

BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Tuesday 22 nd November 2016
Location	Coul house Hotel, Contin Ross-Shire
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Harriet Dempster (Chair), Fiona Dalgetty (CEO) Calum MacAulay, Malina MacDonald-Dawson, Conal McDonagh, Colin Sandilands and Mark Sheridan Observers: Siobhan Anderson (Creative Scotland), Helen Lavery (Highlands & Islands Enterprise), Karen Oakley (Fèisean nan Gàidheal)
Apologies	Lisa Buchanan and Shannon Cowie

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Action Ref. Number	Action	Responsibility	Time line
Item 1	Take forward the points from the action plan that resulted from the recent Board Health Check	Executive Group	Before financial year end

Agenda Item

2016.03.01 Preliminaries and Matters Arising

The meeting took place immediately after the AGM. Harriet Dempster welcomed everyone to the meeting and, in particular, new Director, Calum MacAulay.

Apologies were noted and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Mark Sheridan and seconded by Malina MacDonald-Dawson.

All action points had either been completed or were being acted upon. In terms of the skills audit for the Board, the Chair acknowledged that the Board was grateful to HIE for their support in carrying out a useful Board "Health Check" with HISEZ earlier in the month. It was pleasing to see the positive feedback on the current strong governance at Fèis Rois. The Board approved the governance action plan that came out of this training session and will take forward the action points.

The Chair thanked Shannon Cowie and Conal McDonagh for their hard work in organising the 24-hour session to raise funds for Fèis Rois in September 2016. Fiona Dalgetty also noted that, as well as raising over £1,300, the event had helped to raise awareness of the work of Fèis Rois and had been very valuable in terms of bringing different groups of people together as part of our 30th anniversary celebrations.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair congratulated fellow Fèis Rois Board member, Shannon Cowie, on being named Young Gaelic Ambassador of the Year at the recent prestigious Gaelic Awards held in Glasgow.

2016.03.02 Reports and Updates

Calum MacAulay asked the Chief Executive about the financial impact of the absence of the Office Manager on long term sick leave. Fiona was able to confirm that the impact wasn't too great financially, but it was having an impact on the workload of other members of the staff team. The Office Manager was now being paid at half pay, which meant there were funds available to bring in additional freelance support.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked all of the staff for their hard work over the past quarter, particularly noting:

1. The success and diversity of the week-long residential course, Fèis Rois nan Deugairean, held in Ullapool in October;
2. The contract to work with the team at Edinburgh's Hogmanay to showcase Highland musicians and the work of Fèis Rois;
3. The breadth and depth of the work taking place in partnership with Local Authorities and Schools;
4. The broad reach of the weekly classes programme, and the opportunity for one-to-one lessons for young people with a wide range of additional support needs;
5. The strong innovative digital focus of the highland youth Arts Hub project delivery over the winter months.

Siobhan Anderson from Creative Scotland spoke about her very positive visit to Fèis Rois nan Deugairean.

Harriet Dempster commented on the very positive reviews from Creative Scotland to the three pieces of work they visited along with external peer reviewers in 2016. However, she also commented on the volume of paperwork and the increased workload for Creative Scotland staff and RFOs alike. Mark Sheridan stated that it was very useful for the Board to have an external assessment of the work, and such a positive one, from external peer reviewers and funders.

2016.03.03 Strategic and Artistic Plan

An update was given on the delivery of the plan for 2016/17. The Chair thanked Fiona Dalgetty and her team for the successful delivery to date on this ambitious plan. Fiona highlighted that some areas were yet to be delivered, but also highlighted that this is because other opportunities had also arisen since the plan had been written. Siobhan Anderson and Helen Lavery commented positively on the scale and breadth of the work being undertaken by Fèis Rois.

2016.03.04 Press & Publicity

A file was circulated with recent press cuttings. The Board noted the excellent coverage.

2016.03.05 AOCB

None

2016.03.06 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the 2017 Board meetings would take place as follows:

15th February at 5pm in Inverness (Stronach's office)

17th May at 7pm in Dingwall (Fèis Rois office)

30th August at 5pm in Inverness (Stronach's office)

22nd November at 7pm at a venue to be arranged in Ross-Shire (also AGM)