

CLAN MACLEAN HERITAGE TRUST
MINUTES of
SEVENTH MEETING OF TRUSTEES
HELD AT NAPIER HOUSE, 8 COLINTON ROAD EDINBURGH
11th JANUARY 1999 at 11am.

1. PRESENT Major Nicholas Maclean-Bristol, Chairman
 Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern
 Lt. Colonel Donald A. MacLean
 Dr James McLean, Treasurer
 Ronald G. MacLean Esq

2. APOLOGIES Malcolm F MacLean, Secretary sent his apologies as he would be travelling abroad. Ronald acted on his behalf.
The Very Rev. Allan Maclean ygr of Dochgarroch who had been invited to attend the meeting, telephoned his apologies as he had to conduct a funeral service at Clydebank.

3. MINUTES OF SIXTH MEETING Following a brief discussion these were accepted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMANS REMARKS The Chairman welcomed Donald as a trustee in his capacity as President of the Clan Maclean Association in succession to Allan Dochgarroch to whom he paid a warm tribute for his past services to the Trust. He intimated that he would have more to say about Allan later in the meeting.

Commenting on the Islay project he confirmed that he had place on record the location of the original well where Sir Lachlan Mor was killed in Notes & Queries Series 2, No. 8 of November 1998 of SWHIHR (Society of West Highlands and Islands Historical Research). The source of his information was an elderly Islay lady who along with her son believed they were the last people alive who knew the location. He also felt that there was a certain lack of publicity over the Gruinart event especially on the part of the Oban Times and the TV channels.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT The Treasurer's Report revealed a reduction in assets from £6,979.60 at 1st April 1998 to £2,435.71 on 7th January 1999, a reduction of £4,543.69. Income over the same period was £979.95 while Total Expenditure was £5,623.84 of which the Islay Project at £4,515.77 and Uncategorised Expenses of £822.50 accounted for the bulk of the expenditure. A cheque for £267.35 for the Gaelic sketch at Islay had not yet been cleared and he was endeavouring to negotiate an accommodation in respect of this charge with Mr Ferguson but so far no conclusion had been reached.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that he had recently been advised by the Bank of Scotland that the assets of the Sir Fitzroy Maclean Bursary Fund were located in the banks Nominee Account at their London Branch.

Response to the Appeal has been very disappointing amounting to one gift aid donation of £1,000, 6 covenants totalling £250 pa. and 6 donations totalling £105. The Chairman remarked that the Secretary distributed copies of the Appeal to all overseas Branch Presidents for circulation to their members. Lachlan pointed out that American tax relief on charitable gifts applied towards specific projects rather than charitable funds. The Western Australian Branch was endeavouring to raise contribution to the Heritage Trust. Ronald pointed out that no appeal has yet been made to the UK members and friends which should be our first target. Donald reminded the meeting that the next copy of "The Battle-axe" was due to go out in April and it was agreed that we should endeavour to include the Heritage Trust Appeal and a suitable form for Gift Aid/ Covenant/ Donations with it to save postage which we can ill afford at the moment. (Action: MFM).

Lachlan suggested that he might write to certain individuals personally for their support but on reflection it was agreed that perhaps it would be better to await the outcome of the Appeal before resorting to the personal approach.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM TREASURER'S REPORT

Budgeting

While it was agreed that the Islay Project had been worthwhile many lessons had been learned from it. Lachlan expressed the general concern over the escalation of costs and the need in future to work to a budget approved by the Trustees. This would have the dual benefit of protecting the Chairman from having to make critical or controversial decisions on his own as well as enabling the Trustees to plan ahead constructively. All present concurred.

Objectives of the Trust

Ronald pointed out that, before going into budgetary details, the trustees must have a clearer idea of the aims of the Trust in the short, medium and long term. It was quite clear at the AGM of the Clan Association in November attended by three Presidents of US Branches that they would like to see a Clan Heritage Centre set up for the preservation of Maclean documents, memorabilia and above all genealogical data. Presently material is held at the Tobermory museum. Donald suggested that it might be possible to arrange for research facilities to be located there as a temporary measure. Lachlan would look into the possibility of finding someone on Mull who might keep track on data. Ronald drew attention to the article in the latest "Battle-axe" regarding the efforts of James McKeand and others to create the Ross of Mull History Centre which opens this summer. Our mutual aims seem to be compatible and it may be possible to join forces with them to our mutual benefit.

7 KINLOCHALINE CASTLE A letter had been received from Mr Hugh Raven, Ardtornish enquiring into the possibility of him making use of the Maclean Heritage Trust's charitable status to raise funds towards the restoration of Kinlochaline Castle, a 15th Century Maclean tower house. It would appear that our

Trust Deed would permit us to co-operate (page 9, item 6) in this fashion. Whilst it is the kind of project we might support, concern was expressed as to how much extra work would be required of the Treasurer. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Hugh Raven wishing him well with his restoration while indicating, noncommittally, that we would consider any submissions he might care to make.

8 ROYAL SOCIETY for PROTECTION of BIRDS The possibility of co-operating with the RSPB was discussed and considerable reservations were expressed about the activities of this organisation. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the Chairman should look into the possibility of co-operating with them to raise Lottery money to help achieve our aims while giving them credibility for supporting us without committing us to any contributions should he decide to attend the RSPB meeting in Oban next week

9. PROJECTS

Hector Neil McLean Memorial, Invernell, Western Australia.

The trustees expressed their approval of this project and wished to extend their congratulations to all concerned. Some doubt was expressed about the use of inverted commas round Killean but that was all. Action MFM

The Hon Allan McLean Memorial, New South Wales. Australia

This project was also approved and the trustees again extended their congratulations To all those involved on a job well done. Action MFM

Sorley MacLean Memorial Appeal

A letter has been received from Mr. Archibald Black indicating that the Appeal stood at £8,000 which was somewhat disappointing in that the organisers hoped to raise £10,000 to generate an income of £500 p.a. They have therefore extended the Appeal to the end of February.

The trustees expressed their preference for a Poetry Prize to be awarded at the National Mod if acceptable An Comunn Gaidhealach and/or a memorial cairn (on Raasay?) if funds permitted.

The Maclean Memorial, Cradley Worcestershire.

All present were grateful to our Secretary, Malcolm, for drawing our attention to this memorial to a distinguished family of Macleans erected by the villagers of Cradley. They also expressed their appreciation of the pamphlet by Major Sandy Fraser relating to their heroic exploits. Despite the depleted state of our current finances the trustees unanimously agreed to make a donation of £50 to the memorial fund.

Action J McL

Inverkeithing

Lachlan reported that Mr Mackenzie of Fife Enterprise had indicated by telephone That they would like to be involved. A historian had been found who might be able to pinpoint the site. Lachlan has acquired a description of it (Mr Wilson, Burntisland, is of doubtful reliability).

Other Projects

No proposals relating to Mull, Coll or Tiree forthcoming as yet which considering our current financial position is probably a blessing

10 APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

A vacancy exists to replace Alister McLean, Australia, who has completed his period of service as a trustee. The appointment of an American trustee was generally favoured and Lachlan undertook to nominate suitable candidates.

The Chairman spoke warmly of the work of The Very Rev Allan Maclean as a past trustee and the of the desirability of retaining his services, a sentiment shared by all present. Lachlan proposed that Allan be invited to become a trustee of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust forthwith, seconded by Ronald and carried unanimously. The Chairman expressed the wish to notify Allan personally of the trustees' decision.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the trustees will be held at Oban on the afternoon of Friday 27th August, the time and place to be notified later.