



**Minutes of the 45th Meeting of
The Trustees of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust
held at 12 noon on 16th September 2015
at the Western Club, Glasgow**

Present: Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern (Chairman), Canon Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, Fiona Maclean of Ardgour, Nigel Alington, Hector McLean, Vera MacLean, Brigadier John MacFarlane and William Douglas (Secretary).

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 45th meeting of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, including John MacFarlane to his first meeting.

2. Apologies

Alan McLean, Sandra McLean, and Ian MacLean.

3. Minutes of the 44th Meeting

The minutes of the 44th meeting were agreed. Proposed by Fiona and seconded by Nigel.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a. A donation from the estate of Dr James Maclean has not yet been received. Allan will be meeting Dr James's widow next week and will report progress.

5. Trust Organisation

a. **Trustees.**

- 1. The Secretary is maintaining the record of start and finish dates for Trustees' terms of office, as required by OSCR.
- 2. A draft of the procedure for welcoming new trustees was circulated at the meeting. The Secretary requested that comments should be forwarded to him.

- b. **Office bearers.** Nigel explained that he would be unable to continue as acting Treasurer beyond the end of this financial year. We need to find a

replacement before then. Nigel is preparing handover notes. The Chairman spoke warmly of the help and support that Nigel has given saying he was enormously appreciative of all he has done.

c. **Trust representatives.** Dr Leslie McLean is now a Friend of the Trust.

d. **Trust deed.** It was noted that the Trust deed should be updated to meet current legal requirements. Nigel will send OSCR's note on this to Allan, who will obtain a quotation for the cost of re-drafting. Allan reported that Murray Beith Murray had declined to do this work free of charge, on the basis that the Deed as drafted by them was fit for purpose at the time.

6. Finance

a. **Draft 2014/15 accounts.** Nigel outlined the main points in the draft accounts, indicating that the surplus includes £3,775 from redeemed War Loan Stock. These were accepted. Allan will ask Robin Angus if he would agree to be our independent examiner of the accounts. The Chairman will write his report. Proposed: Allan; seconded: Vera.

b. **Accounts for the six months ending 30th September 2015.** Referring to the six-month accounts, Nigel reported that he has concerns at the differences in subscriptions received this year against previous years. The Secretary and Nigel will review this. Sales of Death or Victory are slowing, and the only sales (4) of the piping book were through the Piping College. The Chairman agreed to ask James Beaton if any had been sold at the Piping Centre.

c. **Sir Fitzroy Maclean Fund Investment.** In view of the low interest rates available, it was agreed that the £3,775 redeemed War Loan Stock should be held as cash for the time being.

c. **Archives.** Allan has now received more boxes of documents from the former Treasurer's widow. He will sort through these seeking anything current, including past copies of the end of year accounts, and pass these to Nigel.

7. Friends of CMHT

a. **Friends update.** The Secretary reported that the Trust has 32 Friends who have paid their subscription this year. The Chairman reported that he had found when in the US that some Friends had not renewed when the 'Benefit' was brought to an end.

b. **Membership recruitment and re-activation.** Alan, Hector and William are still to meet to discuss ideas.

8. Current Projects

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

- a. **Piping Book (31)** 350 books remain at Arngask. Allan will collect them and share the boxes with Vera for storage. The Secretary will investigate an alternative solution. Vera and the Secretary will investigate taking a sales stall at the 2016 World Pipe Band Championships.
- b. **Kaid's portrait (42)** Alan reported the manager of the hotel has changed and there is no sign of any progress in getting the Kaid's portrait cleaned. The history behind the portrait, written in English and French, now hangs next to it. He also suggested that a leaflet be provided in the church of St Andrew, in Tangier, explaining the Kaid's tomb. The Trustees endorsed this idea.
- c. **Battle of Sheriffmuir Anniversary** Allan reported that the Association of Highland Clans, the 1745 Society and Clan MacRae were, together, marking the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Sheriffmuir on the battlefield on 13th November. Assembly is at the Sheriffmuir Inn, followed by wreath-laying at the two road-side cairns and then at the Rallying Stone with tea thereafter in the Inn. Anyone wishing to join CMHT for lunch in the Inn, booked by Hector, should notify the Secretary. The Trustees agreed a £30 budget for a wreath.
- d. **Charles Rawden Maclean** The secretary has written to 25 Macleans in the Durban area, with two responses from people unable to attend the proposed commemoration event. The Trustees agreed a £30 budget for a wreath.
- e. **Boreray (53)** Fiona is continuing to liaise with Peter Maclean Doherty regarding the placement of plaques on Boreray. It appears that 'Ardgour' may no longer be mentioned.

9. Projects under consideration

- a. **Ballygrant (13)** A letter explaining the Trust's role in the maintenance of the memorial was published in the Oban Times on 2nd April. The fence across the access route is in a state of disrepair, so a stile is not required meantime.
- b. **Lochaline stones (57)** No longer under consideration (see minutes of 43rd meeting)
- c. **Beaton Cairn (3)** John Raven of Historic Environment Scotland gave short notice of his visit, but a meeting could not be arranged and so the inspections of the Beaton Cairn, **Killunaig Burial Ground (55)** and **Killeen (59)** have not yet taken place. Nigel expressed concern that a deadline for possible external funding had now passed if these projects were to be completed in time for the

2017 Gathering. The Chairman will speak to Mary-Jean Devon regarding the path and sign to the Beaton Cairn.

d. **Rankin College of Piping** (18) Richard Compton Maclean of Torloisk is happy for the proposal for an information board to proceed.

e. **Signing of cairns** (64) The Chairman has had a letter outlining issues arising from the proposal to erect signs to difficult to see Maclean cairns, etc. These include whose land the signs would be on, their size and need not to cause a distraction to motorists. He will share this letter with the Trustees.

f. **Killean** (59) See item 9c.

g. **WWI commemoration** (65) A format for use on the website has been provided, which requires the addition of a field for a photograph. Gordon and Pat McLean are to be asked if they would accept responsibility for this project.

h. **Other WW1 projects** It was noted that Paul Belliveau is writing a book about the Kilties, which will be published on a print-on-demand basis. The Trustees felt it appropriate for the Chief to contribute an introduction. We look forward to being able to place a copy in the Archives. Ian is asked to keep options to commemorate **Private George Maclean DCM** (69) under review and to let the Trustees know how he thinks **Nurse Rena Maclean's** (70) wartime service might be marked. It was noted that Ken Maclean of Glenboig represents the clan at Ypres events.

j. **Killunaig Burial Ground** (55) See item 9c.

k. **Genealogy** (46) There was no progress to report.

l. **Dr John Knox McLean** (66) Despite difficulties finding a suitable location for a plaque, the Trustees remain of the opinion that he should be commemorated in some form. Sandra is asked to continue with this project.

10. 2017 Clan gathering

a. The Trustees discussed options for Friends' events at the 2017 Gathering, taking account of the main gathering programme. It was decided that the 'unveiling' would take place on Thursday 22nd July and that the Friends' tea party would be held on Friday 23rd July, when a presentation would be given on the restoration of Duart Castle.

b. As there had been no response from the owners, an event at Drimnin will not take place. Projects associated with the Rankin School of Piping, the Knockmartin rallying point and McLaine ambush of the McPhees on Ross of Mull, Blar Phort Bheathain, were all considered, but no decision was made.

11. AOCB

- a. Professor Ian Maclean** – archive papers. The papers have still not been received. The Chairman will follow up.
- b. Inverkeithing** The Chairman said he would inspect the cairn and plaque to ensure that they were still in place.
- c. Argyll Piping Trust** Following a request for help, John agreed to find how the Trust could become involved.
- d. Documents in the Cloud** It was agreed not to continue with this proposal.
- e. Action Points** As the meeting had to be concluded, it was agreed that all trustees would report back to the Secretary on progress made on the Action Points from the previous meeting.
- f. Next meeting** – The 46th meeting of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust will be held on Wednesday 9th March 2016.

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