

BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 16 March 2023, 7.00pm
Location	Fèis Rois Office, Robertson House, Greenhill Street, Dingwall
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Jennifer Marshall (Chair), Alex Urquhart-Taylor (Vice Chair), Shona Henderson (Company Secretary), Lorraine Aburrow (Minutes)
Present on Zoom	Norman MacArthur, Chloë Bryce, Grace Stewart-Skinner
Apologies	Duncan Chisholm, Calum MacAulay, Kirsteen MacInnes-Meeks

Actions:

- Item 1** **Fiona and Lorraine will meet with Calum to review the layout of the management accounts.**

- Item 2** **Fiona will email Aramis Development Company Ltd to ensure everything is in order with our lease termination.**

Agenda Item

2023.01.01 Preliminaries

Jennifer Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented how nice the new Fèis Rois office is.

Shona Henderson approved the minutes of the previous meeting as being a correct and accurate record and these were seconded by Alex Urquhart-Taylor.

Fiona Dalgetty passed on congratulations to staff members Ruairidh Gollan and Lauren Hendry who recently ran the Inverness half marathon. Ruairidh is also running the London marathon.

Fiona and Jennifer had a good introductory meeting in January with Calum MacAulay.

Fiona thanked the Board Members who shared funding options with her.

Declarations of Interest

Jennifer Marshall is a Director for the Dandelion project, Norman MacArthur is an employee of funder, The Highland Council and Chloë Bryce will be teaching (paid as a freelance tutor) at our Easter Fèis and Adult Fèis.

2023.01.02 Reports and Updates

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and staff for preparing detailed reports on all activity for the board.

Calum Macaulay had sent apologies for this evening, but emailed the Chief Executive and the Chair with some questions regarding the presentation of the management accounts. It was agreed that Lorraine and Fiona will meet with Calum to look at this together.

Fiona explained that the timing of when monies are received affects the accounts. For example, often projects run to the calendar year or the academic year, or we have some multi year projects, so income will show in one year and will then be spent in the following year(s).

Fiona talked through the draft budget for 2023-2024 making the following points:

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig have extended the funding for our Gaelic Officer post for a further year to 31st August 2024 and the first instalment of this new grant is already in our account.
- The YMI: Access to Music Making grant decision has been delayed but we are hoping to hear back by 23 March.
- Fiona is also waiting to hear back from 2 other funds, The GoodWill Fund and The MacRobert Trust.
- Fiona will continue to seek other new funding opportunities.
- Our office costs should remain similar to previous years.
- NatureScot have indicated that it is unlikely that they will be able to provide financial support for the Ceilidh Trail this year. Fiona will follow up.
- There is a deficit in the proposed draft budget. If new money is not found to cover the deficit, there is enough in unrestricted reserves to cover this gap.
- We will continue to reduce costs where we can.

Fiona and Lorraine were asked to leave the room so the Board Members could discuss staff salaries. On their return Jennifer said that she would communicate the outcome to all staff.

The draft budget was then approved by the Board.

Fiona then gave the following updates:

- There are 72 participants already signed up for our Easter Fèis. There will be 3 ceilidhs as part of the Fèis for everyone to attend. There will be a review after this Easter's event to see how it went in the new format.
- 36 young people applied for the Ceilidh Trail this year and there was a weekend of auditions in February. There are 2 Gaelic singers, so there will be 1 in each group.
- The Adult Fèis has now launched.
- Ruairidh Gollan's contract will finish on 31 March. He is going on his travels to Australia.
- The Highland Culture Collective artists will be on the Fèis Rois payroll until 31 May 2023. They will then have 6 days of freelance work as they transition back to their freelance portfolios of work.
- Fiona will seek out opportunities to continue working with partner organisations such as Ross-Shire Women's Aid and HMP Inverness.
- Lauren Hendry will be employed for a further 3 months to 31st August to finish the HCC project.
- The Kiltarn Fiddlers is running very successfully in the new format with excellent feedback.
- The successful Dandelion project is nearing completion.
- Teya-Jean Bawden was interviewed on both Radio 3's Music Matters programme and BBC Radio Scotland's Travelling Folk about the lullaby project.
- Teya and 2 of our lullaby musicians, Sarah Smith and Liza Mulholland, will visit Carnegie Hall, New York in June for the annual Lullaby convening.

- Fiona and Rachael attended a conference celebrating 20 years of the Youth Music Initiative in Johnstone on 2 March.
- Karen Oakley, our Gaelic officer, hosted a successful residential weekend of activities for fluent Gaelic speakers from S1-3 in Ullapool.
- We are having a stall at this year's Gala in Dingwall on 8 July to help community engagement.
- Fiona is supporting fiddle player and autism advocate, David Nicholson, to apply to the Creative Scotland open fund for support towards recording his debut album.
- Fiona is working with Christian and colleagues at Fèisean nan Gàidheal to explore the possibility of piloting an inclusive Ceilidh Trail strand this summer, which would offer a professional development opportunity to young musicians aged 16 – 25 with learning disabilities.

2023.01.03 Press & Publicity Update

We continue to have a good presence in the local press and across socials. There was a good spread in the Ross-shire Journal about the office move.

2023.01.04 AOB

Following the Board away day in December 2022, the revised mission, vision, aims and objectives has been approved.

Alex has taken the old PCs away and will retrieve any information from the Education Manager's PC before safely disposing of these computers.

The Board agreed that Fiona would email Aramis Development Company to ensure there are no remaining loose ends following the termination of our lease at 16/17 High Street, Dingwall.

The Board thanked the HCC artists who have made strong links with communities.

The Board thanked the staff team for the smooth office move.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 15th June. This will be a full-day meeting in Dingwall. The Board and the Chief Executive will take part in a Development Day facilitated by Arts & Business Scotland before the regular quarterly meeting.