

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Directors of Lismore Public Hall

held on Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7pm in the Committee Room

Present: Gilly Dixon Spain (GDS), Roger Dixon Spain (RDS), Anna Stewart (AS), Archie MacGillivray (AMG), Sean MacDonald (SM), Colin MacLean Fleming (CMF) and Ann MacLean Fleming (AMF). Sebastian Tombs (ST) of Lismore Community Trust was also present for item 2 on the agenda.

1. Apologies – Kiki MacColl (KK)
2. Sebastian Tombs (ST): LCT /Hall Liaison – ST spoke of the interest expressed by various members of the community to see the different community groups working more closely together. He mentioned various potential benefits to the Trust and the Hall working more closely together and even potentially merging. This included shared fundraising efforts, shared governance, any potential land acquisition for a new Hall in the future. He highlighted some downsides too, including loss of identity and potential tensions. It was made clear that this was a long-term proposition, rather than something which could happen any time in the near future. RDS noted that with a large organisation, there could be a tendency to lose focus, although for big capital projects there could be benefits. AMG felt that it was too early to consider a formal merge, with the Trust still being a relatively young body, whilst the Hall was a well established organisation on the island. Various people felt that the desire to work together might have been meaning that it would be good to see better communication and cooperation between the different island groups, not that they should necessarily merge. It was also generally felt that should there be a desire for a new Hall in the future, that that would be a more appropriate time to enter into discussions with the Trust or other bodies, as this kind of project would be a huge commitment and therefore a lot for the Hall Board to take on alone. It was felt that it was too early to take on a formal merger at this time, but that it would be important to keep in regular communication with the Trust and, in the event of any potential land acquisition in the future, the Trust would be able to assist with projects of this scale. It was pointed out that Hall it's function and use, had been changing over the years, that it was important to find out what the Hall could be used for in the future to ensure that it would continue to be used to its full potential before looking at any major changes.
3. Declarations of Interest: for item 2, AMF, AS and AMG as they are Trust Directors, as well as Hall Directors.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings,

Board Meeting Tuesday 24th October 2018: these were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed: AS; seconded: CMF.

5. Matters arising:

- a. Check list for water filters: SM could not find any Milton when he was looking for it, so this will be replaced. A laminated checklist will be produced for the water filters, to note when the filters have been changed and when Milton has been added. RDS will do this.

Action: RDS

- b. Weed control, Gutters, Mops, Bench, Maps, Stage Refurb: the weed burning will be done on the first dry day. The gutters have had a first clean, but CMF suggested putting “hedgehogs” into the gutters to prevent future build up of leaves. AMG raised the issue of fixing the fencing which borders with the Brooks’ land, as there are some stobs which need to be replaced. RDS will get in touch with Duncan Brooks to discuss this.

Action: RDS

- c. Christmas Craft Fair: Memory MacDonald has notified the Hall that the Comann Eachdraidh is now doing the teas at the Craft Fair. The Directors were disappointed not to have had the chance to cater for this event, but have expressed their interest in doing so next year.

- d. Quiz Night: the 16th of March was suggested as a potential night for this. CMF will liaise with the school to ensure they are not planning a similar event and with various people to see if they would be willing to assist with this event. It would be hoped that there would be lots of smaller fundraising items taking place on the night as well. This will be progressed further once it has been established that this does not clash with any other events planned.

Action: CMF

- e. Fund Raising Ideas: popular ideas included – Mad Hatter’s Tea Party; country and western night (early start, possibly 25th May 2019), murder mystery weekend (RDS will liaise with his daughter in law for this), treasure hunt, no-bake bake-off, whist drive (possibly 19th January 2019); cheese and wine/ wine tasting, with an auction of services on the same night. Re-starting a drama club was also suggested, with the intention of putting on a Christmas play/ variety show in 2019. Fishing competition, with barbecue/ food in the Hall afterwards. Bonfire night

event, perhaps in conjunction with the Comann Eachdraidh. A road race/ half marathon, finishing with an event at the Hall afterwards. All of the above for further discussion at the next Board Meeting.

f. Dances: the proposed May dance will be held on the 25th. There will be no dance in September to avoid clashing with other island events.

g. Facebook Pages – these have now been set up, both a public page and a Directors' group.

6. Treasurer's Report: The Doctor has agreed to pay the increased rent (approximately £2010). Very necessary capital expenditure so far this year totalled £3,501.90. Expenditure and Income without including this amount were in balance, meaning that the Hall was very close to living within it's means. It is hoped that the fundraising ideas above will assist in increasing income. There was discussion on what charges should be made for badminton and similar sports clubs. It was agreed that the charge would be £2 per person and £1 for children, with the money raised going towards Hall funds. The Directors agreed and voted unanimously that they were happy that current Hall charges offered good value for money. GDS reported that Davy Maddox was putting on an event in the Hall at Christmas/ New Year, with all door takings going to the Hall.
7. Good Governance: The Directors' Facebook group will be used to ensure easier and faster communication, including knowing when the Minutes have been distributed.
8. Directors' Responsibilities – nothing to report
9. AOB: CMF mentioned a CPR/ First Aid event to be hosted by SFRS which could possibly be run in conjunction with the Hall.
10. Date and time of next Meeting: a short meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 7pm to deal with New Year dance organisation.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm