



**Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of
The Trustees of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust
held at 12 noon on 17th September 2014
at the National Piping Centre, Glasgow**

Present: Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern (Chairman), Canon Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, Nigel Alington, Fiona Maclean of Ardgour, Hector McLean, James Beaton (part) and William Douglas (Secretary).

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 43rd meeting of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, including Hector McLean to his first meeting as a Trustee.

2. Apologies:

Sandra McLean, Ian MacLean, and Noel Robinson.

3. Minutes of the 42nd Meeting

- a. The minutes of the 42nd meeting were agreed.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. **Friends benefit.** The Secretary explained that he had written, by email, to all the Friends to explain that the Trustees were considering bringing the annual benefit to an end, and asked for their views. 14 had responded, of whom six asked for it to be retained and eight thought it should be discontinued. Alternatives to the nature and method of delivery of the benefit had been suggested. The Trustees discussed the options and decided that the 5-yearly tea-party would continue to be offered, though it was recognised that this was of greater value to UK Friends, and that Friends continue to have free access to the Maclean Archives in the Mull Museum. It was agreed that in 2015, an emailed newsletter would be sent to those who were subscribers in 2014. This would include the Chairman's report, details of current and planned projects and would feature a main article on a 'niche' subject. There would be no gift type benefit. The Secretary agreed to ask Ian if he would provide an article on Eilean Amalaig (Project 8).

- b. **Genealogy.** Allan reported that he has not yet made any progress with scoping the project.
- c. **Mull Museum.** The Secretary asked for a letter from the President of Clan Maclean Association to be sent to Mull Museum confirming responsibility for the Archives is to be transferred from CMA to CMHT.
- d. **OSCR website entry.** The secretary explained that he had asked if the entry for CMHT could be amended to a more user friendly version, and had been informed that it could not. This was not accepted by the Trustees, who tasked him to write.
- e. **Piping Bursary.** It was confirmed that the bursary offered to Jamie Maclean had been taken up and the course completed. It was noted that no letter of thanks had been received.

5. Trust Organisation

a. Trustees.

1. It was noted that James Beaton had confirmed that he would retire at the end of his term. The Chairman thanked him for his service and acknowledged particularly the contribution that he had made through the production of the Pipe Music of Clan Maclean publication, and the article on the Rankin pipers. Fiona thanked him for his contribution to Death or Victory. He kindly offered to help CMHT with any piping or Gaelic difficulties that arise. The Chairman will write a formal acknowledgement.

2. The Secretary is to record the start date of Hector as a Trustee and keep a record of all Trustees' dates of service.

3. Allan, whose term of service as an ex-officio Trustee comes to an end when he retires as President of CMA in November, has agreed to remain a trustee as a co-opted member. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Nigel.

4. Sandra, whose term of service concludes in the near future is to be asked to continue for a further two years.

5. Possible new Trustees were discussed. The Chairman will write to Brig. John Macfarlane to ask him if he will join the Trustees.

.b. Office bearers.

- 1. The Secretary reminded the Trustees that Nigel is still bearing the load of the position of Treasurer, and we should be looking for a

replacement.

2. William agreed to continue as Secretary.

c. **Trust representatives.**

1. The Secretary reported that he had written to Peter MacLean (Western Australia), Marcus MacLean (New South Wales), Pat & Jim McClean (Pacific North-West) and Gordon McLean (CMAA), who had been selected as Trust Representatives, outlining their roles and responsibilities. These positions were ratified.

2. Dr. Leslie H. McLean (Clan Gillean USA) had also been written to, and accepted, but had not responded to the request that he should join the Friends of the Trust. The Chairman said that he would follow this up by writing to Rev. Fr. Patrick Maclean, President of Clan Gillean USA.

6. Finance

a. **Current position.** Nigel, referring to the set of accounts circulated before the meeting, stated that we had £9,501.30 in the bank and at PayPal.

b. **2013/14 accounts.** The accounts, circulated prior to the meeting, were approved. Nigel will forward these to the Independent Examiner (see below).

c. **Independent Examiner.** Allan agreed to ask Robin Angus if he would again be our Independent Examiner.

d. **Credit card sales.** Following a discussion about accepting payments by PayPal, it was agreed that the Trust would no longer collect or retain credit card details. Forms would be amended accordingly. Nigel will check details and fees for using PayPal Here, which would enable us to take credit card payments via a handheld card-reader.

7. Friends of CMHT

a. **Friends update.** The Secretary reported that we have 28 paying Friends and 5 Honorary (50 and 5 in 2013). Of these 19 were Family and 9 Individual (30 and 20 in 2013). He sent Benefits to 67 Friends, of whom 7 were long term supporters who had not paid in 2013. Of these, one has died and two have renewed.

b. **Friends who have not upgraded to new subscription.** The Secretary reported that we have 3 who have not increased their family subscription to £30. He will send a reminder.

c. **Membership recruitment and re-activation.** Following the Secretary's report, a discussion was held on improving membership. It was

agreed that Allan, Hector and the Secretary should meet to formulate a plan. Allan asked for a list of those who had attended the Gruline reception (Mull, 2012) as a Friend, but were no longer paying members.

8. Projects

(Note: numbers refer to the project database serial number)

- a. **Homecoming 2014.** The Chairman stated that the Trust had been active in Bannockburn, Inverness, Tobermoroy, Duart, Arisaig, Ashbourne and France during the Homecoming year. Around 160 had signed the visitors' book at Bannockburn, where there were lots of helpers. Hector outlined options for additional sources of funding and furthering contacts that could be considered for future similar events. Allan pointed out the importance of attending these events, but Fiona commented that the Arisaig event was probably not worth repeating.
- b. **The Piping Book.** Nigel informed the Trustees that he had not yet had time to write to the pipe bands to market the piping book, The Pipe Music of the Clan Maclean. He would be particularly targeting those bands that wear Maclean tartan. The Chairman reminded the Trustees that the piping book was a heritage project and not just a commercial one. It was noted that we may have to find alternate storage space of the unsold books next spring/summer. There followed a discussion on the merits of recording some of the tunes, and having them available on the website.
- c. **Piping Bursary.** See item 4e above
- d. **Commemorating the Macleans of Boreray (53).** Peter Maclean-Docherty is manufacturing plaques for the Macleans of Boreray's last residence in Grimsay, and for the mausoleum in North Uist. He has organised the funding for this, but offered to include CMHT input on the plaques. Fiona to pursue this.
- e. **Dr. Hector Maclean of Gruline (7).** This project is on hold.
- f. **Lochaline Stones (57).** There was no support from the Session Clerk at Keil Church for this, so this project to improve the lighting is now shelved.
- g. **Beaton Cairn (3).** Allan has spoken to Dr Aonghus MacKechnie, Head of Heritage Management North at Historic Scotland, and to Dr John Raven, Heritage Management Team Leader (Monuments) West, about this site and about the **Killeen burial ground (59)**. John Raven has agreed to send a stone conservation expert to visit both sites. Fencing the sites once the bracken had been eradicated would only allow it to return as the sheep would not be able to keep it down. The Head of Historical Monuments, on Iona has previously visited the site and provided an oral report to Nicolas Maclean of

Pennycross. He however had recommended replacing the cross with a replica, which is now against Historic Scotland's policy.

h. **Rankin College of Piping** (18). The Chairman has discussed with Richard Compton Maclean of Torloisk a cairn to commemorate the Rankin College of Piping at or near Kilbrannan with a view to this being a project to link to the 2017 Gathering. The Friends tea party could be held at Torloisk House.

i. **Signing of cairns on Mull** (64). The Chairman has not heard back from Councillor Mary Jean Devon about placing of signs at the roadside. He will follow up.

j. **Killeen** (59). See item 8g above. The Chairman reported that Richard de Klee (Land owner) is quite keen that work should be done to protect the stones, but does not want them to be moved. It was noted that this is no longer Historic Scotland policy. Young volunteers could be asked to help re-build the wall.

k. **Killunaig Burial Ground**. Nigel referred to his visit report, circulated before the meeting. Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross is preparing a restoration plan and may seek the Trust's help. It was agreed that Allan would ask John Raven of Historic Scotland to arrange for his stone conservation expert to look at the Charles Maclean of Killunaig gravestone table tomb during his visit to inspect the Beaton Cross. Nicolas has agreed to liaise with Allan in this connection. Meanwhile, the project (55) to replace the battleaxes on the enclosure railing remains on our shelved list.

l. **Duart Restoration Fund**. The Chairman said that he had never thought that the Heritage Trust would be involved in helping the repairs at Duart. The Trust Deed did have a facility to acquire Duart if the family had to sell the Castle which was the only link between the Trust and Duart. The Chairman left the meeting.

After some discussion amongst the Trustees about the management of the Duart Restoration Fund, the Chairman re-joined the meeting and was briefed on the Trustees discussion. The Chairman thanked the Trustees and said he would like more time to consider and respond to the proposals.

m. **WW1 Commemoration**. The Secretary explained that he had received an email from Gordon McLean, a Trust Representative, that he had been sent a list of World War 1 deaths, and proposed that the Trust should use the list to form a record. The list appears to contain information in addition to that available on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website. It was thought that this might be a project of interest to young people, and

Hector offered to consult with his son. The Secretary will share detail of Douglas memorials that he is aware of.

n. **Battle of Sheriffmuir anniversary.** The Secretary will discover details of any plans to commemorate the battle from the Kippendavie Group Trust, which is the coordinating body for developments at Sheriffmuir Park including a heritage trail linked to the 300th anniversary of the battle, from Clan MacRae who will be commemorating the centenary of the erection of their monument, and from Nicholas Maclean-Bristol, who is working on a book that will list some of those Macleans who were present. An article will be published in the CMA newsletter.

9. Maclean.org website. A discussion was held on the ownership of the domain name maclean.org, which is used as the main clan website, and includes a section for CMHT. Maclean.org is registered c/o Robert Forsman, of MacLean Net, the administrative contact is Alasdair White, of MacLean Net. Nigel proposed that it should be held by the clan at large. He felt it was not satisfactory for the name to be owned by an individual. Neither MacleanNet nor CMIA as unincorporated entities could be the owner. It was recognised that Bob and Alasdair currently pay associated costs as well as maintaining the site, and this might become problematical if they no longer felt connected. It was agreed that CMHT could take over ownership, if requested. Nigel should approach Alasdair White to ask what succession plan is in place.

10. Other business

a. **OSCR consultation.** Nigel's response to the OSCR consultation was agreed. He will prepare a final version and pass it to the Secretary for submission.

b. **HMRC fit and proper persons test.** The Trustees discussed a paper circulated by Nigel prior to the meeting and noted discussions he had had with SCVO and NCVO. It was agreed to await developments before deciding whether, and if so how, our Trustees declaration form should be amended.,

c. **SCVO membership.** Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that we should not join the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations as a member.

d. **The next meeting** of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust will be held on Wednesday 18th March in Glasgow at a venue to be determined. It was noted that the National Piping Centre had the option of using a large screen for a Skype call.