BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time	Wednesday 26 November 2025, 5.30pm
Location	Robertson House, Greenhill Street, Dingwall, IV15 9JQ
Purpose	Quarterly Meeting
Present	Fiona Dalgetty (Chief Executive), Jennifer Marshall (Chair), Alex Urquhart-Taylor (Vice-Chair), Calum MacAulay (Treasurer), Megan Dale, David Green, Don Esson, Carrie Forbes, Tom Boyd, Lorraine Aburrow (minutes, Company Secretary)
Apologies	Grace Stewart-Skinner

Actions:

Item 1	Booking site update to terms and conditions; adult classes are for adults only
Item 2	Fiona will send out dates for Board Meetings

2025.04.01 Preliminaries

Fiona said that the Board had been efficient and effective since the last Board meeting and thanked everyone.

Don Esson approved the minutes of the previous meeting as being a correct and accurate record and these were seconded by Carrie Forbes.

Declarations of Interest

Carrie Forbes is a freelance musician and is currently being paid by Fèis Rois as such. David Green's children benefit from freelance work and music tuition from Fèis Rois. Jennifer Marshall is an employee of HIE.

2025.04.02 Reports and Updates

Fiona talked through the draft budget for 2026-2027 which had to be produced as part of the audit. It was noted that the donations expected were quite high. Fiona explained that with our 40th anniversary in 2026 there will be a big push on donations and we are more likely to receive donations because of this special anniversary.

Fiona talked through the management accounts and explained that the expenditure for instruments was higher than our original budget because the decision was made to invest in instruments for our instrument bank. We have recently bought 6 accordions and a harp, and we have another two harps on order. This is all part of our commitment to making traditional music accessible to all. We are delighted to see increases in our earned income from the Adult Fèis and October Fèis and we are on target to increase our earned income from our weekly class fees.

Fiona said that a recent application to the MacRobert Trust was unsuccessful; there was good feedback from the trust but there was a high volume of quality applications, in fact the highest number they had ever received in a single review. We have been fortunate to receive funding from this trust in the past.

Fiona has applied for funding from several sources including the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults. She has also completed stage one applications to both the Culture Collective Fund and the Expanded Festivals Fund and we have now been invited through to stage two for both of these funds. Fiona has 3 funding applications to complete before Christmas.

Fiona is currently programming a reciprocal visit for some Vietnamese traditional musicians to visit Scotland from 20 25 January 2026.

It was noted that on a Thursday there are regularly 145 + people attending our classes, 25+ people attending our Gaelic conversation classes and an increase of numbers attending our October week. Fiona said that we had 23 Gaelic speaking teenagers attending our last Gaelic weekend.

Fiona is continuing to chair meetings of the Dingwall 800 project steering group, and is working closely with Event Producer, Siobhan MacIntyre, to drive the project forward.

The Chief Executive and all staff were thanked for preparing detailed reports on all activity for the Board with lots of useful information.

As part of the EDI points for discussion, there was a good conversation about babies in adult classes. The Board unanimously agreed that adult classes are for adults only and there would be a firm stance on this. Our terms and conditions will be updated.

There was a discussion on the accessible Ceilidh Trail which has been running for the last 3 years. The participants, now over 25 years of age, have moved onto our adult community classes and have attended our Adult Fèis. The focus will now be on supporting younger people with learning disabilities to take up learning an instrument and engaging with traditional music to grow interest and confidence at an earlier age than those who would participate in the Ceilidh Trail

2025.04.03 Press & Publicity Update

Fèis Rois continues to have a good, positive presence in the local press and across our social media platforms. The Dingwall 800 launch event is on the 17 January and the logo for Dingwall 800 was designed by 3 young people from Dingwall and there has been great publicity on this.

The Board noted their thanks to Katie Mackenzie who provides freelance marketing and PR support.

2025.04.04 AOB

The date for the 40th Anniversary Music Festival in Dingwall is likely to be in September. There is a BLAS concert at Eden Court on 8 September 2026 celebrating Fèis Rois' 40th anniversary.

Fiona will send out dates for next year's Board meetings.