

BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 5 th December 2019, 8pm
Location	Coul House Hotel, Contin
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Malina MacDonald-Dawson (Chair), Fiona Callum (Treasurer / Company Secretary), Norman MacArthur, Ruairidh Gollan, Duncan Chisholm, Shona Henderson. Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Lisa Daines (PA), Siobhan Anderson (CS), Karen Peasnall (HIE)
Apologies	Shannon Cowie

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Action Ref. Number	Action	Responsibility	Time line
Item 1	Invitation to Celtic Connections – RSVP to Lisa	Board	By 19 Dec
Item 2	Conversion of EDI update to table form	Fiona	Next meeting

Agenda Item 2019.03.01

Preliminaries

Malina MacDonald-Dawson welcomed everyone and thanked Lisa for her support to the Board.

Declaration of Interests

There are three employees of Highland Council present, Fiona Callum, Malina MacDonald-Dawson and Norman MacArthur.

Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Fiona Callum and seconded by Ruairidh Gollan.

The first Gaelic Language plan meeting is taking place on 6th December. Shannon Cowie will assist remotely.

2019.03.02 Reports and Updates

Finance Report

Fiona thanked Marion Mackay for preparing the quarterly management accounts. There has been success in securing partnership contracts e.g. with Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland for new projects in 2020. Under Canvas is also set to grow again in 2020. The new Lullaby Project is funded retrospectively so will incur cost before funds are replaced. Fiona pointed out that, with a reduction in public funds, there is growing pressure on trusts and foundations and two recent applications have been

unsuccessful despite meeting the criteria. Fiona is looking to use ScotGrad and Creative Scotland funding to create graduate posts with the aim to start in the new financial year.

Fiona explained that, as previously agreed with the Board, we will see expenditure exceed income by something in the region of £30,000 at the end of 2019/20. This is because we have been spending sums that have been accrued year on year.

The Board (with HC employees removing themselves from this part of the discussion) agreed for Fiona to write to Highland Council regarding the 4% cut in funding this year.

Chief Executive's Report

Fiona reported that the work Rachael has undertaken in Dumfries and Galloway has now led to the provision of out of school classes as well as the extensive YMI programme in schools. Since our work began five years ago, local people have also started their own small Fèis in the region and we collaborated with them on the annual one-day event in October.

The recent run of residential courses has been very well received. Members of Fèis the Music appreciated the Badaguish weekend. The concert at Strathpeffer Pavilion at the end of the Fèis nan Deugairean worked very well and will be continued in future.

Fiona invited all Board members to the Sian/Eben performance at Celtic Connections on Friday 24th January. Please RSVP to Lisa.

The visit of three musicians to Light into Europe in Romania in November has been very well received and was a transformational experience for the artists. Fiona is to take three more musicians in January 2020.

The Ceilidh Trail auditions will be held in February 2020 with places available for ten local young people. An additional five places have been allocated to project partners: Cambridge Folk Festival (England), TRAC (Wales), Celtic Colours (Canada) and National Celtic Festival (Australia). We look forward to building on these successful partnerships.

Regarding the Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Siobhan Anderson reported that the level of quality in the Scottish tent was remarkable and that there is huge potential for the food and drink offering and the promotion of Scotland as a tourist destination. Fiona noted that this is an excellent next step from the Ceilidh Trail for the professional development of young musicians, but that confirmation of funding must be received earlier for Fèis Rois to organise the Scotland tent in 2020.

Carbon Reporting

Marion has updated the carbon plan and it has scored 13/15. Whilst Creative Carbon Scotland suggest it could be more ambitious, it has still scored "good". We have been providing continual professional development opportunities to increase the number of local tutors teaching in Dumfries and Galloway, which has reduced car travel. Certain projects such as Lorient and Australia necessarily mean high flight miles and delivering projects in rural areas tends to mean higher car use.

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion.

An update was circulated. Siobhan noted that there were good reasons for any targets missed and commended the board on its gender balance. The report would be preferable in table format.

2019.03.03 Press & Publicity Update

The press and publicity folder was circulated.

Siobhan Anderson, Karen Peasnell, and Lisa Daines left the meeting.

2019.03.04 AOCB

Executive Group Update - Recruitment