



**Draft Minutes of the 58th Meeting of
The Trustees of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust
held at 3pm on 21st September 2021**

The meeting was a 'virtual meeting', held on the Zoom digital platform

Present: Canon Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch (Chairman), Sir Lachlan Maclean, Fiona Maclean of Ardgour, Vera MacLean, Hector McLean, Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch, Alan McLean, Ian Maclean (part), and William Douglas (Secretary).

1. Welcome

Allan opened the meeting and welcome everyone on screen.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Brigadier John Macfarlane. Peter Maclean Docherty's connection failed to allow him to participate.

3. Minutes of the 56th Meeting

The minutes of the 57th meeting were accepted, subject to the correction a typographical errors.

I. Matters arising from the 57th Meeting

- a. All matters arising were considered during the discussion on the other agenda items

5. Reports

- a. Chairman.
 - i. Allan said that the Clan Maclean Virtual Gathering showed that the Heritage Trust was alive and active, and praised the Trustees contributions and thanked them for their work. He noted that the Trust had commissioned, together with the Association, a film about the Maclean items in the Mull Museum. Alan noted that the film stated the source of the Kaid's bookplate was unknown, but had been acquired by him. (Secretary's note:

A recognised Scottish Charity, No. SC024481

I challenged this believing it not to be the same item, but further research reveals Alan is probably correct.)

- ii. The Chairman acknowledged the work that has been done by Ian on the 25th Anniversary book (100). Ian's report was taken at this point (see below).

b. Secretary.

- i. The Chairman referred Trustees to the Secretary's pre-meeting briefing note. He stated that we currently have 26 paid up Friends and 5 honorary members.
- ii. The Secretary's was unable to visit Mull during the year to work on the Archives, but hopes to be able to do so in 2022.
- iii. The Trust made a significant contribution to the Virtual Clan Gathering providing items on history and heritage. The Secretary asked for suggestions about how the digital material should be archived. See Item 11b for further details.
- iv. The Secretary said that he wished to produce a newsletter in the autumn, and asked for contributions. He hoped that this would encourage the retention of Friends, whose numbers are declining. See Item 8a for further details.

6. Trust Organisation

a. Trustees. Trustees were reminded that there is to be a significant change in Trustees and office bearers around the time of the 2023 International Gathering. Areas of expertise required include piping and a knowledge of Gaelic language and culture. Some names were put forward for consideration; (Secretary's note: Not named here for reasons of confidentiality.) Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross is to be asked for some suggestions of young people.

b. Office bearers. It was noted that there is no change to the present situation.

c. Trust deed.

- i. Allan and William reported that no progress has been made towards modernising the constitution since the previous meeting.

- ii. The Chairman noted that, in relation to the discussion on the Trust's mission and vision (See Item 13b) our constitution has clear aims.

7. Finance The Chairman referred the Trustees to the Treasurer's report.

a. Year-end accounts for 2020/2021 were circulated with the Treasurer's report. The accounts were accepted by the Trustees: Proposed – Ian; Seconded – Alan

b. Year to date accounts as at 31 August 2021 were circulated with the Treasurer's report.

b. Current position. As at 17th September 2021,

Cash at bank	£10,771.48
32-Day Notice deposit	£13,799.98
PayPal balance	£ 300.00
Total	£ 24,871.46

c. The Projects Budget was circulated before the meeting. There were no points arising.

8. Friends of CMHT

a. Friends update. The Secretary reported that we currently have 21 family (28 in March 2021), 15 individual (16) and 5 Honorary Friends.

b. A review of membership fees was not discussed.

c. Corporate Membership. The Corporate membership scheme was not discussed. Hector referred to the need for clear mission and vision statements in relation to gaining corporate support (See Item 13b)

d. Newsletter. William said that he intended to produce another newsletter in the autumn, and asked for articles from the Trustees.

9. 25th Anniversary Record of Achievement (100)

Ian reported that his health had interrupted his work schedule, but that he was hopeful to return to progressing the book in the near future. Christine Gordon Manley of Rosemount Writing & Editing Services has been appointed as editor, and he found her to be easy to deal with. The plan was that she would

work on the book til the end of the year, but it will now be necessary to revise the timescale and re-negotiate the contract.

It is estimated that there will be 33 – 35 chapters in all, and of these 22 projects have been completed, half of which have been edited. Ian felt that the remaining chapters will be easier to write, and that this includes all the North American projects. He explained that the section on piping is expected to be a long one as it will cover several projects. Similarly, he intends to collate our collection of documents and objects into one chapter.

Requests were made for advance copies of 'digital pages' and for a list of chapter descriptions. The Secretary said he would provide these.

Hector suggested that the book should be available in digital form (an ebook).

Trustees expressed their best wishes individually to Ian and urged him not to return to work too soon.

The Chairman said he hoped that the launch could take place at the 2023 International Clan Gathering.

10. Current Projects

a. Piping

- I. Piping bursary (32) Although John had submitted a report, this had not reached Trustees. The Chairman said he had spoken with John who **is** very keen that Angus Mclean, of Kilmartin, should take up the bursary as soon as possible. He no longer requires a chaperone, thus reducing the cost. John prefers in person tutoring, not remote. There are young pipers at Dervaig, and on Skye who are possibilities for future years.
- II. Argyll Piping Trust (89) John reported that as the Scottish Government will be contributing to the Piping Trust, there was no requirement for the Heritage Trust to continue its support. He noted that no letter of thanks had been received.

b. Inverkeithing memorial (48a) Allan reported that he is unable to locate the original artwork for the display so that it can be reprinted.

c. Lichlee (21) Sir Lachlan reported he now knows the date to put on the new plaque, but there was no further progress..

- d. Kilnave Church (98) Fiona reported she has heard nothing further about the availability of slate for the plaque.
- e. Rankin College of Piping (18) Sir Lachlan showed Trustees photographs of the possible site for the memorial. One nearest the road was favoured. He will discuss this with the landowner. It remains the Heritage Trust project for the International Gathering, in 2023.
- f. Genealogy/Heraldry (99) William reported he has made no progress, though it is hoped to have something for the Virtual Clan Gathering..
- g. Duart panels (92) Sir Lachlan reported that the panels are all now complete, but not yet in place. They fall within the £500 budget.
- h. Blacks Harbour (105). The secretary reported that although there have been some personnel changes, the project is making satisfactory progress.
- i. Àird a' Mhòrain burial ground, North Uist (103) Peter's link to the meeting failed, so he was unable to report. The secretary is to ask for a written report.
- j. Fort Dewart (9a). It was noted that this project is now complete.
- k. Mull piping. See Item 10 a ii.
- l. Allan Maclean, Valparaiso (107) The Chairman referred to the report that he circulated ahead of the meeting, which included a draft list of about 460 of the letters and documents relating to Allan Maclean including 105 documents relating to Allan's brother, the Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, and his captivity at the hands of Raisuli. They are currently at Duart. A discussion followed about options for their storage and care. A concern was that they should be accessible, Mull Museum being the favoured location, but possibly the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh, where CMHT already has a deposit of our 15th and 16th century charters and documents, or in the Special collections at the National Library of Scotland which also has Maclean documents. Anne suggested that everything should be catalogued, and that might lead to a book being written. Alan stressed the importance of the collection, and wished some be copied to the Moroccan authorities. The need to ensure that they did not become widely copied and shared was expressed. The Secretary reminded Trustees that Mull Museum has already made digital copies of some of our archives, and might be in a position to include these papers. The Chairman undertook to follow up storage and copying with Mull Museum. It was noted that an earlier approach had received no response.

11. Projects under consideration

No new projects were put forward for consideration.

12. Virtual Clan Gathering, 22nd – 26th June 2021

a. Anne reported that the Virtual Clan Gathering had been a useful experience in keeping the clan informed and in bringing a wide audience together, thus raising awareness. Eleven or 12 countries were reached, and many email addresses gathered. She noted that few new members had been attracted and that little money was raised. William thanked Anne for the energy and enthusiasm she had brought, together with her knowledge of the music and culture of Mull, which had enhanced the Virtual Gathering team.

b. Legacy – The Secretary spoke to the legacy arising from the gathering, and a wish to protect and preserve the historical and heritage elements. He is following up some organisations (Am Bailie and Tobar an Dualchais) but has not yet found a suitable repository. Anne and Vera offered to use their contacts.

c. Anne reported that a revised website is being prepared to enable its future use, and for retained items to continue to be accessed. Action: William, with Hector Maclean of Dochgarroch.

12. The 2023 International Gathering

Anne reported that the 2023 Gathering would focus visits on Mull, rather than other islands, as it was clear those attending wished greater opportunities to meet other Macleans. The CMHT day will include the commemoration of the Rankin School of Piping.

13. AOCB

a. Projects database - The secretary asked that Trustees help keep the projects database up to date by reviewing the status of their projects.

b. Vision and Mission

Trustees, during the discussion related to new trustees, suggested that we should clarify the Trust's vision to ensure that we were clear on which skills and expertise would best benefit the Trust, and if there should be defined roles.

Linked to this was the proposal that we should be writing to those who had registered for the Virtual Gathering to encourage long term support, and we

need to be clear why we are asking for it. Hector pointed out that a similar goal was to be clear why we would value corporate support.

Anne and the Secretary, supported by Hector, were asked to draw up a vision statement. However, Sir Lachlan, who was disappointed that we do not have a strategy, made a counter proposal that the Trust should employ a consultant to do this for us, and suggested someone he knows at Duart. It was pointed out that time was of the essence regarding Virtual Gathering names. Anne and the Secretary agreed to get together to seek a way forward.

- c. Next meeting.** It was agreed that the 59th meeting of Clan Maclean Heritage Trust be held on Zoom, at a date to be agreed following the association meeting being held the next day.

Note: CMHT on 22nd March at 3pm and CMA on 23rd March.