

Buidheann Thar-phàrtaidh na Gàidhlig

12 Sultain 2023 18.30

Geàrr-chunntas

Fàilte agus Leisgeulan

Buill

Alasdair Allan BPA (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Michael Marra BPA (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Luchd-aoigheachd le cuireadh

Adrene Maxwell, oifis Rhoda Grant BPA (air-loidhne)

Anna Mhoireach (air-loidhne)

Beathag Mhoireasdan, Eadar-theangair (air-loidhne)

Claire Cullen, Riaghaltas na h-Alba (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Dòmhnall Carmichael (air-loidhne)

Dòmhnall Caimbeul, MG ALBA (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Dòmhnall Uilleam MacGilleMhoire, Stòrlann (air-loidhne)

Douglas Ansdell, Riaghaltas na h-Alba (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Eilidh Rothach, Pàrlamaid na h-Alba (air-loidhne)

Jeff Justice (air-loidhne)

Jenny Gilruth BPA (air-loidhne)

Jenny Young, oifis Michael Marra (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Joan Esson, Foghlam Alba (air-loidhne)

Màiri Bhochanan, Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean (air-loidhne)

Matthew MacIomhair, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Michelle NicLeòid, Oilthigh Obar Dheathain (air-loidhne)

Sarah Scott (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Sorcha Wheelan, Comhairle Bhaile Dhùn Èideann (air-loidhne)

Wilson MacLeòid (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Buill Buidhne nach eil nam Buill

Art MacCarraig, Fèisean nan Gàidheal (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

DJ Mac an t-Saoir, Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean (air-loidhne)

Karen Nic a' Ghobhainn, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (air-loidhne)

Màiri NicAonghais, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Orla NicDhòmhnaill, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Shona NicIllInnein, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (aghaidh-ri-aghaidh)

Steven Kellow, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (air-loidhne)

Leisgeulan

Ariane Burgess, BPA

Dòmhnall Camshron, BPA

Rhoda Grant, BPA

Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh mu dheireadh: 09 Cèitean 2023

Dh'aontaich Buill ri geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh mu dheireadh.

Taghadh Luchd-dreuchd na Buidhne Thar-phàrtaidh: Neach-gairm; Iar Neach-gairm; Rùnaire

Ghabh Shona NicIllinnein a' chathair airson an taghaidh.

Neach-gairm – Alasdair Allan

Iar Neach-gairm – Dòmhnall Camshron

Rùnaire – Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlam is Sgilean

Thug Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Foghlam agus Sgilean taing don bhuidhinn airson an cuireadh chun na coinneimh agus thug i dhaibh fiosrachadh mun obair air a bheil i air a bhith an sàs bhon a thòisich i san dreuchd. Thuirt i ris a' bhuidhinn gun robh i toilichte gun d'fhuair i an cothrom a dhol a-mach don choimhearsnachd gus coinneachadh ri daoine fa leth agus buidhnean a tha an sàs ann an obair leasachaidh na Gàidhlig. Am measg nan cothroman sin bha turas gu Cnoc Soilleir ann an Uibhist a Deas gus frithealadh air Co-chruinneachadh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean; a' tadhal air MG ALBA ann an Steòrnabhagh airson barrachd fhaighinn a-mach mun obair aca agus a' fosgladh bursaraidh STEM gus daoine a thàladh gu teagasg Gàidhlig.

Mhìnich Rùnaire a' Chaibineit don bhuidhinn ged a bha am Prògram Riaghalaidh fhathast aig ìre thràth, gun robh iad air gealltainn Bile nan Cànanan Albannach a thoirt a-steach. Bha obair air tòiseachadh gus seo a ghluasad air adhart agus bha dùil gun tèid am bile a thoirt a-steach san ath bhliadhna phàrlamaidich.

Chaidh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh a thoirt seachad air na bhiodh am Bile ag amas air coileanadh, a' gabhail a-steach a bhith a' toirt inbhe oifigeil don Ghàidhlig, a' dèiligeadh ri beàrnann ann an solar foghlam Gàidhlig agus ag ath-sgrùdadh gnìomhan Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus a leasachadh sgrùdadh. Chaidh iomradh a' thoirt cuideachd gum faodadh am Bile togail air Planaichean Gàidhlig gus an dèanamh nas soirbheachail agus nas buadhaiche. Chaidh innse don bhuidhinn mu phlèatan a tha a' gabhail àite san Eilean Sgitheanach is Uibhist a thaobh planaichean Gàidhlig coimhearsnachd.

Dh'ath-aithris Rùnaire a' Chaibineit gun robh am Bile aig ìre thràth agus thug i fa-near gum biodh i toilichte tilleadh gu coinneamh den Bhuidhinn thar-phàrtaidh san àm ri teachd le barrachd fiosrachaidh mun adhartas.

Chaidh puing a thogail mu ròl riaghlaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus gun robh dìth thuigse air a bhith ann bho chionn fhada mu na dreuchdan a bh' aige ann an raointean leithid foghlam. Fhreagair Rùnaire a' Chaibineit gum feum Bòrd na Gàidhlig fhathast a bhith na bhuidheann poblach ach gum faodadh barrachd fòcas a bhith ann, agus gum biodh dleastanas aca a bhith a' toirt comhairle do Mhinistearan deatamach ann a bhith a' neartachadh Phlanaichean Gàidhlig. Thug i fa-near gun robh an sgioba aice air co-obrachadh gu dlùth le Bòrd na Gàidhlig gus Ro-innleachd Ghàidhlig a chruthachadh.

Chaidh ceist a thogail mun chomas a bhith aig buidhnean-gnìomha a bhith ag obair còmhla air Planaichean Gàidhlig airson coimhearsnachdan, gus cur às don riatanas air buidhnean poblach iad sin a chruthachadh. Fhreagair Rùnaire a' Chaibineit gun robh i a' faicinn àite do bhuidhnean-gnìomha sa Bhile seo agus thug i fa-near cuid de bhacaidhean a dh'fhaodadh seo a thogail. Thug i fa-near gum faodadh am Bile dèiligeadh ri cuid de na cùisean sin agus gun robh cothrom ann reachdas a neartachadh gus an obair a th' ann mar-thà a neartachadh.

Chaidh puing a thogail mun chomas a dh'fhaodadh a bhith ann Coimiseanair Cànain a thoirt a-steach mar dhòigh gus na gnìomhan aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig a roinn. Thug Rùnaire a' Chaibineit fa-near gun robh cothrom ann beachdachadh air mar a tha Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 ag obair a-nis agus coimhead air mar a dh'fhaodadh an lionra de bhuidhnean a tha ann an-dràsta pàirt a' gabhail ann an seo. Chuir i fàilte air beachdan air mar a ghabhadh gnìomhan riaghlaidh Bhòrd na Gàidhlig a leasachadh.

Dh'fhaighnich an Cathraiche an robh Riaghaltas na h-Alba air beachdachadh air mar a bu chòir do phoileasaidh a bhith eadar-dhealaichte ann an sgìrean le diofar ìrean de Ghàidhlig. Thug Rùnaire a' Chaibineit fa-near gun robh e cudromach a bhith faiceallach nuair a thathar a' beachdachadh air mar a bu chòir na sgìrean seo a mhìneachadh, a' gabhail a-steach coimhead air comas reachdail, dè a th' ann an coimhearsnachd agus dè na goireasan a bharrachd a bhiodh a dhìth gus taic a thoirt don Ghàidhlig. Chuir i fàilte air beachdan air a' phuuing seo.

Thug a' bhuidheann fa-near gun robh mòran air gluasad air falbh bho bhith a' cleachdadh an fhacail 'Gàidhealtachd' nuair a thathar a' beachdachadh air seo, agus gum bu chòir fòcas a chuir air far an gabhadh Gàidhlig a chleachdadh. Chaidh a thogail gum faodadh mìneachadh air 'coimhearsnachd' a bhith air a mheas mar sgìre far a bheil 20% no barrachd a' bruidhinn a' chànain. Thugadh seachad eisimpleirean de sgìrean anns am biodh seo a' buntainn ris a' Ghàidhlig agus chaidh a thoirt fa-near gum feumar cuideachd beachdachadh air bun-structar, taigheadas, obraichean, agus còmhhdhail gus dèanamh cinnteach gum faod daoine fuireach anns na coimhearsnachdan sin agus a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh a h-uile latha. Dh'aontaich Rùnaire a' Chaibineit nach gabhadh cànan a' sgaradh bho thaigheadas agus gum biodh seo cudromach nuair a thathar a' beachdachadh air mar a bu chòir togail air agus luach a chur ris na coimhearsnachdan sin.

Bha tuilleadh còmhraidh ann mu thaigheadas ann na h-Eileanan Siar agus mar a dh'fhaodadh reachdas cuideachadh le àbhaisteachadhna Gàidhlig san àm ri teachd. Mhol Rùnaire a' Chaibineit seo a thogail le Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Tèarainteachd Shòisealta agus Seann Daoine agus thug i fa-near gum faodadh reachdas a bhith na chothrom dèiligeadh ri seo.

Thug Shona NicIllinnein, Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, fiosrachadh don bhuidhinn air mar a bha roinnean taobh a-staigh Riaghaltas na h-Alba air a bhith fosgailte ri bhith cluinntinn mu fheumalachdan na Gàidhlig, agus air an obair a rinn Bòrd na Gàidhlig leotha air seo, mar eisimpleir a' conaltradh ri Còmh-dhail Alba air aiseagan bho shealladh na Gàidhlig. Thug i fa-near nach robh a h-uile roinn cho fosgailte do na còmhraidhean sin ach gun robh adhartas air a bhith ann, gu sònraichte tro CoHI agus Com-pàirteachas Roinneil Eaconamach na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean. Chaidh a thogail mar phrìomh phuing anns an ath Phlana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig gum feumar dèanamh cinnteach gum biodh Gàidhlig follaiseach thar poileasaidh an Riaghaltais. Chaidh a thoirt fa-near gum bu chòir coimhearsnachdan a bhith air am brosnachadh gus cothrom fhaighinn air a' Ghàidhlig tro bhith a' toirt fuasgladh air duilgheadasan le bun-structair.

Chaidh na cuingealachdan a thaobh a bhith ag obair le stòrasan cuibhrichte a thogail agus thuir a' bhuidheann gum biodh e a' toirt fois-inntinn do dhaoine fios fhaighinn gun tèid taic agus maoineachadh a thoirt seachad airson atharrachadh sam bith. Thug iad iad fa-near gu sònraichte cho cudromach 's a bha e beachdachadh air coimhearsnachd agus foghlam taobh ri taobh. Fhreagair Rùnaire a' Chaibineit gu bheil taic shusbainteach ga toirt do dh'Fhoghlam Gàidhlig ach gum beachdaich i air dè eile a ghabhas dèanamh.

Chaidh ceist a thogail mu bhith a' fastadh agus a' glèidheadh luchd-teagaisg Gàidhlig, agus bheachdaich a' bhuidheann am b' urrainn do reachdas pàirt a ghabhail ann a bhith a' toirt piseach air seo. Chaidh beachdachadh air cuid de na bacaidhean a thaobh trusadh is glèidheadh, agus chaidh aontachadh gun robh feum air modhan sònraichte airson Foghlam tro Mheadhan na Gàidhlig.

Thug Rùnaire a' Chaibineit agus buill de Sgioba na Gàidhlig is Albais aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba taing don bhuidhinn airson cothrom a bhith aca na beachdan agus draghan aca a' chluinntinn is a dheasbad, agus thuir iad gu bheilear ag obair gus fuasglaidhean fhaighinn.

Molaidhean bho Buidheann-obrach Gheàrr-bheatha air Cothroman Eaconamach is Sòisealta don Ghàidhlig Art MacCarraig, Cathraiche na Buidhne

Thug Art MacCarraig, Cathraiche air Buidheann-obrach Gheàrr-bheatha air Cothroman Eaconamach is Sòisealta don Ghàidhlig geàrr-iomradh air eachdraidh agus amas na buidhne. Thuir e gun deach a' bhuidheann-obrach steidheachadh le Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA, a bha nan Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ionmhas agus na h-Eaconamaidh aig an àm, B' e seo a' chiad uair a chaidh iarraidh air buidheann neo-eisimeileach beachdachadh air na cothroman don eaconamaidh tro thaic don Ghàidhlig agus le saorsa aca mìneachadh cò a bu chòir molaidhean na buidhne a chur an gnìomh. Thugadh fios air na modhan-obrach a bh' aca, a' toirt a-steach eòlas nam ball agus puingeann sgrìobhte is labhairteach bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd is nan Eilean, oifigearan Riaghaltas na Cuimrigh is cuideachd daoine fa leth is buidhnean eile.

Dh'aontaich a' bhuidheann lèirsinn le sealladh air cothroman eaconamach is neartachadh na h-eaconamaidh, 's e sin: Gàidhlig a chleachdadh barrachd gus buannachdan eaconamach a chruthachadh; àrdachadh fhaicinn ann an àireamh luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig; agus àrdachadh fhaicinn anns na suidheachaidhean sòisealta far a bheil cothrom ann a' Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh. Dh'aithris Art MacCarraig gun do rinn a' bhuidheann-obrach 45 molaidhean san aithisg stèidhichte air: slugh is bun-structar; An Roinn Phoblach is Planaichean Gàidhlig; Coimhearsnachdan; Foghlam; agus Prìomh Roinnean is dh'innse e don bhuidhinn mu na prìomh teachdaireachdan. Thug e iomradh air dè a tha tachairt mar thoradh air na

molaidhean gu ruige seo, mar eisimpleir chaidh bursaraidhean aontachadh airson oileanaich a' dol an sàs ann an teagasg Gàidhlig agus chaidh a dhearbhadh gun tig Bile nan Cànanan Albannach air adhart san ath bhliadhna phàrlamaidich. Thugadh iomradh cuideachd air na h-ath cheumannan, agus e gu bhith a' coinneachadh ri Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh Sunnd, Obair Chothromach is Cumhachd an ath sheachdain gus adhartas a dhèanamh.

Thug an Cathraiche taing do dh'Art MacCarraig airson a bhith bruidhinn ris a' bhuidhinn thar-phàrtaidh agus thug a' bhuidheann thar-phàrtaidh fa-near gun robh an taic ris an aithisg.

GISBE

Thugadh fa-near gur e seo a' choinneamh mu dheireadh aig Shona NicIlinnein, Ceannard Bhòrd na Gàidhlig, is gum biodh Ceannard ùr an làthair aig an ath choinneimh. Thug a' Chathraiche taing dhith son gach rud a rinn i aig Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus tron obair aice uile.

Ceann-là na h-Ath Choinneimh : 30 Samhain 2023 13.00

Cross-Party Group on Gaelic

12 September 2023 18.30

Minutes

Present

MSPS

Alasdair Allan, MSP (in person)

Michael Marra, MSP (in person)

Invited Guests

Adrene Maxwell, Rhoda Grant MSP's office (online)

Anna Murray (online)

Beathag Mhoireasdan, Translator (online)

Claire Cullen, Scottish Government (in person)

Donald Carmichael (online)

ssDonald Campbell, MG ALBA (in person)

Donald W Morrison, Stòrlann (online)

Douglas Ansdell, Scottish Government (in person)

Eilidh Munro, Scottish Parliament (online)

Jeff Justice (online)

Jenny Gilruth, MSP (online)

Jenny Young, Michael Marra MSP's office (in person)

Joan Esson, Education Scotland (online)

Màiri Buchanan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (online)

Matthew MacIver, University of the Highlands and Island (in person)

Michelle MacLeod, University of Aberdeen (online)

Sarah Scott (in person)

Sorcha Wheelan, City of Edinburgh Council (online)

Wilson McLeod (in person)

Non-MSP Group Members

Arthur Cormack, Fèisean nan Gàidheal (in person)

DJ MacIntyre, University of the Highlands and Island (online)

Karen Smith, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (online)

Màiri MacInnes, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (in person)

Orla MacDonald, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (in person)

Shona MacLennan, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (in person)

Steven Kellow, Bòrd na Gàidhlig (online)

Apologies

Ariane Burgess, MSP

Donald Cameron, MSP

Rhoda Grant, MSP

Minutes of Previous Meeting: 09 May 2023

Members approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Election of Cross-Party Group Office Bearers: Convenor; Vice-convenor; Secretary

Shona MacLennan took the chair during the election.

Convenor – Alasdair Allan MSP

Vice-Convenor – Donald Cameron MSP

Secretary – Bòrd na Gàidhlig

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills of Scotland

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills thanked the group for their invitation to the meeting and provided them with information on the work she has been involved in since coming into post. She told the group that she had been glad to have had the opportunity to get out into the community to meet with individuals and organisations involved in Gaelic development. These opportunities included a visit to Cnoc Soilleir in South Uist to attend the Convention of the Highlands and Islands (CoHI); visiting MG ALBA in Stornoway to find out more about their work and opening up the STEM bursary to attract people into Gaelic teaching.

The Cabinet Secretary explained to the group that while the Programme for Government was still in its early stages, it had committed to introducing the Scottish Languages Bill. Work had begun on moving this forward and it was expected that the bill would be introduced in the next Parliamentary year.

Further information was provided on what the Bill would set out to achieve, including setting out official status for Gaelic, addressing gaps in Gaelic education provision and reviewing the functions of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and enhancing monitoring. It was also mentioned that the Bill could build on Gaelic Language Plans to make them more successful and impactful. The group were told about pilots taking place in Skye and Uist of Gaelic community plans.

The Cabinet Secretary reiterated that the Bill is in its very early stages and noted that she would be happy to return to a future meeting of the Group with more information on its progression.

A point was raised around the regulatory role of Bòrd na Gàidhlig and that there had long been confusion over the roles it played in areas such as education. The Cabinet Secretary replied that Bòrd na Gàidhlig must remain as a public body but that it could have an increased focus, and that its reporting role to Ministers would be crucial in the strengthening of Gaelic Language Plans. She noted that her team had engaged closely with Bòrd na Gàidhlig to develop a Gaelic Strategy.

A question was raised around the possibility for agencies to work collaboratively on Gaelic Language Plans for their communities, to remove the requirement on public organisations to create these. The Cabinet Secretary replied that she saw a role for agencies in this Bill and noted some barriers which this could raise. She noted that the Bill could address some of these issues and that there was an opportunity for legislation to strengthen existing work.

The possibility of introducing a Language Commissioner as a way of dividing the functions required by Bòrd na Gàidhlig was raised. The Cabinet Secretary noted that there was an opportunity to reflect on how the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 works now and to look at how the network of organisations that currently exist could play a part. She welcomed views and opinions on how the regulatory functions of Bòrd na Gàidhlig could be improved.

The Chair asked whether the Scottish Government had considered how policy should differ in areas with differing levels of Gaelic. The Cabinet Secretary noted that it was important to be careful when considering how to define these areas, including looking at legislative competence, what constitutes a community and what additional resources would be required to support Gaelic. She welcomed views and opinions on this point.

The group noted that many had moved away from using the term 'Gàidhealtachd' when discussing this, and that focus should be put on where Gaelic could be used. It was raised that a definition of 'community' could be considered as an area where 20% or more speak the language. Some examples of areas in which this would apply for Gaelic were given, and it was noted that infrastructure, housing, jobs, and transport must also be considered to ensure that people can live in these communities and use Gaelic every day. The Cabinet Secretary agreed that language could not be detached from housing and that this would be key when considering how to build on and add value to these communities.

There was a further conversation around housing in the Hebrides and how legislation could assist in mainstreaming the future of Gaelic. The Cabinet Secretary suggested raising this with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People and noted that legislation could provide an opportunity to address this issue.

Shona MacLennan, Ceannard of Bòrd na Gàidhlig provided the group with information on how departments within Scottish Government have been open to hearing about the needs of Gaelic, and the work Bòrd na Gàidhlig has done with them on this, for example engaging with Transport Scotland on ferries from a Gaelic community perspective. She noted that not every department was as open to these conversations but that there had been progress, particularly through CoHI and the Highland and Islands Regional Economic Partnership. Ensuring that Gaelic was visible across Government policy was raised a key point in the next National Gaelic Language Plans and it was noted that communities should be encouraged to access Gaelic as part of solving issues with infrastructure.

The constraints of working with limited resources was raised and the group noted that it would be useful to reassure people that any change to resources would be supported and funded. They noted particularly the importance of considering community and education together. The Cabinet Secretary responded that substantial support is provided to Gaelic Education but that she would consider what else could be done.

The issue of recruitment and retention of Gaelic teachers was raised, and the group considered whether legislation could play a role in fixing this. Some barriers to recruitment and retention were discussed, and it was agreed that a nuanced approach was required for Gaelic Medium Education.

The Cabinet Secretary and members of the Gaelic and Scots Team from the Scottish Government thanked the group for the opportunity to hear and discuss their views and areas of concern and assured them that work is being done to look at solutions.

Recommendations from the Short Life Working Group on Economic and Social Opportunities for Gaelic

Arthur Cormack, Chair of the Short Life Working Group on Economic and Social Opportunities for Gaelic gave a brief overview of the group's history and aim. He told the group that the working group was established by Kate Forbes MSP, who was the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy at the time. This was the first time that an independent group had been asked to consider the opportunities for the economy through support for Gaelic and given the freedom to define who should implement the group's recommendations. Information was given on their procedures, including the knowledge of members, and written and spoken inputs from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Welsh Government officers as well as individuals and groups.

The group agreed their vision with a view to economic opportunities and strengthening the economy, namely: using Gaelic more to create economic benefits; increasing the number of Gaelic speakers; and to see an increase in the social situations where there is an opportunity to use Gaelic. Arthur Cormack informed the group that the working group had made 45 recommendations in the report based on: population and infrastructure; The Public Sector and Gaelic Plans; Communities; Education; and Key Departments and briefed the group on the key messages. He mentioned what had happened as a result of the proposals up to this point, for example bursaries were approved for students taking part in Gaelic teaching and it was confirmed that the Scottish Languages Bill will be introduced in the next year. He also provided an overview on the next steps, which included meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy the following week to make progress.

The Chair thanked Arthur Cormack for speaking to the group and the cross-party group noted that they endorsed the report.

AOCB

It was noted that it was the Ceannard of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Shona MacLennan's last meeting in post and that the new Ceannard would be present at the next meeting. The Chair thanked her for everything she did at Bòrd na Gàidhlig and for Gaelic throughout her career.

Date of Next Meeting: 30 November 2023 13.00