Minutes of Ullapool Board Meeting. 3rd July 2025. 9am

Present:- Siobhan Beatson, August Maclean, Mhairi Muncaster, Penny Stewart, Neil Lebeter, and Erik Lundberg.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed by MM and seconded by NL.

2. Finances

Siobhan has shared a budget and reserves spreadsheet. We have acquired £1500 from the Harbour Trust to assist with the cruises in the form of things like banners, leaflets, tabletop displays, a selfie board, etc.
Funding to originally replace the projector has shifted to laptops for the staff as the current computers are rapidly failing.
We have taken 20k in admissions and shop sales so far, twice as much as was taken last year by this point.

3. Penn State visit

The visit with the Penn State students has gone very well. They sent some of their work to us which has illuminated some unexpected issues in the village and creative ways to resolve it i.e. lack of any covered outdoor seating. The community trust may be interested in looking into some of it further.

4. Dundee Conference

The Scottish Museums Federation conference in Dundee went well, with Siobhan giving a talk on the Inverlael Project and how it has reformed the museum, changing our voice in the community.

5. New Staff

Yvonne, Cadha and Janelle have all been settling into their new roles well. Janelle has been very keen and is being eased into everything as we try to do a natural shift of duties. Given her background in education, there is definitely potential for bringing her into the Young Curators Club and for future projects with kids to be ran by her.

6. Stores

All the works are completely finished. Siobhan is contacting the harbour about them taking the remaining scrap metal debris. Erik is chasing people to finish up invoices.
Inside, most of the objects have been moved, the last few require a new shelving unit though otherwise most existing furniture has been reused well. The small former curator store has become the Archive store which will hold the documents, maps and textiles.
There has been a few different ideas regarding acquiring a scanner for the maps, including a shared one between the museums of the Highlands. There is potential for a photography rig as an alternative.
August has started setting up the outreach part of the project, sorting store tours and knowledge exchanges with local groups, and a Highland and object inspired Dungeons and Dragons game which already has good interest.

7. Treasurer

Unfortunately, George has recently passed away. A new treasurer will be needed. Morven at Strathpeffer has ran a board without a treasurer which will be something to look into potentially. Catherine Mackenzie may be a good option to take on the role if she is interested. In the meantime, we need a second signatory on the accounts as Mhairi is the only one and she is unable to set up the online banking at present. Neil has offered to be the second signatory and see if he can set up online banking. This has been agreed.

8. Board Recruitment

Looking at recruiting some more board members. Penny Ingles may be a good candidate as she wishes to be a curator and is quite mature for her age. We would have to implement some policies for having a young member but it would be a great experience for her if she wishes to do so.

9. Insurance

Erik is currently reviewing the insurance and will go over the details with Siobhan shortly. This years invoice has notably been lower than the last three years by nearly £500. Mhairi will pay the invoice when she next goes into the bank.

10. Young Curators Club

Everything is on target. There is a solid 5/6 members with a few more that drop in and out for sessions. The topic has been chosen and named, Cradle to Grave, looking at the births, marriages and deaths in Lochbroom. The objects have been chosen and some members have seen them in person. Each member will adopt an object each and do their own research, photography, and interpretation for it. There is a slight roadblock with the baby gas mask due to it potentially containing asbestos, which will require some guidance regarding safe handling.
Jim will be running a photography workshop on the 22nd of July. Two field trips will also be happening in July and August. The final exhibition will take place in the first week of November, either in the Macphail Centre or the Ferry Terminal.

11. AOB

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in October.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10.20.