a meeting with Laura Major on Lismore on 12 February, it had been agreed to opt for a small preliminary display in 2025, in preparation for a more extensive display in 2026. It was agreed to consider a feature on the Lismore water mills (DB).
ABMHF Website. AD reported progress on the developing the website. BH & JB would formulate an up-to-date 200 word summary of CELM, which could also be used by Calmac, the Rough Guide and CHARTS.
Computers. CELM would provide Stephen Green with a café voucher, in thanks for his help in computer maintenance. A complaint would be made to the supplier about the failure of the power backup device.
Matrix was ready to supply the new office computer. There would be an additional fee of £50 for assistance in the transfer between machines. The old machine would be held for 3 months after the installation of the new computer.

3. Treasurer's Report (NO).

Current Balance £32,508.95
Unrestricted £24,567.74
Restricted (all post-ex) £7,941.21

The heathy balance was a tribute to the work of Lesley Hamilton and Sarah Jones in stocking and running the shop, and the desk volunteers, who combined shop duties with visitor welcome, week in week out. The shop had a good reputation amongst small museums for quality and local produce.

4. Property Report (MM).

The hole at the entrance gate had been concreted but more work on the carpark would be needed. Thanks to Memory for this essential work.

The new dishwasher had been installed. It is the same model but has a larger capacity. £2307.47 plus VAT.

5 parasols had been purchased for the balcony and picnic table. £118.71 plus VAT.

The Coffee machine had gone for its annual service, along with the coffee grinder as it required an overhaul. Freda and Duncan Drysdale had kindly offered to transport it to and from Caffeinefix in Crieff.

There were several areas of rot at the front of the building. Memory would seek quotes for the work. The locking mechanism had broken on the door leading to the balcony. As the door and frame are warped a complete replacement door and frame may be necessary.

The last library bookcase was now in place. The 2 sets of keys had not yest been located.

5. Taic Report (AL).

Taic was delighted to report that the café had been awarded first prize in the Small Islands Bakery and Café class of the Oceanic Media awards, a just reward for the work of Dan and Sarah. They were grateful for the support of customers.

The Board congratulated Dan and Sarah on a well-deserved achievement.

6. Curator Report.

Post-excavation analyses. After a long wait, osteology and pottery reports were due in the coming weeks. With new information, BH would write again to donors to report what their contributions had achieved. With the receipt of a new grant of £2,500 from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (from 1 April), CELM had sufficient funds to meet all expected expenditure on analyses of Clachan finds. Further funding would be needed for the publication of the archaeological programme.

BH would contact Dr Angela Boyle to arrange a talk about the osteological findings in due course.

Inventory of Objects Collection. This was nearing completion, thanks to MF, MMac and JL.

Cottage. Following discussion about the role /focus of the Cottage, DC and MMac agreed to bring a proposal to the next Board meeting.

7. Engagement 2025.

DC would develop ideas for Summer 2025, focussing on the Cottage and drawing from the discussion under 6 above.

DB would organise an Object Handling Course (but not involving accessioned Lismore objects), liaising with MF and AD (for documents), reporting to the Board in due course. Details of both initiatives would be posted on the CELM website.

8. CELM Future.
Next meeting 3 March 11am at INM.

9. AGM.
To be arranged end May/June
JB announced that she would be retiring from the Chair at the AGM.

10 Taproot.
JB noted that the annual Taproot programme was a fixture in the calendar, and that there was no difficulty in securing willing contributors. It was agreed that events that continued into the café should be encouraged. JB was negotiating with Lismore Primary School to ensure an annual feature. A draft programme for 2025/6 would be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

11. AOCB.
Achinduin.
The Field Officer of Historic Environment Scotland had carried out a routine visit to Achinduin Castle in November. He had advised that CELM employ a Conservation Architect to advise on the long-term conservation of the castle masonry.
BH would consult with HES about possible funding, and MJR would check on the status of CELM's public liability cover and report to the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting.
13 March at 2.30pm