

BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 28 th May 2020, 8.30pm
Location	Due to Covid-19 lockdown, the meeting was held using Zoom
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Malina MacDonald-Dawson (Chair), Fiona Callum (Treasurer / Company Secretary), Norman MacArthur, Ruairidh Gollan, Duncan Chisholm, Shona Henderson, Jennifer Marshall Observing: Siobhan Anderson (Creative Scotland)

Agenda Item

2020.01.01

Preliminaries

Malina MacDonald-Dawson welcomed everyone and, in particular, following her decision to step down from the Board in March, thanked Shannon Cowie for her contribution to Fèis Rois.

Malina thanked the Chief Executive and board for navigating the organisation through this difficult time. In particular, she congratulated the staff on how quickly they had moved so many aspects of the programme online, and she noted the success of the first Virtual Fèis Rois event, which took place from 1st – 3rd May 2020.

The Chair also thanked Creative Scotland for giving the Chief Executive autonomy to use the RFO funds as we see fit at this time. She also thanked Fèisean nan Gàidheal for providing a grant to help us offer full fees to weekly class tutors where physical classes were cancelled.

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 quarterly meeting (5th March) were proposed by Jennifer Marshall and seconded by Ruairidh Gollan. There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the additional meeting of the Board on 12th March were proposed by Shona Henderson and seconded by Malina MacDonald-Dawson. All actions have been completed.

2020.01.02 Reports and Updates

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive for preparing and amended budget and for highlighting the impact of Covid-19 on each area of the budget. Although we look set to only be able to achieve 14% of our anticipated earned income for 2020, we have been able to redirect RFO funds and we have appropriate reserves that put the organisation in a relatively strong financial position. The Board approved the new budget for 2020/21 prepared in light of current circumstances.

The Board discussed the work delivered online to date, and the impressive reach of this work in only a few weeks. They extended their thanks to our freelance artists who have been so adaptable and open to learning new digital skills very quickly to enable some of our work to continue. It was agreed that one positive to come out of the current situation is even more collaboration with other organisations and partners.

Duncan Chisholm suggested that the idea for creating a collaborative Gaelic song recording could be pushed back to October to allow for collaboration with An Commun Gàidhealach if they put the Mòd online this year.

Siobhan Anderson gave a brief update on the funding situation at Creative Scotland. Iain Munro will be writing to all RFOs in the coming days as he continues to lobby the Scottish Government for additional support for the sector. Siobhan congratulated the Fèis Rois staff team on the quality and reach of the work developed since Lockdown.

The Board approved Marion Mackay's proposal to have a phased retirement. Marion will work full time to the end of June and then 14 hours a week to the end of December 2020 when she will retire from Fèis Rois after 12.5 years of service. A discussion was had around staffing models. It was agreed to revisit this at the August Board meeting when we might have a clearer idea of what our programme delivery model might look like for 2021 and beyond.

2020.01.03 Press & Publicity Update

A separate evaluation document was circulated highlighting the significant reach of the Virtual Fèis event both on social media and in the local and national press.

2020.01.04 AOCB

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 27th August 2020. The time and venue will be agreed later depending on Coronavirus restrictions.