



**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr held at
INM 20 February 2026**

Present

Jennifer Baker (JB), Morag Ferguson (MF), Michelle MacGregor (MMG), Noelle Odling (NO), Sarah Armitage (SA), Bob Hay (BH), Pauline Dowling (PD), Douglas Breingan (DB), Ailsa Clarke (AC), Dave Clarke (DC), Mary MacDougall

Apologies

Memory MacDonald (MM), Julie Livingstone (JL), Clare Haworth (CH), Mike Robertson (MR), Anne Livingstone (AL), Alison Diamond (AD)

1. Approval of minutes of 16th January 2026

Proposed JB, Seconded SA. Accepted unanimously.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising

3. Treasurers report (NO)

Restricted £2,723.83

Unrestricted £22,493.06

Total £25,216.89

The accounting period for CELM will move from the end of December to March. CELM will be using XERO digital accounting software.

Funds from MGS of approximately £15k are due soon.

4. Property (MM)

Update at next meeting

5. TAIC (SA)

Nothing to report.

6. Curator report (BH/MF)

BH explained that he had previously paid for subscription for AIM & EHIVE. MF to action transfer to CELM.

DB is to take on the responsibility of maintaining the shelter for the graveslabs near the Church – weeding and checking of rubber padding is required. To reduce costs it was suggested that a QR code is located at the site so that anyone wanting to read the information previously provided on leaflets could be directed to a web page. MF to organise QR link. Historic Scotland should be contacted if there are any problems regarding the site. Images of rubbings taken of the graveslabs a 100 years ago show that there is some deterioration in the graveslabs. DB will try to gain access to the images of the rubbings. DB to seek advice from Historic Scotland regarding the lichens on the slabs.

BH stated that archaeological samples of soil/stones need to be kept. Bones in storage will be reburied once the DNA analysis is complete and results released.

Accreditation of the Museum is now in place for 4 years. CELM will need an Accreditation Manager going forward.

BH outlined the programme for the Day Conference on the 9 May. The conference will tell the island and the volunteer diggers involved in the project what was found. Various experts have been involved in writing up the research for publishing in “Antiquity”. Dr Adrian Maldonado (Curator of the Galloway Hoard, NMS) will speak at the end of the day. There will be an informal dinner in the Heritage Centre for the speakers and the volunteer diggers. The CELM board agreed to an extra £300-400 being made available to cover costs of a donation to the Church, travel expenses and publicity. Assistance may be needed on the day to transfer speakers and others to and from ferries. Dr Gemma Cruickshank has agreed to release artefacts to CELM for the weekend. BH will discuss with Gemma the type of display cabinets we need to ensure we meet NMS requirements.

BH has published “Lismore Lives” which will be available for purchase in the Heritage Centre shop. LH is to advise of the cost of the publication.

7. Website (PD)

Peggy Nicholson has translated the story of the road that Duncan Livingstone built into Gaelic for the website. PD mentioned that information on events was not always forthcoming for the website. PD is seeking information currently on the handover of the Charlie MacDougall army uniform to the Heritage Centre. Mary MacDougall will contact her Canadian relatives for information.

PD is to re advertise the post for Project Officer on the website.

PD will arrange advertisement of the May Conference on the website in due course.

8. Museum exhibition/display (AC, DC, DB)

AC, DC and DB discussed the vision for this years exhibition based around the lives of Lismore people during various wars. Exhibition panels are expected to cost between £300-£500. Extracts from the Oban Times with war stories could be displayed.

DC wants digital photos of people from Lismore that went away to war.

JB to investigate the status of the bid for a 65in interactive screen that could be used in the exhibition space.

AC explained the type of events that could take place during the season, ie. Living history days, Show and Tell, Children's Day. Lismore School could get involved with the activities throughout the exhibition period.

The Charlie MacDougall kilt will be displayed as part of the exhibition.

9. Taproot (JB)

JB feels that Taproot needs a review/refurb. The events have had mixed attendance levels. We need to consider which events attract more interest and whether the date/timing of some events has an effect on attendance. Suppers alongside events were suggested as a possible way of attracting people to Taproot events.

10. Stirling conference (JB, MF)

JB and MF attended a conference at Stirling University which was a follow up to the research regarding Balnagown Loch undertaken earlier in the year by 3 researchers from the university. The Conference was attended by researchers from various disciplines. The researchers that came to Lismore intend to return in March/April to report back to the community. A researcher on buglife confirmed that the loch has no medicinal leeches of scientific interest. A researcher from Royal Holloway University has been taking cores of the loch which have been found to highlight large climatic events. Further research is likely on springs and the Marl beds. The University will provide a report on their research.

11. Futures update (JB, MF)

The post for Project Officer has been advertised in The Oban Times, online platforms such as Facebook, HiJobs, Charity Jobs. The applicants will be shortlisted based on scoring against a set of criteria. Expenses for attending the interview will be restricted to a nominal figure. Interviews will take place in mid-March.

12. ACOB and date of next meeting

DB has purchase two books for CELM which includes "Agriculture in Argyll".

The Times newspaper recently mentioned Lismore as one of the best islands to visit.

Next meeting of CELM Board – Thursday 26 March at 11.30am in the Library Room.