Draft Minutes of the 59th Meeting of
The Trustees of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust
held at 1:30pm on 23rd March 2022

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

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

1. Welcome

Allan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone on screen. He apologised for the change in date made necessary by a funeral.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of the 58th Meeting

The minutes of the 58th meeting were accepted; proposed by Vera and seconded by John.

I. Matters arising from the 57th Meeting

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

b. Matters arising from the Action Points from previous meetings:

  1 Allan Maclean, Valpariso. The Chairman reported he had received no response from Mull Museum regarding the safe archiving of the documents, which are currently at Duart.

  2 Sir Lachlan and Allan have still to meet John Raven to take forward projects at Beaton Cross (3, Kilunaig burial ground (55) and Killean Graveyard (59). It is understood that Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross may be taking responsibility for the Beaton Cairn.

3 The Chairman reported that the Inverkeithing memorial storyboard (48) is overshadowed by trees.

4 Fiona has had no response from the stonemason about availability of slate for the memorial at Kilnave Church (98) which was held up during the Covid-19 pandemic.

5 Hector reported that he is monitoring the Visit Scotland grants programme for suitable funding.

6 Other points either had nothing to report or are included elsewhere in the minutes.

5. Reports

a. Chairman.

i. The Chairman thanked the secretary for his work on the Trust.
ii. He referred to the Trust deed (see below)

b. Secretary.

i. The Chairman referred Trustees to the Secretary's pre-meeting briefing note.

ii. The Secretary said that although he had made the papers for the meeting available 'on the cloud' in Google Documents, he noted that not all found this helpful so he will seek an alternative solution.

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, and of Mull and Argyll. Some names were put forward for consideration which the Secretary will circulate separately. Alan stated that the HeritageTrust is the backbone of the clan and Ian stressed the need to find 'doers'. The Chairman and Secretary are to ask suitable candidates if they would join the Board of Trustees. The Secretary was instructed to share the details of Friends who might be suitable.

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

c. Trust deed.

   i. The Chairman noted that we had ‘been led up the path’ by lawyers with revising the deed of Constitution.
   ii. A report was circulated ahead of the meeting on progress towards a vision and mission statement which would be used to inform the revision of the Trust deed. Further development by Anne and Willian is still required, supported by Hector.

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

a. Year to date accounts as at 28th February 2022 were circulated with the Treasurer’s report.

b. Current position. As at 10th March 2022,

Cash at bank	£10,893.43
32-Day Notice deposit	£13,801.95
PayPal balance	£ 907.45
Total	£ 25,602.83

c. A claim to HMRC for Gift Aid had yielded £553.66 for a period covering four years. The Chairman questioned whether the Trust should resume benefits to the Friends in the light of the low loss of income as a consequence. The newsletter is to be continued.

d. 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 35 family (28 in March 2021), 5 individual (16) and 4 Honorary Friends (5).

b. The Secretary reported that he had considered that the Trust should increase membership fees, currently £30 for families and £20 for individuals, but on reviewing other clans was now not convinced that this was desirable. It was agreed to retain the current fees.

c. Corporate Membership. Hector referred to the need for a clear mission and vision statement before he progressed a strategy for corporate support.

9. Vision and Mission

An outline of progress towards a vision and mission statement for the Trust was circulated ahead of the meeting. Not all agreed with the preamble! A full discussion was held over til the next meeting.

10. 25th Anniversary record of Achievement (100)

Ian spoke to his report circulated ahead of the meeting. He acknowledged the support given to him by the editor, and thanked Allan and Fiona for their assistance. He listed the chapters that he had written so far. At this point, the meeting concluded and no further discussion was possible. The Chairman said that we would return to the topic at the next meeting.

10. Current Projects

a. Piping

John circulated a report on piping ahead of the meeting. He emphasised the following points:

I. Piping Bursary. The Trustees supported John's view that the bursary programme should not resume til the College of piping re-started face to face tuition. He suggested we may have two candidates in quick succession. It was noted that a past bursar, Jamie MacLean, had benefited greatly from his tuition and had played very well at a recent funeral.

II. Argyllshire Gathering Trust. CMHT has supported the Argyll Piping Trust over a number of years. This has now been subsumed into the Argyllshire Gathering Trust, which has a wider remit covering other areas of Scottish heritage and culture. John expressed concern that this might dilute the support of piping. Allan said that he had spoken to Hugh Nickerson, who thought that the Heritage trust's support had been a great help. John was asked to email the Secretary the details of the possible bursars, for the record.

III. Piping on the Isle of Mull. Calum MacLean, who is also the Chief's piper, is doing well with around 40 young pipers receiving tuition in the north of the island. John mentioned rivalry with the Mull and Iona Pipe Band and a brief discussion followed about possible funding for them.

IV. The Tobermory High School Pipe Band is benefitting from workshops led by renowned Pipe Major Angus MacColl. A suggestion was made that perhaps the Trust could help fund these workshops, but instead a proposal to investigate the provision of four tenor drums for the band was made. It was felt important that the Trust's support should be investigated, perhaps with the logo/crest being affixed to the drums.

The Chairman thanked John for his report.

c. Àird a' Mhòrain burial ground, North Uist (103) The Trustees reviewed a revision of plaque and decided that Peter should liaise with John and come to a decision between themselves as to the wording.

d. Memorial to the Rankin School of Piping (18) at Kilbrennan Sir Lachlan has identified a site close to the road for a memorial. Land owner Rick Compton Maclean supports this. Sir Lachlan will ask if it is possible for friends to have tea at Torloisk. The Secretary is to discover how many attended previous CMHT events at Gruline and Lichd Lee. Sir Lachlan has identified a piper who can play Rankin tunes at the event. Access for those attending the unveiling, on Wednesday 23rd June 2023, during the International Gathering may be a problem. The Secretary is to assist Sir Lachlan with this event. The anniversary of Johnson and Boswell's 1773 visit to Mull will be covered too.

11. AOCB

a. Mull Museum AGM. The Secretary will attend on behalf of the trust.

b. Zoom meetings. It was agreed that a subscription for the 'Professional' version of the Zook digital platform be acquired, in partnership with CMA, if they are in agreement.

Next meeting An extra meeting to continue with the agenda from the 59th meeting will be held on the Zoom digital platform at 3pm on Wednesday 22nd June.

Secretary's Note:

The meeting was held in three sections of 40 minutes each as Zoom only allows that in its free version. Sir Lachlan was unable to re-join after the first section. We were unable to complete the agenda and some items discussed were taken out of agenda order.