



**Minutes of the 44th Meeting of
The Trustees of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust
held at 12 noon on 18th March 2015
at the Western Club, Glasgow**

Present: Fiona Maclean of Ardgour (Chair), Nigel Alington, Hector McLean, Vera MacLean, and William Douglas (Secretary).

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 44th meeting of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, including Vera MacLean to her first meeting. The Trustees marked the passing of Dr James on 16th January 2015, and recognised his considerable contribution to the Trust.

2. Apologies

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern, Canon Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, Alan McLean, Sandra McLean, Ian MacLean, and Noel Robinson.

3. Minutes of the 43rd Meeting

The minutes of the 43rd meeting were agreed subject to two amendments. The grant of £500 to the Glasgow Islay Association for the restoration of Hector Maclean's cross at Ballygrant was agreed, recognising that a good job had been done, is to be added to the minutes (see also item 9a, below). In paragraph 8k, the words 'table tomb' are to be deleted.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. **Genealogy.** It was noted that the need to scope this project has grown in importance in the light of enquiries received through Facebook. (See also item 9l)
- b. **Inverkeithing memorial.** Allan will visit the memorial, when next passing, to check any implications from the new park and ride facilities in the vicinity.
- c. **Association minutes.** Allan is asked to confirm whether the minutes have been passed to Mull Museum.

- d. **The Clan Maclean Archives.** Vera is to write to Mull Museum in her role as President of the Clan Maclean Association to confirm that the Association has passed to the Trust responsibility for the clan archives.
- e. **Commemorating the Macleans of Boreray.** Fiona displayed two images of possible plaques, one relating to the Macleans of Ardgour and the other to the Clearances. It was agreed that Allan's advice should be sought and they would respond to Peter Maclean Doherty. Fiona will ask for photographs once the plaques are in place.
- f. **OSCR website entry.** Nigel reported that OSCR had now agreed to change our entry as it appears on their website. During this process, however, it had transpired that our Trust Deed requires amendment to meet current legal standards. The Secretary is to ask Allan, who was involved in the preparation of the original document, to discover if Murray Beith Murray would amend it free of charge as it had not taken proper account of subsequent legislation, as it had been intended to do.
- g. **Duart Castle restoration.** Allan has reported that OSCR would not sanction the Trust's involvement in the Restoration Fund. It was noted that around £30,000 has been raised towards the restoration of Duart, which will probably be allocated to the Ghost Walk.

5. Trust Organisation

a. Trustees.

1. The Trustees agreed the appointment of a new Trustee, subject to the agreement of those not present. (Secretary's note – now received) They took note of two suggestions made by Allan for the future.

2. The Trustees expressed pleasure that Judge Sandra McLean has agreed to continue as a Trustee for a further two years. Ian MacLean is to be asked if he would agree to extend his tenure.

3. The Secretary has been having some difficulty identifying start and finish dates and will ask Trustees to confirm their dates.

4. New procedures for welcoming new trustees are to be drafted by the Secretary.

b. **Office bearers.** Fiona emphasised the importance of seeking a Treasurer who could take the work-load off Nigel, who is carrying the load now. It was felt that this should be someone who was able to attend meetings.

c. **Trust representatives.** Dr Leslie McLean has not been in touch (he is thought to be ill). Sir Lachlan will get in touch through Father Patrick Maclean.

6. Finance

- a. **Current position.** Nigel, referring to his Treasurer's report circulated before the meeting, stated that we had £14,276 in the bank. Final accounts will be prepared following the end of the month.
- b. **Sir Fitzroy Maclean Fund Investment.** Nigel explained that the UK Government 3½% War Loan Stock had been redeemed and we now need to think about where we can invest the cash balance to maximise income. It was agreed that we did not want to risk the capital. A decision was delayed until the next meeting.
- c. **PayPal Here.** It was agreed not to proceed with PayPal Here for credit card processing.
- d. **Budget.** Nigel presented a draft budget for FY2015/16. This was approved.
- e. **Gift Aid.** It was agreed that Gift Aid could be claimed for all eligible donations to the Trust since April 2014.

7. Friends of CMHT

- a. **Friends update.** The Secretary reported that he had sent newsletters to 26 Friends who had not paid in 2014, but had done so in 2013. Some of these have since renewed their subscription. 36 Friends who had paid in 2014 also received a newsletter as had 3 Honorary members. The members of previous years were 2013 48, 2012 59, 2011 27 and 2010 26. So far, 18 have paid for 2015 and 1 for 2016. It was agreed that Dr James' widow, Carole, should be invited to become an Honorary Friend if this was supported by the Trustees who were unable to be present.
- b. **Friends who have not upgraded to new subscription.** The Secretary reported that all those who have paid in 2015 have done so at the correct rate.
- c. **Newsletter.** The Trustees thanked the Secretary for producing a most impressive newsletter and Ian was thanked for his excellent article. The Secretary explained that he hoped to produce a smaller edition after the September meeting.
- c. **Membership recruitment and re-activation.** Alan, Hector and William are still to meet. Hector is working locally building contacts, and we now have over 1000 people reached through Facebook upon which to build.

8. Current Projects

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

- a. **Piping Book (31)** Nigel is to pass list of pipe bands to William who will use his Mailchimp account to market the piping book. It was noted that Allan has taken some of the books from Arngask. There is still a balance which need to be stored.
- b. **Kaid's portrait (42)** It was noted that Alan will be in Morocco in the near future and hopes to be able to make progress with restoration of the portrait.

9. Projects under consideration

- a. **Ballygrant (13)** This project is now completed. We have paid a £500 contribution to the Glasgow Islay Association towards to £1,600 costs of the new railings and monument cleaning, though no official thanks has yet been received. Allan is asked to prepare a press release and/or article for the Oban Times referring to the Trust's contribution. Fiona will contact the Association to investigate whether a stile can be provided to make access easier, and at the same time seek acknowledgement.
- b. **Lochaline stones (57)** No longer under consideration (see minutes of 43rd meeting)
- c. **Beaton Cairn (3)** See item 8i
- d. **Rankin College of Piping (18)** There is no recorded progress on this project.
- e. **Signing of cairns (64)** There is no recorded progress on this project. It is hoped that the Maclean cairns on Mull that are difficult to see from the road might have signposts in time for the 2017 Gathering.
- f. **Killeen (59)** Sir Lachlan and Allan are to visit the site to scope the project. See also item 8i
- g. **WWI commemoration (65)** Hector informed the Trustees that he had not been able to find anyone to take this on, but he has made contact with the original proposer, also a Hector Maclean, in Stirling. William and Hector will meet to review how we take this forward. William will forward a proposed database format to Nigel, who will investigate its use on the website.
- h. **Other WW1 projects** The meeting took note of a proposal from Ian that 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Kilties and that Pvt George Maclean, a Native American who won an award for gallantry at Vimy in 1917, is worthy of commemoration. The Trustees were supportive of both these, though less enthusiastic about Rena McLean, the Prince Edward

Island nurse, whom Ian had also nominated for consideration. He was thanked for the proposals.

i. **Killunaig Burial Ground (55)** Allan is to ask John Raven of Historic Scotland to arrange for his stone conservation expert to look at the Charles Maclean of Killunaig gravestone during his visit to inspect the Beaton Cross, as well as giving advice on Killean. Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross is planning a visit in April. It was hoped that these inspections might coincide.

j. **Battle of Sheriffmuir Anniversary (68)** The Secretary reported that he has made no progress in identifying any commemoration planned for the 300th anniversary on 13th November 2015, other than a dinner in the Sheriffmuir inn. It was felt that something, perhaps a wreath laying, should take place. The Secretary will take this forward.

k. **Charles Rawden Maclean.** The Secretary will be in Durban shortly after that anniversary of Charles Rawden Maclean's birth, and offered to lay a wreath at his statue. It was agreed that this might be an opportunity to draw in South African Macleans. There is also a gravestone in Southampton at which a wreath could also be laid. William will take this forward.

l. **Genealogy (46)** Some enquiries are being made through Facebook regarding Maclean genealogy. This project requires scoping.

m. **Dr John Knox McLean (66)** This was thought to be a good first project for the US west coast, but has run into difficulties due to redevelopment within the Pacific School of Religion. The Chief will be at the Pleasanton Games in September 2015 and it was hoped that the opportunity could be taken to place a plaque. An alternative idea of marking Dr John in Mountainview Cemetery is now being considered with either a plaque or storyboard.

10. Maclean.org website

a. Ensuring the long term future of the website as a clan resource is still work in progress.

11. AOCB

a. **Duart Gates Appeal.** We were informed that CMA has decided that the balance of funds from the Gates Appeal will be allocated to the Duart Castle Restoration Appeal, and not to the Trust.

b. **'Fit and proper person' declaration** Nigel reported that there has been no progress by NCVO or SCVO in their negotiations with HMRC regarding the

wording of the recommended 'Fit and proper persons' declaration. He will continue to monitor this.

c. 2017 Gathering (67) It was agreed that 'Heritage Trust Day' would be on Thursday 22nd July 2017. The question of whether a project at Drimnin should be our focus was held over to the next meeting.

d. Facebook. The Facebook page is to be opened up to enable commenting. Trustees are asked to contribute to the page to build interest. Material can be forwarded to Doug and Karen McLean who will post it. Ways are to be sought to build supporter involvement and connections with the Trust.

e. Professor Ian Maclean – archive papers. The Trustees noted that Sir Lachlan and Allan both have opportunities to recover the archive papers, though storage may become a problem.

f. Kilchoman (62) Responding to a question raised before the meeting, Allan submitted a note related to the memorial stone for Sir Lachlan Mór in Kilchoman churchyard, Islay. This project is currently 'shelved' but those present wished to know if it should be resurrected.

g. Waterloo Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross has submitted a suggestion that we should commemorate the two Macleans of Pennycross who, according to tradition, played a notable role at the Battle of Waterloo, whose 200th anniversary falls on 18 June 2015. A decision was held over to the next meeting.

h. Projects database Fiona expressed the meeting's thanks that the project database has been revamped

i. Next meeting – date to be determined following CMA meeting. (Secretary's note: 16th or 23rd September)

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