

# BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Thursday 8 December 2022, 8pm
Location	Tulloch Castle Hotel, Dingwall
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Jennifer Marshall (Chair) Alex Urquhart-Taylor (Vice Chair), Shona Henderson (Company Secretary), Norman MacArthur, Duncan Chisholm, Kirsteen MacInnes Meeks, Grace Stewart-Skinner Siobhan Anderson (Creative Scotland) Lorraine Aburrow (Minutes)
Apologies	Chloë Bryce

## Actions:

**Item 1**      **Fiona and Jennifer will meet Calum MacAulay**

**Item 2**      **Alex, Duncan and Kirsteen to explore funding options and share any links with Fiona**

## Agenda Item

### 2022.04.01 Preliminaries

Jennifer welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to our new Board Members.

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

From matters arising from previous minutes Fiona confirmed that Alex and Jane from think.in.form have been corresponding and Fiona confirmed that she is waiting to hear from our landlord about the office.

### Declarations of Interest

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

### 2022.04.02 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. It was noted that there was a significant difference in staff salaries from Q1 to Q2 and this was because Lorraine had added in the Employer NI payment twice by error and this would be corrected.

Fiona gave a detailed account of the draft budget for 2023-2024. She said that we haven't had to use our reserves as yet but as there are potential gaps in the budget we may have to. Fiona is going to focus on our core programme and rebuild confidence in the community about returning / joining the classes. Fiona explained that the main challenge facing Fèis Rois is that, at best, we will receive standstill grant funding going forward whilst earned income has not returned to anything like pre-pandemic levels and is unlikely to for some time. The Scottish Government's draft budget announcement, due next week, is likely to affect the budget for arts and culture in 2023/24.

A discussion followed about funding options with Duncan, Alex and Kirsteen to explore some avenues known to them. Fiona said that it was going to be challenging going forward but if we receive no funding for certain projects, we won't run them.

Fiona said that she has recently applied to The MacRobert Trust to help with core funding and she will continue to explore funding options to help with the core costs of the organisation.

Fiona updated everyone on the success of the recent Badaguish weekend. Our adult learners have become a lovely group called Fèis the Music and regularly play at events fundraising for Fèis Rois. At Badaguish they all get together to play music and learn and there is a joyous sense of community within the group and that is what Fèis Rois is all about.

Our Unexpected Garden musician in residence, Liam Ross has been engaging teenagers in music and playing guitar at The Place in Alness and this is proving to be successful.

In his role supporting the Fèis Rois Education Manager, Ruairidh Gollan attended an event in Germany connecting people involved in youth work from all across Europe.

Fiona told everyone that she was delighted that the new Kiltearn Fiddlers group was going well. Led by Lauren MacColl, 14 teenagers are attending on Sunday afternoons and travelling from all parts of Ross-Shire.

Our online Gaelic conversation class has been very successful and will be one thing that will continue online.

The Highland Culture Collective artists in residence, Catriona Meighan, Hector MacInnes and Evija Laivina recently held exhibitions at the WASPS studio in Inverness. This showcased the good work that the HCC do, and the exhibitions, talks and workshops were well attended.

### **2022.04.03 Press & Publicity Update**

We continue to have excellent press and publicity on all platforms. We now have a new booking system on our website. Karen Oakley, our Gaelic officer, is looking at the Gaelic translations on the website and making sure that these are updated. Fiona said that we will add an impact page to our website as there have been outside bodies (UHI, Aberdeen University and others) that have recently evaluated our projects and written reports on the work of Fèis Rois. It was felt that it would be to share this impartial external reports more widely.

### **2022.04.04 AOB**

It was agreed that Thursdays were a good evening for meetings and Fiona will get back to everyone with dates for next year's meetings.