

STÒRLANN BOARD MEETING

AGENDA ITEM: 2A

MINUTE MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1000, Tuesday, 30th September 2025
Google Meet

Present

Gillian Campbell-Thow (GCT) – Glasgow City Council (Chair)
Bethan Owen (BO) – City of Edinburgh (Vice Chair)
Lena Walker (LW) – Highland Council
Lorraine McBride – North Lanarkshire Council

Donald W Morrison (DWM/CE) – Stòrlann
Sarah Fraser (SF) – Stòrlann (Note of Minute)
Neil Smith (NS) – Stòrlann

In Attendance

Douglas Ansdell (DA) – Scottish Government
John Moffat (JM) – Mann Judd Gordon and Co

Apologies

Evlyn Coull Macleod (EC) – CNES
DJ MacRitchie (DJM) – Stòrlann
Rachel Binnie (RB) - Argyll & Bute

ITEM NO:		ACTION:
1	OPENING ITEMS	
1a	Welcome The Chairperson welcomed all present.	
1b	Present and Apologies As above.	
1c	Declarations of Interest No notes of interest were presented. Stòrlann office manager has sent out paperwork regarding Declarations of Interest to Directors.	

2	MINUTES	
2a	Minutes of Board Meeting from – Thursday 29th May 2025 The minutes from the meeting were then approved, with BO proposing and LW seconding.	
2b	Matters arising from minute: Directors are to review the Observer Status of Bòrd na Gàidhlig.	
3	FINANCE BUSINESS	

3a	Stòrlann Management Report 1st April 2025 - 30 June 2025 JM referred to the Management Report and provided a summary of the accounts for the period. Total income is up due to funding arrangements directly with the Scottish Government. Surplus of £72,000.00 at the moment due to slower start of costs in the reading scheme but this will change as the project progresses. DA reported no concerns from the Scottish Government regarding the surplus as this would be eroded as the project progresses. Actions: JM suggested spreading cash across different banks to protect cash as we are in uncertain economic times and banks could fail. CE - applications have been made to open accounts in different banks and this will hopefully be completed in time for the next meeting. JM circulated an audit planning letter for the year ended 31 March 2025. Update will be provided at the next meeting. There is no requirement for Audit Scotland to view the accounts and audit report but they are there for scrutiny if requested. CE reported that Stòrlann is an OSCR charity and the format for return is slightly different due to charitable status.	
3b	Draft Annual Accounts 01.04.2024-31.03.2025 The CE reported that the majority of this had been covered at item 3a.	
3c & 3d	Scottish Government Funding, 2025-2026 CE reported that we are now six months under a new funding agreement with the Scottish Government. Next funding tranche is due for draw-down and will increase cash flow levels but this is a matter of timing with planned expenditure. Largest expenditure for the reading scheme and other resources will be in quarter 4 when books and expendable materials will be printed. Part funding (50%) routed through Bòrd na Gàidhlig for An Tosgan rents has been recieved. The CE thanked the Scottish Government for securing this agreement and intimated that a meeting with DFM and Gaelic organisations had to be postponed last week. The report was approved, with LM proposing and LW seconding.	
3e	Travel and Accommodation Expenditure The CE advised that there was a slight increase in spending due to increased activity on project development. The report was approved, with LM proposing and BO seconding.	
4	CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND STAFFING	
4a	Staffing update: revised staffing structure The CE informed that the revised staffing structure has now been in operation for six months and this is to be reviewed later in the year. Staff appraisals are ongoing. One member of staff is currently on maternity leave expecting to return	

	to work in November. One self-employed staff member working on the reading scheme supplementary resource production.	
4b	Tosgan Arrangements The CE informed that £46,000 is routed through Bòrd na Gàidhlig for rent at An Tosgan. CnES is undertaking research on vacant spaces within An Tosgan with some of the empty spaces possibly being offered to production offices for the Media Unit.	
4c	Health and Safety Report The CE reported that there were no accidents to report for the period. The report was approved by BO and seconded by LM .	
4d	Risk Register The CE reported that the register with regards to reduced funding levels from the Scottish Government has changed due to a new funding agreement being in place and funding being stable. LW enquired whether risks regarding finance are included. CE confirmed that financial risks were also included. The report was approved, with BO proposing and LM seconding.	
4e	Fraud: Policy and Procedures Update The CE informed the Board that mitigations have been put in place for data breaches with additional backups being put in place. GCT enquired regarding an external test of Stòrlann systems and thanked NS for this work in securing Stòrlann systems.	
4f	Staff Meeting: 16th September 2025 The minutes from the last staff meeting, held on 16 September 2025 had been circulated. There were no matters arising from the minutes.	
4g	Stòrlann Salary Uplift 1st April 2025-31st March 2026 The CE recommended 3% uplift in staff salaries. This will not be approved until directors meet and update by 03.10.25.	
5	PROJECTS AND CONTRACTS	
5a	Gàidhlig Reading Scheme The CE provided the Board with an update on the project. The contract with the illustrator has been reviewed and amended. Levels 1&2 will be ready for print by the end of March 2026. An advisory group meeting is scheduled for next week and the team values their time and input. The logo has been developed and the scheme is branded as Leugh Seo. The reading scheme characters and artwork will be showcased at the Royal National Mòd in Fort William next month. The reading scheme will be included in forthcoming bids to the Scottish Government for 2026-27. CE confirmed that the stories are original texts, written by Stòrlann staff and are based on the phonics scheme and are fully decodable. Supplementary materials will accompany the books. 4 non-fiction texts will complement Level 2 onwards. Non-fiction themes are selected from topics/events which happen in the reading scheme. Action: non-fiction titles to be shared with Directors	

5b	The Directors praised the work completed to date on Leugh Seo. LW enquired regarding the official launch. CE explained that books would be distributed to schools at the start of school session 2026 and will include CLPL for teachers. Education and Learning update SF presented her report, highlighting her involvement with Education Scotland's Curriculum Improvement Cycle and the development of new links with directors and other key stakeholders through a series of meetings and events. She also provided an update on the current work being undertaken by the Education Team. <i>Leugh Seo - new reading scheme</i> Story lines for levels 1-3 are now complete and have been quality assured Four non-fiction titles for levels 2&3 are complete and have been quality assured Illustrations are complete for level 1 stories 1-12 A suite of worksheets for level 1 are complete and have been quality assured Apps are currently being created to support the reading scheme Collaboration with pre-school colleagues, GLPS practitioners and ASN practitioners through a Google Form to ascertain interaction with current Gaelic resources and any requirements for future resourcing. <i>New collaborations:</i> <i>Topmarks</i> - four games have been translated and a Gaelic Landing Page being created. Launch of this at the end of October. Further phases have been planned to increase the suite of games. <i>RHET</i> - translation of their farming resources <i>Respect Me</i> - an anti-bullying resource <i>Self-identity</i> - very early conversations regarding a self-identity/multilingual resource DA enquiry re Keep Scotland Beautiful presentation. CE responded that two years ago there was a collaboration with KSB resources and some eco projects. CnES have continued this work in collaboration with e-sgoil.	
5c	Resources schedule 2025-26 In DJM's absence the CE gave an update on the schedule which had been circulated. There had been a large distribution of resources to schools at the beginning of the school session including: 8 language games, Go Gaelic books, an Alphabet rug and Alphabet jigsaw. including Bookbug Audio, Topmarks four games have been translated with future phases to follow. Grammar framework is at final stages, 4 Barrington Stoke novels to be translated. Looking to support the Gaelic economy within areas of linguistic significance through our use. Review of resources in light of Curriculum Review Cycle. Numeracy will be a focus for resources. LW enquired about the progress within the resource schedule. Action: RAG column to be included within the wider programme to show progress. Resources schedule is internal for the workforce and Directors. A newsletter and guidance notes accompany all resources which are distributed to schools and any available CLPL. Resource champions within the school ensure other staff members are aware of resource delivery. All resources are documented in the Stòrlann catalog. Engagement with groups and subject communities for the secondary cohorts.	

5d	DA enquired re training of Book Bug staff and grammar resources. The CE explained that Bookbug packs are distributed to preschool and primary. Licences are acquired to create audio for the books and then on Gaelic4parents website for access to non-Gaelic speakers. These resources are then available for the Bookbug trainers. CnP and BnG provide training for Bookbug trainers. Grammar expands on the resources available. Framework where grammar points are explained and then exemplified - additional worksheets provided and an additional matrix of materials which teachers can use. BO asked regarding distribution of Bookbugs and Stòrlann attending future Book Festival. CE - distribution of bookbugs is entirely with Book Trust. Action: Stòrlann representative could attend a book festival. Stòrlann Media Stats NS provided an update on the website analytics and noted that JML, from the Production Team, was now supporting social media activity across the <i>Gaelic4Parents</i> channels with informative posts. Interactions dipped slightly during the summer holiday (as would be expected).	
5e	Stòrlann: Stakeholder Engagement Update Nothing further to discuss	
5f	Forward Planning 2026-27 Focus on creating a work plan for 2026-27 and opening dialogue with the Scottish Government in relation to funding. DA - <i>Scottish Government Election in May 2026</i> results in political activity stopping. Possible delay with UK Government issues may impact on budget settlement allocation for SG. Budgets usually settled in December but this may slip to January and then Budget in February and then allocations hopefully in March for 2026/27. <i>Curriculum Improvement Cycle</i> - CE explained that current resources would need to be reviewed to align with the new curriculum after review cycle. SF gave an update on work she has been involved in with Education Scotland. LW enquired regarding collaboration with An Comunn Gaidhealach being involved with cultural resources.	
6	AOCB	
	There was no other business discussed. GCT to attend a strategic board for HT meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and will give feedback to SF. Thanks to the Stòrlann team for all the work going on at the moment and their responsiveness to needs; DA for his attendance and also the Directors present. Directors to meet and responses to be given by 03.10.25	
7	DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	

	Next meeting: TBC AGM - proposed date Wednesday 19th November (in-person) in Inverness but an alternative date is required due to prior commitments of some Directors. Staff Meeting on Tuesday 18th November - need to reschedule CE to distribute Google Poll re a new date for AGM.	