STÒRLANN BOARD MEETING

MINUTE MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1030, Thursday, 29th May 2025
Google Meet

Present
Gillian Campbell-Thow (GCT) – Glasgow City Council (Chair)
Bethan Owen (BO) – City of Edinburgh (Vice Chair)
Lena Walker (LW) – Highland Council
Lorraine McBride – North Lanarkshire Council

Donald W Morrison (DWM/CE) – Stòrlann
DJ MacRitchie (DJM) – Stòrlann
Sarah Fraser (SF) – Stòrlann
Neil Smith (NS) – Stòrlann (Note of Minute)

In Attendance
Douglas Ansdell (DA) – Scottish Government (From 1100)
John Moffat (JM) – Mann Judd Gordon and Co (via Google meet) (From 1040)

Apologies

Evlyn Coull Macleod (EC) – CNES
Jennifer McHarrie – Bòrd na Gàidhlig

ITEM NO:		ACTION:
1	**OPENING ITEMS**	
1a	**Welcome** The Chairperson welcomed all present.	
1b	**Present and Apologies** As above. Jennifer McHarrie had intimated that she was moving on from B na G. The board wished it noted that they wished her well in her future endeavours.	
1c	**Declarations of Interest** No notes of interest were presented.	

2	**MINUTES**	
2a 2b	**Minutes of Board Meeting from – Tuesday 26th November 2024** Rachel Binnie was added to the members present. The minutes from meeting were then approved, with BO proposing and LW seconding. **Matters arising from minute:** There were no matters arising.	
3	**FINANCE BUSINESS**	
3a	**Stòrlann Management Report** **1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025** **JM** referred to the Management Report and provided a summary of the accounts for the period. The **CE** reported that £60,000 of the surplus had been committed to contracts, and a further sum had been retained to cover electricity costs at An Tosgan. Some funding had also been used to support the development of the new reading scheme, as the anticipated Scottish Government funding had not yet been received. The **CE** informed the Board that a request had been received from CNES for support for *An Deasbad Nàiseanta*, which Stòrlann had supported in the previous year. A contribution of £2,000 was recommended, and this was approved by the Directors, with **BO** proposing and **LW** seconding.	CE
3b	**Draft Annual Accounts 01.04.2024-31.03.2025** The **CE** reported that the majority of this had been covered at item 3a. The Trustee's report is being prepared and will be submitted. JM gave a brief update on matters which had not been covered earlier. There were no concerns from the accountants.	
3c	**Annual Accounts 01.04.2023-31.03.2024** **JM** reported that **Bòrd na Gàidhlig** had requested the accounts be resubmitted, citing concerns about how core funding and rental income for **An Tosgan** were presented. He advised that resubmitting the accounts would not be helpful, as the overall financial position remained unchanged. Instead, the presentation of the accounts was adjusted to address the concerns raised.	
3d	**Scottish Government Funding, 2025-2026** **DA** informed the Board that he was happy that the Scottish Government were in a stronger funding position with Stòrlann. There had been a delay with funding passing through the process involving accountable officers, but measures were being taken to alleviate this, and it was anticipated that a grant letter would be issued within a week. The **CE** reported that there would be a change in funding arrangements for the coming year. Previously, Stòrlann had received funding from both Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government, but this was now being consolidated, and going forward the Scottish Government would be the sole funder. As a result, an additional £200,000 had been allocated for the 2025/26 financial year. The Board asked that their appreciation be recorded for the work carried out by the **CE** and **DA** in securing this agreement and the funding that will be received.	

3e	**Bòrd na Gàidhlig Funding 2024-2025** The **CE** explained to members there will be no funding offer this year, but discussions are ongoing regarding rental payments for An Tosgan. The Board discussed whether it remained appropriate for Bòrd na Gàidhlig to attend Board meetings, given that they would no longer be a funder. The **CE** noted that, as Stòrlann remained a key delivery agent for the National Plan, the Bòrd would continue to receive updates regardless. However, there would no longer be a requirement for them to attend meetings as an observer once their funding role ceased. **DA** emphasised the importance of maintaining a strong relationship between the Chief Executive, the Head of Education and Learning, and Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The Directors agreed to revisit the matter and hold further discussion before reaching a final decision.	CE
3f	**Travel and Accommodation Expenditure** The **CE** advised that there was nothing in the report requiring particular attention. The report was approved, with **BO** proposing and **LW** seconding.	
3g	**Letter to Management 2024-25: Response** The **CE** confirmed that the contents of the letter did not raise any issues of concern. The response was agreed by the Board, with **BO** proposing and **RB** seconding.	
4	**CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND STAFFING**	
4a	**Staffing update: new teams structure** The **CE** welcomed **SF** to the meeting in her role as Head of Education and Learning. It was noted that there had been changes to staff roles, with the Head of Projects now taking on the title of Head of Production Services, and the Head of Development Services becoming the Head of Digital and Design. Corresponding adjustments to the organisational structure had been made and were positively received by staff. The changes were approved, with **RB** proposing and **BO** seconding.	
4b	**Tosgan Arrangements** The **CE** explained that a new arrangement with Bòrd na Gàidhlig would be required because of the recent changes in funding. Discussions are ongoing with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar as landlord, with Stòrlann managing the head lease. Further updates will be provided as the new arrangements are put in place. The **CE** also informed the Board that Lorna MacAulay had recently been appointed as Engagement Director at MG Alba, and that she would be conducting a review of the vacant spaces within the media village, of which **An Tosgan** is a part.	
4c	**Health and Safety Report** The **CE** reported that one low-level incident had occurred during the period, involving a lifting-related injury sustained by a member of staff. It was noted that	

	the lifting procedures from prior training had been followed. The Board enquired about the availability of an AED (automated external defibrillator) near the premises. The **CE** confirmed that an AED was located in the MG Alba building and that all staff were aware of its location. MG Alba are guardians of the equipment. The report was approved by **BO** and seconded by **RB**.	
4d	**Risk Register** The **CE** reported a minor update to the register following the implementation of the new funding arrangement with the Scottish Government. As a result, the associated risk to the organisation was now considered to be lower. The report was approved, with **BO** proposing and **LW** seconding.	
4e	**Fraud: Policy and Procedures Update** The CE informed the Board that no concerns had been raised.	
4f	**Draft Minute of Staff Meeting** There were no matters arising from the minutes circulated. The minutes from the last staff meeting, held on 26 May, were not yet available.	
4g	**Head of Education and Learning** The **CE** welcomed **SF** to both the meeting and the organisation and thanked the Directors for their support and engagement throughout the selection process. The board also welcomed SF to the SMT and wished her well in her new role.	
5	**PROJECTS AND CONTRACTS**	
5a	**Gaelic Reading Scheme** The **CE** provided the Board with an update on what he described as a highly challenging project, which had begun in 2024 with a scoping phase. The project had progressed well from its initial stages into the production phase, and funding had been allocated to support ongoing commitments and maintain momentum. Details of the project team had been circulated, and **Darren Gate** had been engaged as the illustrator. Sixteen stories had already been approved by the advisory group, which includes representatives from Local Authorities, and early feedback from teachers had been very positive.	
5b	**Education and Learning update** **SF** thanked the Stòrlann team for their support and assistance since taking up her post. She presented her report, highlighting her involvement with Education Scotland's Curriculum Improvement Cycle and the development of new links with directors and other key stakeholders through a series of meetings and events. She also provided an update on the current work being undertaken by the Education Team. In addition, SF outlined plans to attend further CPD days, raise Stòrlann's profile in schools, enhance collaboration across the primary and secondary sectors, and develop communities to support resource sharing.	

5c & 5d	**Resources schedule 2024-25 / Resources schedule 2025-26** **DJM** gave an update on the schedule which had been circulated including Bookbug Audio, Tog Gàidhlig, resource scoping on topics and production of a compendium of 8 board games. There are also 3 units for Fileanta in production and translation of media packs for Edinburgh City Council. **DA** informed the meeting that the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) had been mentioned in his discussions with MG Alba and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, and he enquired whether Stòrlann had any involvement. The **CE** responded that he and **SF** had been exploring the matter, and that there was an intention to review *Ceumannan* in due course to assess how it aligns with the CEFR. In response to a question from **LW**, the **CE** reported there would be a launch of the Tog Gàidhlig grammar materials when it was ready and that this would be accompanied by workshops led by a practitioner.	CE
5e	**Stòrlann Media Stats** **NS** provided an update on the website analytics and noted that **JML**, from the Production Team, was now supporting social media activity across the *Gaelic4Parents* channels with informative posts.	
5f	**Stòrlann: Stakeholder Engagement Update** The **Chief Executive** noted that a survey had been issued in December and had received a strong response. The insights gathered were used to inform the agenda for meetings conducted by **SF**. A list of those meetings and teacher engagements was circulated. The board raised the possibility of establishing a pupil engagement group and using social media to share information targeted at that audience. The **CE** responded that incorporating the pupil voice would certainly be considered and that there would be opportunities for pupils to contribute to the development of additional reources for the new reading scheme.	
6	**AOCB**	
	There was no other business discussed.	
7	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**	
	Next meeting: TBC (Probably September)	