

BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 3 November 2022, 7.30pm
Location	This meeting was held using Zoom
Purpose	Rescheduled Quarterly Meeting
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Malina MacDonald-Dawson (Chair), Duncan Chisholm, Jennifer Marshall (Vice-Chair) Norman MacArthur, Fiona Maclaren (Treasurer/Company Secretary), Chloë Bryce, Alex Urquhart-Taylor, Shona Henderson, Lorraine Aburrow (Minutes)

Actions:

- Item 1** Fiona will email Jane at think.in.form to introduce Alex re GDPR compliance.
- Item 2** Fiona will update the Board on the office premises situation.
- Item 3** There will be a Board Development Day on 9 December.

Agenda Item

2022.03.01 Preliminaries

Malina welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed on condolences to Jennifer Marshall who recently lost her dad. Malina congratulated Fiona on her recent honorary fellowship of @thinkuhi recognising her inspirational and transformative leadership in arts, culture and education and also on the success of the Dandelion Festival.

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

From matters arising from previous minutes Fiona confirmed that work was on-going in relation to updating company policies.

Declarations of Interest

Malina MacDonald-Dawson and Norman MacArthur are employees of funder, The Highland Council.

2020.03.02 Reports and Updates

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

Fiona Dalgetty talked the Board through the Management Accounts for quarter 2 giving the Board the opportunity to ask any questions. Malina thanked Fiona for her recent email updating the Board on Fèis Rois' financial position in the current climate. Although things are tough for everyone and audience / participant numbers are still low, making our earned income significantly lower, things are improving, and we are in a reasonable financial position.

There followed a detailed discussion on audience numbers and participants following covid. Fiona said she feels confident that the Adult Fèis would be back to normal participant numbers in May 2023. The audience for this event was split this year because we offered a one-off winter edition of the event in November 2021 after cancelling in May 2021, and then also had the event in person in May 2022. Rebuilding the youth audience / participants after covid is proving harder although slowly improving.

Fiona proposed that next year we have a non-residential Fèis at Easter and then have a residential Fèis for the full youth age group in October. A discussion followed and it was agreed that this could be the way forward.

Fiona updated the Board on our new Kiltearn Fiddlers Youth Performance Group who are meeting monthly following a generous £3000 donation. Already 10 young people of intermediate level have signed up.

A brief discussion took place about office premises after Fiona updated everyone on the recent invoices from our landlord showing hugely increased service charges. Fiona will update everyone once she speaks to the landlord.

HR Update: Karen Oakley has joined the team as Gaelic Officer and has already been busy organising a very successful gig at the Mòd.

Fiona updated the Board on the Highland Culture Collective project which has now entered its second year following an extension of funding from Creative Scotland. Two of the partner organisations, Highland Print Studio and North Lands Creative have decided not to continue with the partnership in year 2 so Evija Lavinia has moved from Highland Print Studio to become an employee of Fèis Rois and Sinead Hargan has moved from North Lands Creative to be employed by Lyth Arts Centre. Highland Culture Collective is continuing to do well and is letting a wider network of people know about our work.

Fiona updated everyone on the successes of the Dandelion project. We have had people sign up to our classes after attending Dandelion events and Haley and Finlay were a huge success at the Unexpected Garden in Alness. Fiona has met with The Place, Alness and has said that she is happy to continue the partnership and provide musicians and story tellers. Fiona thinks the Dandelion schools project will continue through the Dandelion legacy funding.

Fiona informed the Board that she has been exploring funding options to help with the core costs of the organisation. She is planning to apply to Creative Scotland this month to manage a grant distributing funds to young people. If successful, this will have a management fee of up to £15,000 available.

2020.03.03 Press & Publicity Update

We continue to have excellent press and publicity on all platforms, and everyone agreed that there was a fantastic “buzz” after the recent Senior Fèis. Alex Urquhart-Taylor raised concerns about the GDPR compliance of the website, and this is to be looked at.

2020.03.04 AOB

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8 December following the AGM.