

## BOARD MINUTES

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|---------------|--|
| Date and Time | Wed 30th Aug 2017  |
| Location      | Fèis Rois Office, Dingwall   |
| Purpose       | Quarterly Meeting  |
| Present       | Conal McDonagh, Alison Lewis (ACEO), Shannon Cowie, Mark Sheridan (Acting Chair), Malina MacDonald-Dawson, Fiona Callum. |
| Apologies     | Harriet Dempster (Chair), Colin Sandilands   |

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

| Action Ref. Number | Action   | Responsibility   | Time line           |
|--------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|
| Item 1             | Cards from Board to bereaved families                      | Alison Lewis     | ASAP                |
| Item 2             | Risk log to Alison and Fiona                               | Malina MacDonald | ASAP                |
| Item 3             | List of policies to be sent to Board                       | Alison Lewis     | Nov 2017            |
| Item 4             | Prospective Board Members be approached Fiona C, Shannon C |                  | ASAP                |
| Item 5             | Produce calendar from Feis Rois t-shirt                    | Alison Lewis     | Oct 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Item 6             | Board & staff to meet to discuss fundraising Strategy      | Mark Sheridan    | Nov 2017            |
| Item 7             | List of freelance Gaelic translators                       | Shannon Cowie    | Nov 2017            |

### 2017.02.01

Mark expressed condolences on behalf of the Board in respect of Colin's father passing away and Members asked that a card be sent.

Alison intimated that Ryan Hewitt had passed away suddenly and that Marion and Fiona Dalgetty had attended the funeral on behalf of Fèis Rois.

Alison also intimated that Davie Douglas had passed away, he and his partner Sandra had met through the Feis Residential. Cards were sent to both families.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Malina MacDonald and seconded by Shannon Cowie. No declarations of other interests were made.

### 2017.02.02 Appointment of Fiona Callum

The appointment of Fiona was approved and welcomed by the Board.

### **2017.02.03 Reports and Updates**

Alison has updated all Fèis Rois policies and these are to be sent round Members to look over – Board Members agreed to help check policies according to their skills and expertise. It was agreed that an external party would be paid to scrutinise the policies.

Mark recommended a Gaelic Sub Committee after Shannon spoke of further developing the Gaelic Language Plan mapping it to the National Gaelic Plan 5 priorities. There are funding options available to further the Gaelic language that the Board agreed to investigate. Brian Ó hEadhra was suggested as a contact to comment on our Gaelic Language Plan ideas. Shannon suggested making connections with Dingwall Croileagan, Gaelic medium primary and Dingwall Academy Gaelic classes. Ideas such as looking at increasing Gaelic singing and speaking were discussed. Thanks were given to Shannon from the Board for completing the Council's Gaelic Consultation.

#### **Board Members**

Shannon recommended that the Board approach Iain MacIllechiar the former Gaelic teacher from Dingwall Academy (who has translation expertise) and another Gaelic speaker in Gaelic media, Callum McConnell. Shannon will approach both. Fiona agreed to approach a Legal Professional.

#### **Record Label**

Alison voiced concern that this opportunity does not fit our core purposes. It was agreed that further scoping is required as the genres supported are more rock/pop rather than Scottish Traditional Music. Alison is to ask HIE whether they would fund someone to scope this option for us: benefits, risks, opportunities.

#### **Alumni Contribution**

This approach from Fiona D is outstanding, awaiting agreement on her return.

#### **Financial Report**

Alison advised the Board that we would most likely hear in Dec 2017 whether Fèis Rois were successful in retaining RFO funding status with Creative Scotland. Stage 1 of the application is complete. The first quarter of this year's RFO funding (£220,000) has already been received.

Dumfries & Galloway YMI funding of £25,800 was received in August.

£15,167 was received from Highland Council in July. The other 50% is due to be paid in October 2017.

Creative Scotland RFO funding of £94,250 has been received and is being paid according to our cash flow needs on projects.

Alison is waiting to hear if HLF funding will come in for Kin Project.

Merchandise sales continue to go well as musicians playing Tulloch Castle and they purchase an album for every participant.

#### **Chief Executive's Report**

39 Classes and x4 1:1 sessions are now up and running. There have been more up-front payments with new financial system.

Another successful year of the Ceilidh Trail: this year three groups toured Ross-shire, nationally across Scotland and internationally outside of Scotland. Ceilidh Trail finale concert was streamed live from Eden Court, looked very professional. Malina and Fiona C attended and found it very enjoyable.

Alison had a successful trip to Festival Interceltique de Lorient with young musicians. The Scottish Government were there and Alison felt very worthwhile trip for promotion of Fèis Rois. It was a very valuable learning experience for young musicians who had a lot of gigs, radio interviews etc.

A four day masterclass with Duncan Chisholm took place at Dingwall Community Centre with nine delighted participants.

A successful sponsored walk was held by Rachael to raise funds for Fèis Rois, the Board were offering thanks to Rachael for her efforts.

Alison has been running a weekly team meeting to offer a catch-up with staff to learn what one another will be doing in the coming week.

The album of our latest commission, The Seer by Lauren MacColl will be launched in two performances at Blas Festival: Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sept: Seaboard Centre, Balintore (Door split with Blas), Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Sept: Eden Court, Inverness (Eden Court promoting).

This year a bursary will be offered for one young person choosing Gaelic Song as their main focus at Fèis Rois nan Deugairean in memory of Maggie Macdonald.

## **Staff Reports**

### **2017.02.04 Update on Strategic Plan**

The Board agreed to look at developing a Strategic Fundraising Plan. Suggestions were made such as making more of advertising Fèis Rois as a charity – this could be more of a focus and remind the public of legacies, donating etc. The Board and staff are to meet jointly to discuss fundraising.

### **2017.02.05 Press & Publicity**

The Scottish Government organised a press trip to Festival Interceltique de Lorient for journalist Sue Wilson and she wrote 1000 words on her time there for the Scotsman. This included a mention for Fèis Rois as a delivery partner and a great quote for Hecla who will be able to use this in their publicity.

Alison has applied for awards such as: Highland Tourism Awards – Ceilidh Trail for Best Cultural Event and Scottish Event Awards for the Ceilidh Trail as the Traditional Event of the Year. Shannon and Mark hope to attend in person.

### **2017.02.06 AOCB**

Colin and Harriet will stand down from the Fèis Rois Board in Nov 2017.

### **2017.02.07 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be the AGM on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2017 at Coul House Hotel in Contin.