

Minutes of the Initial Annual General Meeting of Kilmoluag Liosmor (SCIO SC053097) Thursday 10th April 2025 at 7 pm in the Cathedral Church of St Moluag, Lismore.

1. Apologies

Freda Drysdale, Catriona White, Mandie Currie (Including proxy vote).

2. Present

Interim Trustees – Rosemary Barry (RB) (notetaker) Douglas Breingan (DB) (CELM appointee), Stephen Green (SG), Clare Haworth (CH) Archie MacGillivray (AMG), Sebastian Tombs (ST) (chair).

Others

Duncan Drysdale	Eva Tombs	Anne Livingstone
Mary MacDougall	Liz Buckle	Bob Hay Dot Hay
Mairi Campbell	Brona MacDougall	Mike Hyatt
Roger Dixon-Spain	Gilly Dixon-Spain	Noelle Odling
Jennifer Baker	Julian Wormleighton	Carol Wormleighton
Harry Morton		

Plus two visitors

3. Election of trustees

CH to be stepping down and she was thanked for her time as a Trustee. The existing Trustees had agreed to remain on the Board in their current positions and Brona MacDougall (BMD) had been nominated to take on the vacant Treasurer's role. This was agreed nem. con.

4. Annual Subscription

It was proposed and agreed that the annual subscription for members remained at zero.

5. Accounts

These had been originally held under the auspices of the Lismore Community Council for all financial transactions until the SCIO had set up its own account.

Financial Statement – 31.1 2024 to 10.04 2025

Donations
£1,455.36

Transactions Pending
Architectural Heritage Grant due to cover consultancies £7,964

Highwater	£1,980
Arthian (drainage)	3,144
Argyll Archaeology	1,267.20
Morham & Brotchie (valuations)	1,440
A Livingstone (trial pits excavations)	175
Total	£8,006.20

BMD had recommended Simmers in Oban as the Auditor / Independent Examiner going forward and this was agreed nem. com.

6.Chair's report

This had previously been released on line and was read in full by ST. It covered an outline of the project so far and future propositions. Important points included: community engagement exercises, the acquiring of funds from the Architectural Heritage Fund and the National Lottery Heritage Fund in order to obtain consultancies, feasibility study and a conservation appraisal to be carried out and a business plan produced.

Further funds were later utilized to obtain independent valuations, test drainage and sewage and water supply options for both the Church House and the Church. An archaeological watch ensured no damage was done during any investigations. The presence of extremely sensitive archaeology confirmed that acquisition of the Church House would not provide a suitable drainage solution for the Church or a long term option for adaptable accommodation.

The Church had been valued at £25,000 by the Church of Scotland (CoS) and the Church House £220,000. These valuations were accepted by Kilmoluag Liosmor's independent valuer.

A generous private offer of £25,000 had been received which matched the CoS valuation for the Church

7.Recommendations

- 1.That the CoS be approached to negotiate the best price for the acquisition of the Church.
2. That potential acquisition of the Church House be set aside.
3. Serious fund raising should not commence until a fuller knowledge of the scope of the project was known.

It was noted that membership forms were available to encourage as wide a proportion of islanders and interested parties as possible to be able to participate in the decision making process.

8. Overview of the importance of the project

RB gave a run through of the history of the site at Clachan from the time of the Fire Cairn and Broch, though St Moluag's monastery, the Bishoprpic of Argyll, the 13th 18th and 19th century alterations and its current significance to the present island community and suggesting future uses as an important historical and spiritual centre that would not compete with other island facilities

9. General discussion

A wide range of comments and queries were contributed by those present; summarized as follows:

ST addressed a query concerning the reallocation of funding by explaining that this had been agreed when it was discovered an archaeological watch would be required for the soakaway trial pits and the anticipated legal costs were not in fact necessary at that point in time. ST also explained that around £12,000 per year had been suggested as required to run the Church plus there would be a need for a fighting fund in order to commence the project. DB confirmed that he felt the island would be able to access the necessary money and that the potential funding streams differed from those available to either the Heritage Centre or the Community Hall. ST added that the SCIO bank details would be put on the island website.

ST explained how not following up, at present, on the Church House would be reassuring to the CoS. A new business plan would be required however and also a conversation with the potential purchaser of the Glebe if the purchase of the nave area was to be sought.

There was a concern about potential competition with the Community Hall. It was also suggested that although a multi – purpose facility might be viable the problems with the archaeology meant that this would not be possible. Other worries expressed were; that although the Church was significant for many islanders it might be unobtainable, concern about the current small size of the congregation, the amount of work involved and the number of islanders who were not present at the meeting. Another felt that there was always an anxiety about change and that with new ways of coming together the ‘story could go on in another spot’. There was also a comment that the project might engender too many tourists with the possibility of the island turning into another Iona.

There was disappointment expressed that the CoS were not offering to give the Church to the Community in view of the liability of the extensive repair work required, or at least asking only a nominal sum.

The huge historical significance of the Church and its setting was emphasized by some, with the emphasis that it was an emotional issue. A comparison made by someone, ‘not religious’, with Iona, asserted that the building here was more important. That it was not just a building or a business, was also suggested, but about people looking for spiritualness which couldn’t be found in the Community Hall.

Other comments included:

The possibility of utilizing Glensanda re a borehole possibility for a water supply,
A caution regarding a rare fungus on the road side Glebe wall,
And DB’s assertion that there was a lot of restoration knowledge available.

10. Resolution

The proposals

- 1) that the Trustees of Kilmoluag Liosmor forgo further interest in the Church House for the moment was agreed unanimously by a show of hands and
- 2) to proceed with negotiations with the CoS for the acquisition of the Church was put to those present. The result of this vote, also by a show of hands, was:

For 23 (including proxy vote)

Against 2

Abstentions 1

Visitors not voting 2.

The chair thanked those present for attending and for their contributions. The meeting concluded at 8.45.