

STÒRLANN BOARD 2022

MINUTE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1:30pm, Thursday 24th February 2022
Online Meeting - Google Hangout

Present

Gillian Campbell-Thow (GCT) – Glasgow City Council (Chair)
Bethan Owen (BO) – City of Edinburgh (Vice Chair)
Simon Easton (SE) – Argyll and Bute Council
Jackie Cathill (JC) – North Lanarkshire Council
Lena Walker (LW) – Highland Council (joined at 1403)
Evelyn Coull MacLeod (ECM) – Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Donald W Morrison (DWM) – Stòrlann
Neil Smith (NS) – Stòrlann (Note of Minute)

In Attendance

Anne Morrison (AM) – Bord na Gàidhlig
Jim Whannel (JW) – Bord na Gàidhlig
Sarah Buchanan (SB) – Scottish Government
John Moffat (JM) – Mann Judd Gordon and Co (joined at 1350)

Apologies

Stuart Pescodd, (SP) – Scottish Government
DJ MacRitchie - Stòrlann

ITEM		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.	
2	MINUTES	
2a	Minutes of Board Meeting Minutes of the online meeting held on 18 th November 2021 had been circulated and were approved as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by BO and seconded by SE.	

2b	<p>Matters arising from minute:</p> <p>JW wished to clarify that the current one-year contract with BnaG is an extension to the previous three-year deal.</p>	
3	<p>FINANCE BUSINESS</p>	
3a	<p>Finance and Audit Arrangements from AGM 2020-21 Accounts OSCR 2020-21 Accounts ROC 2020-21 Accounts Letter to Management</p> <p>The CE reported that the returns for OSCR and ROC had been submitted prior to the end of December. With regard to the Letter to Management, an update has been provided in the document and a formal response will be made at the next meeting.</p>	
3b	<p>Stòrlann Management Report 1st October 2021 – 31st December 2021</p> <p>JM gave an update from the above . Educational project costs had been higher, cash reserves had been reduced and overheads had remained largely static. There was a £3000 expected deficit for the quarter and a £34 000 surplus for the year. He stated that there were no concerns surrounding any of the company finances. JW pointed out that the increased surplus would be the focus of a discussion between BnaG and Stòrlann (Please see item 3e).</p>	
3c	<p>The Scottish Government Funding, 2021-2022</p> <p>The CE submitted the update in December and the funding issued. SB reported that there had been a staff change in the department with Emma MacLeod having left and Carol MacFadyen now administering the budget. A financial review is still ongoing, but it is hoped that standstill funding will be implemented once again.</p>	
3d	<p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Funding, 2021-2022</p> <p>The CE informed the board that the quarterly report had been submitted and all targets had been met with the exception of visits to schools.</p>	
3e	<p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Funding 2022-23</p> <p>The CE intimated that targets are essentially the same as the previous year. However, the advance letter of offer from BnaG is for £295,000 as opposed to £314,741 in the previous year. This is a cause of concern for the management team with regard to rising costs such as utilities and printing and will undoubtedly impact set targets. The CE also mentioned that BnaG are conducting research into how educational resources are selected for production and the effectiveness and suitability of the current system. Both areas had been covered when the CE and Chair met with BnaG but there has been no response to date. JW intimated that the review would be addressed by S Kellow and confirmed that a reduction in funding is indeed the current proposal. The focus of this was Stòrlann's underspend and levels of reserve. This will be dealt with separately and will require a meeting between the Stòrlann Chair, CE, and senior management of BnaG to formalise the funding arrangements. This should permit the company to meet its ongoing monthly financial obligations.</p> <p>The CE mentioned that the reserve and funding cut need to be looked at separately as</p>	

<p>3f</p>	<p>targets still had to be met despite the cut in grant. The Chair stated that a formal letter will be submitted to BnaG so that a meeting can be arranged and the CE requested further engagement with the research on resource production.</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig Funding, 2021-2022 CNES GLAIF Application The GLAIF application is ongoing, and it is anticipated that a meeting will be arranged with CNES to discuss which aspects of the project will be translated.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>CE</p>
<p>3g</p>	<p>Accommodation and Travel Expenditure The CE notified the board that there had been no accommodation or travel expenditure.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND STAFFING</p>	
<p>4a</p>	<p>Staffing / Tosgan arrangements The CE reported that the Tosgan tenants are working with CNES to resolve electricity bills, some of which date back three years. This is all in hand and there will be no impact on Stòrlann as funding had been set aside.</p> <p>CNES has also identified funding for a complete new roof for the building, this development may alleviate a possible tranche of Stòrlann funding having to go towards the costs.</p> <p>The office is now open for admin staff and the arrangements will be reviewed at the start of April with a view to other staff returning.</p> <p>The CE also reported that three staff members are currently on sick leave with a fourth on a phased return following Covid. Despite the depleted workforce and challenging time, the company is still on track to meet most of its targets. The Board wished to convey their thanks to the team for the good work undertaken under a variety of pressures.</p>	
<p>4b</p>	<p>Health and Safety Report and Policy The 6 monthly fire drill was undertaken. There was nothing else to report due to the current office circumstances. The report was approved.</p>	
<p>4c</p>	<p>Risk Register The CE updated members on the current Risk Register which had been circulated. Some of the risks associated with Covid are decreasing though there are still pressures on staff with staff absences due to illness. There are increased day to day demands on the management team and the emanating from the proposed reduction in Gaelic resources funding will hopefully be addressed after discussion with BnaG.</p>	
<p>4d</p>	<p>Queen's Platinum Jubilee: additional bank holiday The CE reported that the Scottish Government have recommended a four day long weekend so it has been arranged to have a fixed weekend on 2 and 3 June.</p>	
<p>4e</p>	<p>Training and Partnerships Officer The CE informed the Board that no applications had been received prior to the closing date of 14 Februar 2022. This is a similar outcome to that being experienced by other Gaelic organisations and is reflective of the current employment marketplace. With the</p>	

4f	<p>job being re-advertised, it was requested that members circulate this to all their staff. There will be a saving due to the post not being filled but this will be redistributed to projects.</p> <p>Draft Minute of Staff Meeting 7th Dec 2021</p> <p>The CE gave a brief update on the meeting which had been attended by the Chair. The Chair agreed to attend the next meeting on 1 March.</p>	CE CE
5	PROJECTS AND CONTRACTS	
5a	<p>Resources Schedule 2021 - 22</p> <p>The CE updated members on the resources schedule which had been circulated. As previously stated, all targets set by BnaG have been met or are on schedule. Nine titles have been distributed via the store.</p> <p>There are two additional distribution hubs at CNES and Highland Council. Due to Covid arrangements, the HC Hub was inaccessible so contingency plans were put in place involving direct distribution from Stòrlann.</p> <p>The CE reported that a collaborative project ‘Superbugs’ had been commenced in collaboration with Cardiff University. Cardiff are providing the resource for free, whilst Stòrlann provides a Gaelic translation. Welsh and Irish translations are also in progress. This resources will enhance the ongoing STEM project being managed by Jayne MacAskill.</p> <p>A soft launch for Gaelic in Scotland has taken place with a full launch planned in March as part of Seachdain na Gàidhlig. The CE wished to convey his thanks to the team for creating such a sizeable resource.</p> <p>There have been a couple of opening sessions with teachers in the central belt and that will continue with a raft of meetings with teachers planned throughout the country.</p>	CE
5b	<p>Alltan Online</p> <p>The CE informed the board that there had been some activity with four Early Years and Pre-school workshops delivered. There was also a workshop on Holistic Play with Lisa MacDonald. The focus will now move onto Primary and Secondary after March.</p> <p>The Board requested that there be a discussion at the next meeting about the potential for some small geographic based events. The CE agreed as this had been part of the original plan and that the proposed engagement officer would have had these in their remit. GLAN will also be kept informed about plans for such events.</p>	
5c	<p>Online Stats</p> <p>NS updated members on the statistics from online resources and social media.</p>	
5d	<p>Media and News Releases</p> <p>There are press releases planned for Gaelic in Scotland and the commencement of the Superbugs project.</p>	
6	AOCB	
	<p>There was one item to be discussed in a closed session.</p>	

7	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	<p>The date of the next meeting is Thursday 26th May 2022 at 1.30am. The Board wished consideration be given to a physical meeting with soundings on availability for this to be taken at the end of April. The CE suggested it may be possible to combine that date with a staff meeting, if the Board's meeting were to go ahead.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all for their attendance and the CE thanked the Board for their assistance and for attending the staff meeting. Special thanks was given to Simon Easton for his contribution to the board over the years.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 2.40pm.</p>	