

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Alister D. McLean Western Australia and the Secretary Malcolm F. MacLean who telephoned his apology having succumbed to a severe bout of influenza. In the absence of the Secretary, Ronald undertook to record the minutes of the meeting.

2. Minutes of 4th Meeting

These were signed by the Chairman following the proposal of their acceptance by Allan seconded by James and carried unanimously

3. Interim Finance Report

The Trust has received £1377 from the Sir Fitzroy Donald Maclean with further payments still to come. The Fund comprises of a Capital element and Earnings (from dividends), the Bank as nominee of the Fund has yet to effect the agreed transfer of the Capital to the Heritage Trust.

The Heritage Trust Fund currently stands at £6611. The Trustees approved payment of £363.50 to Murray Beith Murray W.S. for their account from 1st April 96 to the 31st March 97.

4. Guidelines

The acceptance of the revised Guidelines prepared by the Secretary, proposed by Lachlan seconded by Ronald and carried unanimously.

5. Appeal

Minor alterations requested to the Appeal Letter reflecting the advent of the new year in respect of past, present and future prospects; thus "last year" becomes 1996, "this year" becomes "last year" etc. With the general thrust of the Appeals Letter gaining approval, final proofing will now go ahead.

The Trustees requested that the Appeals Letter add that they are considering the Coll Mausoleum an Australian Project for next year (1999), (see Chairman's Remarks and Chief's Report below).

Action MFM

Ronald reported that he had acquired a copy of Burkes Peerage's "The World Book of Macleans" that lists names and addresses of 18560 Macleans around the world. Such a listing could form the basis of a mailing list for the appeal. The listing is not complete, he had returned a previous list of McLains that omitted MacLaines so one may presume that other variants of the name appear as separate volumes.

6. Chairman's Remarks

6.1 Gruinard & Sir Lachlan Mor Memorial Cairn

Nicholas reported that he had visited Islay by helicopter at a cost of £300 (reimbursable as agreed by all present) to speed things up on this project. He discussed the site with the RSPB Warden and as the RSPB had agreed the site of the cairn in early December, we are now in a position to

proceed. The location is close to their field hut and they appear to welcome the project as an added attraction to draw visitors to their exhibits. They have sought planning permission but fear that there could be delays in obtaining it, therefore every effort to expedite the planning process and focus on achieving the project target date will be vital.

There are actually two stones about ten yards apart purporting to mark the site of Lachlan Mor's death. The plan is to erect the cairn adjacent to them. The reputed burial place of Lachlan Mor is Kilchoma Church some miles away from the battle site.

Action NMB

6.2 Coll Mausoleum

The Mausoleum, built about 1800 for Mrs. Catherine Maclean has suffered damage by lightning that unfortunately the Stewart family did nothing to repair. The RSPB are now on the site that requires attention. Nicholas suggested that a fund be launched with emphasis on collecting contributions from people with Coll connections to which the Trust could make a contribution and form the basis of a project for 1999.

Action All

There was some discussion on the possibility of the Trust taking a lease of the site from the RSPB and particular discussion on the position regarding Third Party Insurance. No firm conclusion by the Trustees on leasing the site materialised.

6.3 Forthcoming Publications

Three books of interest to Macleans are coming out in the Spring.

- i) Mull Family Names for Ancestor Hunters by Joe Currie
- ii) Murder under Trust by Nicholas Maclean-Bristol, the second volume of his history of the Clan Maclean
- iii) Inhabitants of the Western Isles, Morven & Ardnamurchan in 1716 published by the Scottish Records Society.

Nicholas has placed a large block order for this publication that is only available to members of the Society and would otherwise be unobtainable to Macleans interested in acquiring a copy.

In addition, recently released is :-

- iv) The Isle of Mull, Place names, Meanings and Stories by Charles D. MacLean.

The Trustees agreed that the above list of books be circulated with the next issue of The Battle Axe.

Action AM

7. President, Clan Association

7.1 Branch Agents.

Allan tabled a draft letter to Branch Presidents regarding the appointment of Local Agents of the Heritage Trust. They would be responsible for alerting the Trustees to possible projects in their areas that might benefit from the Trust's support. The draft gained approval from all concerned.

Action AM

7.2 Iona Abbey.

Before the High Altar at Iona Abbey is a burial slab said to be that of Lachlan Lubanach affixed to

which was part of a medieval brass plaque. It went missing, but has now been recovered and Allan suggested that the Trust might contribute to the cost of its restoration.

Action AM

7.3 Sorley Maclean Memorial Appeal.

An appeal launched by the Saltire Society raises the question of whether there is a role here for the involvement of the Heritage Trust rather than the Clan Association. The general consensus was that there is but that any decision be postponed until after our own appeal is launched.

Action MFM

8. Chief's Visit to Australia

Lachlan met our Co-Trustee, Alister, in Western Australia and discussed with him the Guidelines now distributed to three Australian Branches for clarification. We were sorry to hear that Alister had been unwell and all present wish him a full and speedy recovery.

Lachlan also reported that Alister had expressed his gratitude to our Secretary, Mac, for keeping him in touch with the Trust's business.

Brian Maclean, President, who runs all the cemeteries in Western Australia provided Lachlan with sample costs of cast bronze plaques there, e.g. a 381x 249mm (15"x11") plaque costs \$A411 plus sales tax, say £200 excluding engraving.

Lachlan reported that all Australian Branches are keen to have distinguished Australian Macleans recognised. There is a strong feeling, shared by the Trustees, that the Trust needs a project in Australia. One possibility is a memorial to Alister's uncle Allan the last Premier of Victoria before federation and subsequently a Minister in the early Federal Government. However, local preference appears to favour honouring Hector Neil McLean after whom the H.N. McLean Memorial Retirement Village, Inverell, NSW is named. The Trustees agreed that the Branches be invited to proceed with this project and to submit a design for a plaque and inscription for the Trustees approval. The Trustees are favourably disposed to making a contribution to the project. Lachlan has already supplied a copy of the motto and crest for incorporation in the design adopted.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Following on the previous paragraph agreement to provide support to the first project in each country carrying the Trust's logo and having gained the Trusts approval.

9.2 An invitation would go to the late Sorley Maclean's brother or son to make a translation into Gaelic of the text of the inscription for the Gruinard cairn.

9.3 Lachlan appointed to be an additional signatory for the operation of the Trust's bank account.

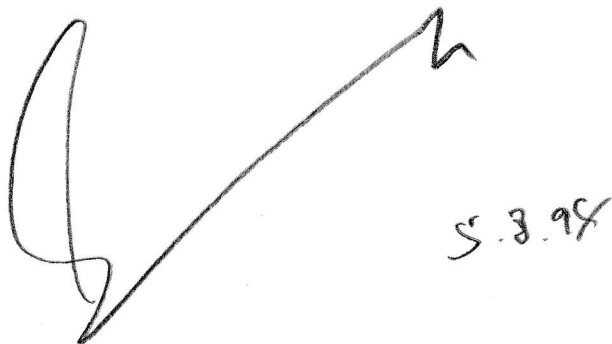
9.4 Nicholas drew attention to the large quantity of Deeds and Court records that required registering or indexing. To do so would be a major undertaking and raised the possibility of using Heritage Funds towards the cost of indexing Maclean papers. Following a brief discussion, this item was put on hold for discussion at a future meeting.

10. Vote of Thanks

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mac for all the work he had done for the Heritage Trust so diligently and to Ronald and Betty for hosting this meeting. Both vote of thanks gained the support of all present.

11. Date and Venue for next Meeting

To be arranged.

A handwritten signature, possibly 'S. B. 98', is written in black ink. The signature is stylized, with a large loop on the left and a long, sweeping line extending towards the right. The date '5.8.98' is written in a smaller, more straightforward hand to the right of the signature.

S. B. 98