

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT – CROSS PARTY GROUP ON GAELIC

Minute of the meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Gaelic held in Committee Room 3 The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood on Wednesday 28 November 2018 at 1pm

Attendance:

Donald Cameron	MSP
Angus MacDonald	MSP
Daniel McCroskrie	Office of Donald Cameron MSP
Dòmhnall MacNèill	Comunn na Gàidhlig
Dòmhnall MacGillelmoire	Stòrlann
Matthew MacIver	UHI
John Finnie	MSP
Ailean Caimbeul	An Comunn Gàidhealach
John Morrison	An Comunn Gàidhealach
Carole Henderson	Parent
Marcus Mac an Tuairner	Bothan Dhùn Èideann/Leabharlann Bàrdachd na h-Alba
Iain MacAulay	Comunn na Gàidhlig
Diorbhail Wentworth	BBC Scotland
Luke McCullough	BBC Scotland
Margaret Mary Murray	BBC ALBA
Magaidh Wentworth	Comann nam Pàrant
Vicky Chondrogianni	University of Edinburgh
Maeve Mackinnon	Foghlam Alba
Mary Galbraith	
Jennifer McHarrie	SQA
Derek Mackenzie	SDS
Douglas Ansdell	Scottish Government
Sarah Buchanan	Scottish Government
Rhoda Grant	MSP
Alasdair Allan	MSP
Shona MacLennan	Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Murchadh Morrison	Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Beathag Mhoireasdan	Simultaneous Translation

1. Welcome & Apologies

Donald Cameron, Cross-Party Group Vice-Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from the following: Dòmhnall Caimbeul (MG ALBA); Ceitidh Moireach (Dun Èideann); Jane Renton (Foghlam Alba); Calum Ailig MacMillan (Fèisean nan Gàidheal); Joan Esson (Foghlam Alba); D J MacIntyre (UHI)

2. Election of Convener

The Vice-Convener informed those present that, due to the appointment of Kate Forbes MSP to a Ministerial post in the Scottish Government, she was unable to continue as Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Gaelic.

The Convener sought nominations for the position of Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Gaelic.

Dr. Alasdair Allan MSP was the sole nominee having been Proposed by Angus MacDonald MSP and Seconded by John Finnie MSP.

Dr. Allan was elected to the post of Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Gaelic.

The Vice-Convener thanked Kate Forbes for her hard work in the role as Convener and invited Dr. Allan to take over the meeting.

Dr. Allan assumed the role of Convener and thanked Kate Forbes and Donald Cameron and those who had nominated him for the post of Convener.

3. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of the previous Meeting held on 31 May 2018 was agreed. Proposed by Matthew MacIver and Seconded by D W Morrison

4. Presentation: BBC ALBA @10

Speaker: Margaret Mary Murray (Head of Gaelic Services) BBC ALBA & BBC Radio nan Gàidheal

NOTE: Copies of this presentation are available for distribution. Please contact oifis@gaidhlig.scot

Summary:

- In the Beginning
- Showreel
- Content and Audiences
- Industry
- Challenges
- Digital and Short Form
- BBC ALBA @10

The Convener thanked Margaret Mary and invited questions/points

Q: **Angus MacDonald MSP** spoke warmly about great memories from the launch. He referred to the Parliament Debate in 2018 and the point that funding was an issue. He asked what has been done and whether the new channel is a challenge? Margaret Mary Murray responded that new channel will bring opportunities; that Commissioning team has Gaelic at its heart; Iolaire programme has been commissioned by the new channel and funded by the BBC; and that it is welcome to see new money coming into the channel

Luke MacDonald (BBC Scotland) mentioned the current consultation re provision of TV licences to over 75's and encouraged people to engage with that consultation

5. Presentation: Research on Additional Support Needs

Speaker: Dr Vicky Chondrogianni, Bilingualism Matters, Edinburgh University

NOTE: Copies of this presentation are available for distribution. Please contact oifis@gaidhlig.scot

Summary:

- Bilingual children
 - Grow up with two languages either from birth or are exposed to a second language due to societal or educational factors.
 - Actively use both languages daily, albeit in different contexts
- The bilingual paradox
- Bilingual education as a benefit
- Bilingualism as a burden
- Cumulative effects of bilingualism on language impairment
- The GME context
- European COST Action on bilingual children with language disorders
- Present study
 - Aims
 - Basic premises
 - Participants
 - Materials
 - Crosslinguistic lexical task (CLT)
 - Age of Acquisition study
 - Some preliminary results
 - Challenges
 - Opportunities
 - Future Directions
 - Acknowledgements

The Convener thanked Dr Chondrogianni for her presentation and invited questions/points

Carole Henderson commented that in her view there have been lots of reports/recommendations about disorders but there had been insufficient action. She asked whether teachers know about disorders and how to handle them. She recommended that assessment should be by speech language therapists and that it was important that teachers know about this. Her experience was that she had been advised that leaving children in Gaelic would be detrimental to their development. She also commented that SQA did not take into account children with disorders in Gaelic exams; although children are given extra time but in her view that is not what the children need. She also commented that these Cross-Party meetings are becoming shorter and that one hour is not enough. Dr Chondrogianni responded that in her experience most teachers do not know so there is a gap in teacher education. Bilingualism Matters are looking to raise awareness about disorders. There are guidelines in place.

Dòmhnall MacNèill (CnaG) suggested writing to College of Speech Therapists.

6. Presentation: A Faster Rate of Progress

Speaker: Shona MacLennan, Chief Executive Bòrd na Gàidhlig

NOTE: Copies of this presentation are available for distribution. Please contact oifis@gaidhlig.scot

Summary:

- The National Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023
- Collaboration and wider impact

- Communities - different strategies need for different communities.
- Focus on young people
- What next?
- How can we make a Faster Rate of Progress with developing and using Gaelic?
 - Meeting – 9 August 2018
 - Attended by the principal public authorities
 - Discussed what the challenges are
 - Agreed that the actions were
 - 5 specific workstreams required

Recruiting and retaining teachers in GME;

Scottish Funding Council & GTCS

Learning and Digital Media

MG ALBA & Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Economy and the Labour Market;

Highlands & Islands Enterprise & Skills Development Scotland

Place-based Approaches;

Highlands & Islands Enterprise & Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Collaboration, Using and Support for Learners

MG ALBA

- **How will they work?**
 - Different routes
 - Timetable – meeting in August 2019

The Convener thanked Shona MacLennan and asked for points/questions:

Professor Wilson MacLeod (University of Edinburgh) asked if there would be a report published following the Faster Rate of Progress meeting and Shona MacLennan responded that there would not.

D W Morrison (Stòrlann) asked if Bòrd na Gàidhlig would be looking after these 5 streams of work? Shona MacLennan responded that this was a Scottish Government meeting. BnaG staff and Scottish Government officers will be involved in the workstream and the appropriate public bodies with responsibilities in these areas will progress the work.

Iain MacAulay (CnaG) asked if the community development workstream was only in the Western Isles and Shona MacLennan responded that, at this point, it's only in the Western Isles. Work on Community Charter is in progress.

Marcus Mac an Tuairneir asked what trust can we have in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar when we consider the GME policy and HIE when there is no-one with Gaelic on the Board? Shona MacLennan responded that it is an important message that HIE recognises the value of Gaelic (Ar Storas Gàidhlig). Discussions have taken place and continue to take place with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Carole Henderson asked about staffing at Bòrd na Gàidhlig. Shona MacLennan responded that the Bòrd was going through the recruitment process and that there was interim support on education matters.

The Convener thanked all those who made presentations and all who took part and left the meeting to attend to Parliamentary business. The Vice-Convener resumed the Chair of the meeting

7. AOCB

National Gaelic Schools Debate 2018

The Convener reminded guests that the Final of the National Gaelic Schools Debate 2018 was taking place later in the evening which would be followed by a drink's reception. All welcome to attend.

Mary Galbraith expressed the view that the Cross-Party Group is trying to serve too many purposes with insufficient time to cover issues. She recommended that there should be increased engagement, citing annual events that were held. She was of the view that engagement with Gaelic communities was not happening, there needed to be more communication and that the communities are the drivers of Gaelic development. In response to Shona MacLennan's response about taking these points on board, she said that it was the role of the wider Gaelic community to take these points forward.

The **Vice-Convener** thanked Mary for the points raised. He advised re the restrictions placed on Members by their Parliamentary duties and responsibilities.

Carole Henderson expressed the view that the Group used to meet four times a year; the purpose of the Group is to provide info to MSPs and asked why Cross-Party Groups have to meet in the Parliament and asked if it was possible to take meetings out to communities, and the view that the timings of meetings are not suitable for public involvement.

Vice-Convener – there are good administration reasons for holding meetings in Parliament.

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.