

BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 31 March 2022, 7.30pm
Location	On Zoom due to the Coronavirus Pandemic
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Ruairidh Gollan, Jennifer Marshall, Norman MacArthur, Fiona Callum (Treasurer/Company Secretary), Chloë Bryce, Alex Urquhart-Taylor, Shona Henderson, Lorraine Aburrow (Minutes) Observing: Siobhan Anderson (Creative Scotland)
Apologies	Malina MacDonald-Dawson, Duncan Chisholm

Actions:

Item 1 A Vice-Chairperson to be appointed

Item 2 The Board to have an additional meeting on zoom at 7pm, Tuesday 17 May to discuss the return to the office

Agenda Item

2022.03.01 Preliminaries

Ruairidh Gollan approved the minutes of the previous meeting as being a correct and accurate record and these were seconded by Fiona Callum.

The Board have adopted a new pay scale for staff and agreed freelance rates of pay for 2022/2023.

It was recommended that a Vice-Chairperson be appointed.

Fiona Dalgetty thanked Siobhan for the recent support through the Recovery Fund for cultural organisations from Creative Scotland. This will greatly help with underwriting the risk of our earned income. The uplift was unexpected and very much appreciated.

Declarations of Interest

Norman MacArthur is an employee of funder, The Highland Council. Jennifer Marshall is a Director for the Dandelion project.

2022.03.02 Budget

Fiona Dalgetty talked the Board through the 2022/23 budget; this was then approved by the Board.

Fiona commented that it was interesting to see that the numbers for the Junior Fèis residential participants had seen a significant drop due to the pandemic. Many parents had booked accommodation and were staying in Ullapool with their children. There was a discussion about how badly impacted the weekly class income has been hit by the pandemic. It was hoped that the children attending the Junior Fèis would try new instruments and this would help in attracting new people to the classes.

2022.03.03 Activity and Programme Plan

Fiona then talked the Board through the artistic programme and plan for the year with the following highlights:

- A new addition following a generous £3000 donation will be a new Kiltearn Fiddlers tuition class. Fiona has already spoken to Lauren MacColl and Alpha Munro about this and Alpha is happy about this development which will begin in the Autumn.
- We have also been given a wonderful donation of flutes which means we can begin flute tuition.
- There will be a mini tour of Iain Fraser's commission, Gneiss, with concerts in Dingwall and Poolewe and a concert at the Adult Fèis.

2022.03.04 Reports and Updates

The finance report was approved and the staff thanked for their reports. Lorraine recently attended a Creative Carbon Scotland meeting and was happy to realise that we are extremely proactive in reducing our carbon footprint.

Fiona also gave the following updates:

- We have been awarded a grant from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to employ a Gaelic Officer who will be responsible for our Gaelic plan and policy.
- Lisa Buchanan is currently working on updating all our policies.
- Our new online booking system is nearing completion and this will make for a smoother booking experience.
- Our Creative Producer, Christian, has been busy finishing off various projects that took longer than expected due to the pandemic.
- Fiona is due to meet with 2 new freelance employees at the Unexpected Garden soon.
- Fiona talked about our connections with Ukraine and the Ukrainian children who had attended the Junior Fèis in the past. She hoped to make contact with our Ukrainian friends during the Junior Fèis so they could enjoy some music and normality despite the devastating war.

2022.03.05 Press & Publicity Update

Fiona Dalgetty commented that it was great having Katie Mackenzie working on our press and publicity. This is continuing to work well.

2022.03.06 AOB

The dates for the 2022/2023 Board Meetings were agreed as:

- Friday 24 June, 2-4pm in person
- Thursday 22 September, 7-9pm on zoom
- Friday 9 December, Board Meeting and AGM, 2pm
- Thursday 23 March, 7-9pm on zoom

An additional Board Meeting was pencilled in for Tuesday 17 May at 7pm on zoom to discuss returning to the office.