

Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Minutes of Board Meeting
Noss/Rhum, Great Glen House, Inverness
Wednesday 14/06/17 14:00 – 17:00

Members

Allan MacDonald (Chair) (AMD)
Donald MacLeod (DML)
Donald MacSween (DMS)
Johan Smith (JS)
Jim Whannel (15/06 ONLY) (JW)
Jennifer Gilmour (JG)
Fiona Dunn (FD)
Mary Ann Kennedy (MAK)
Allan Campbell (AC)
Mary T MacInnes (MMI)
Joy Dunlop (JD)

In Attendance:

Shona MacLennan (Ceannard) (SML)
Daibhidh Boag (DB)
Mona Wilson (MW)
Graham Nisbet (GN)
Douglas Ansdell (DA)
Christine Stewart
(Minutes)

1) SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. DA gave a presentation to the Board on the history of Scottish Government funding for Gaelic.

2) OPENING ITEMS

Apologies

An apology was recorded from JW for today 14/06, he will be present tomorrow 15/06.

Declarations of Interest

DML, DMS, MMI -4 Paper 2 - CNES
MAK-6 Paper 7 – BBC/MG ALBA
AD-6 Paper 7 – BBC/MG ALBA

Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting held on 8/3/17 were approved.

Matters arising

The Ceannard informed Members that AMK was waiting for feedback/suggestions from new Members with regard to holding Board Meetings in public, and when he had received feedback he would prepare a briefing paper for the Board.

3) FINANCE

GN joined the meeting

GN presented his report and summarised the current financial situation. He explained to Members that from now on money would not be moved between budgets to balance finance as had happened in the past. He said that this would mean that budgets would show expenditure in real terms and provide Members with a clearer picture of the options available.

Members noted the information.

GN left the meeting

4) GRANTS

PT1 Highland Council

DB gave a summary of the application. Highland Council aimed to offer increased support to 0-3 groups in the Inverness and Nairn area by recruiting an Early Years Officer. BnG recommended that

	<p>funding of £50,000 be awarded, £10,000 less than the amount requested. A Member had asked whether the Council would be able to carry out the work as planned with less funding than had been originally requested. Following some discussion, Members agreed to award £50,000 in principle, but they asked DB to contact the Council to agree how the proposed aims would be implemented.</p> <p>PT2 Comhairle nan Eilean Siar <i>DMS,DML & MMI left the meeting</i></p> <p>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar had submitted a funding application for support to run Gaelic classes for adults throughout the Western Isles. The recommendation was to award the project £40,000. Members agreed to the recommendation in principle, but requested evidence of how successful the classes had been up until now. They asked for information on the number of people completing the classes and how fluent they were in the language having completed the courses.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>DMS,DML & MMI re-joined the meeting</i></p>
5)	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
	<p>This paper had been considered at a meeting of the Policy and Delivery Committee, where Members were asked to choose one of three options to find a solution regarding the lease agreement and they had recommended the second option to the Board.</p> <p>The Ceannard explained the situation to Members regarding the rent for the Glasgow office. The lease had expired in September 2016 and since then rent had been paid on a monthly basis. The Government had informed BnG that premises were available in the Optima building on the same floor as Education Scotland. BnG would only have to pay running costs, and it is a very well-situated building with excellent facilities - the building has security staff and a reception, and provides the opportunity to work more closely with Education Scotland, and a venue for meetings and a cafe with hot and cold food.</p> <p>Members approved the recommendation that Bòrd staff move to the Optima and that discussions be held with the other organisations in the An Lèanag building on the options available to them to continue using the building in the future.</p> <p>PT4 - Governance Structures</p> <p>The Ceannard briefed Members on the research paper written by Jan Polley on a governance strategy for the Board. The report recommended the establishment of 3 Committees - The Audit and Risk Management Committee, The Learning Committee, and The Use of Gaelic Committee, and a short life Working Group to promote Gaelic.</p> <p>There was some discussion of the recommendations, the structure was approved and it was agreed that it would be appropriate to establish a Working Group to implement these recommendations.</p>
	The Meeting was closed after this item and will re-convene in the morning (15-06-17) at 09:00

Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Minutes of Board Meeting
Noss/Rhum, Great Glen House, Inverness
Wednesday 15/06/17 09:00 – 12:45

<p>Members</p> <p>Allan MacDonald (Chair) (AMD) Donald MacLeod (DML) Donald MacSween (DMS) Johan Smith (JS) Jennifer Gilmour (JG) Fiona Dunn (FD) Mary Ann Kennedy (MAK)</p> <p>Allan Campbell (AC) Mary T MacInnes (MMI) Joy Dunlop (JD) Jim Whannel (JW)</p>	<p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Shona MacLennan (Ceannard) (SML) Daibhidh Boag (DB) Mona Wilson (MW) Graham Nisbet (finance only) (GN) Douglas Ansdell (DA) Christine Stewart (Minutes)</p>
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The Chair welcomed everyone back to the Meeting and business was commenced.

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PT5 - Risk Management

The Ceannard presented this paper and there was some discussion of the register. The following was agreed:

- The risks listed under numbers 11 and 12, concerning education, should be rewritten to include the shortage of teachers, the statutory guidance and the changes in the curriculum.
- The level of risk under number 6 should be reduced from 25 to 20. The staffing structure had been changed recently and recruitment was underway for the vacant posts. The risk has decreased.
- Number 12 should be increased in accordance with the outcome of the Spending Review.

The Policy and Delivery Committee

MMI gave a verbal report on the subjects considered by the Policy and Delivery Committee. She informed the meeting that they had discussed the arts and that they were recommending that a short life working group be established to look in more detail at the links between Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Creative Scotland and to agree the way forward for the arts.

Members noted the information.

6) NATIONAL GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN

The Ceannard and DB informed Members of the outcome of the Public Consultation. DB explained that every response would be published on the website – provided that permission had been given by the author.

The Ceannard went over the changes that had been recommended at the meeting in May and Members made other recommendations with regard to vocabulary and the writing style. Members were asked to send any other changes they were recommending to the Ceannard via email within a week.

The Plan will now be redrafted incorporating the recommendations and comments from Members and will then be submitted to the Minister at the end of the month. An Implementation Plan will also be prepared which will explain how the Plan's aims will be implemented.

If approval is received from the Minister in time, it is anticipated that the Plan will be published at the Mod in Lochaber in October.

	<p>PT7 - BBC ALBA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>AMD, MAK left the meeting</i></p> <p>MMI chaired the meeting for the discussion of this subject. The Ceannard said that she was seeking the views of the Members on the best way to support MG ALBA following their failure to secure additional funding for new programming. She said that she had written to Ofcom, BBC Scotland and MG ALBA seeking their views on the impact the new funding and the new BBC Scotland channel would have on MG ALBA; a response had since been received from Ofcom informing BnG that they were conducting a consultation at present on BBC service levels and that there was an opportunity to submit a response to that. The situation was discussed and it was agreed that a response would be submitted, including the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of parity with S4C ➤ No quota for first run broadcast hours ➤ That they are a Public Service Broadcaster <p>It was also requested that the value of the existing funding and the difference it makes to communities be highlighted, and the impact that it would have if any of that funding was to be lost. It was reported that the Ceannard and MMI would be meeting with Ofcom on the 21st of the month. Members asked that a response template be distributed to other Gaelic organisations so that they too would make a submission to the consultation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>AMD & MAK re-joined the meeting</i></p>
7)	Gaelic Development
	<p>Gaelic Language Plans</p> <p>PT1 - Moray Council DB said that this was an excellent Plan and that the Council was particularly proactive with regard to Education. The publication of the Plan would help to promote Gaelic in the area and people would be made aware of what was happening locally. Members approved the Plan.</p> <p>PT2 – East Renfrewshire Council</p> <p>DB said that the Plan and its commitments met expectations and he recommended it to the Board for approval, but an unresolved question remained regarding the Council and the process for GME requests under the Statutory Guidance and so it would not be appropriate to approve the Plan at present. The Members approved the recommendation to wait until the situation had been resolved and present the Plan for approval again at a later date.</p> <p>High Level Aims</p> <p>PT1 National Library of Scotland The organisation was discussed and it was agreed that they were doing a lot for Gaelic and that they should be supported in this as much as possible. Members approved the high level aims.</p> <p>PT2 Glasgow City Council Members approved the Glasgow City Council high level aims as they were written.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>DML/FD/JW left the meeting</i></p>
8)	COMMUNICATIONS
	<p>Ceannard</p> <p>The Ceannard informed the meeting that BnG had commissioned research on the way in which Gaelic is portrayed and dealt with in the media, the negative news stories that appear and how best to deal with such stories. Members were asked to comment on the paper. Following discussion of</p>

	the paper it was agreed that action points would be forwarded to the working group to implement.
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9	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
	The next meeting will be held in Fort William on 20 & 21 September.

Allan MacDonald (Chair)

Date