

# COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

### Room 30, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr. Nelson McCausland MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr. Gordon Dunne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr. Leslie Cree MLA  
Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín MLA  
Mr. Basil McCrea MLA  
Mr. William Humphrey MLA  
Mrs. Rosaleen McCorley MLA  
Mr. Dominic Bradley MLA  
Mr. Oliver McMullan MLA

Apologies: Mrs. Karen McKeivitt MLA  
Mr. David Hilditch MLA

In attendance: Mr. Peter Hall (Clerk)  
Miss Maria Magennis (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr. Mark O'Hare (Clerical Supervisor)  
Miss Sabra Wray (Clerical Officer)

*The Committee opened in closed session at 10.03am*

#### 1. Legal Advice on Witnesses Providing Evidence to the Inquiry

Mr. Simon Kelly                      Legal Advisor, NIA

The official briefed the Committee.

Mr. Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 10.06am.

A question and answer session followed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite a number of witnesses to provide evidence in connection with the Inquiry into Issues around Emergency Exiting Plans, including their Impact on Stadium Capacity for the Redeveloped Casement Park.

*The Committee opened in public session at 10.43am*

#### 2. Apologies

The apologies were noted above.

### **3. Draft minutes**

The draft minutes for the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were approved.

### **4. Inquiry Papers**

*Mr. Oliver McMullan, Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín and Mr. Dominic Bradley declared an interest as members of the GAA.*

*Mr. Nelson McCausland declared an interest as Minister at the time of the Outline Business Case.*

Members held a discussion regarding a potential conflict of interest relating to the Chairperson's involvement with the Committee's inquiry.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to return to this discussion in closed session once legal advice could be provided to the Committee.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to access papers relating to the Inquiry using the 'sharepoint' function on their tablet devices instead of receiving hard copy material.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to include documents provided by DCAL, the former Permanent Secretary's affidavit, MORA correspondence, a RaISe paper on Planning Applications and Emergency Exit Plan, Populous drawings into the Inquiry evidence.

*Agreed:* Members agreed to seek clarification regarding some points referred to in these documents.

*Noted:* Members noted the additional information provided by Mr. Scott in relation to the Inquiry.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that this additional information, alongside the original submission provided, should be included as part of Inquiry evidence.

### **5. Inquiry into Issues around Emergency Exiting Plans, Including their Impact on Stadium Capacity, for the Redeveloped Casement Park.**

*Mr. Oliver McMullan, Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín and Mr. Dominic Bradley declared an interest as members of the GAA.*

*Mr. Nelson McCausland declared an interest as Minister at the time of the Outline Business Case.*

The following officials joined the meeting at 11.22am

Ms. Valerie Brown      Environmental Health Manager, Belfast City Council  
Mr. John Walsh        Town Solicitor, Belfast City Council

The officials briefed the committee.

***The Deputy Chair took the Chair at 12.09pm.***

Mr. Nelson McCausland left the meeting at 12.09pm  
Mr. Nelson McCausland re-joined the meeting at 12.11pm  
Mr Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 12.56pm  
Mr Dominic Bradley re-joined the meeting at 1.03pm

***The Chair resumed the Chair at 12.11pm.***

A question and answer session followed.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek the letter referred to by the witness regarding her involvement with the STG.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek clarification regarding whether a former witness has ever been employed by Belfast City Council.

Mr William Humphrey left the meeting at 1:25pm

***The meeting suspended at 1.25pm.***

***The meeting reconvened at 1.55pm.***

Ms Rosaleen McCorley left the meeting at 1.56pm  
Ms Rosaleen McCorley re-joined the meeting at 1.58pm

**6. Inquiry into Issues around Emergency Exiting Plans, Including their Impact on Stadium Capacity, for the Redeveloped Casement Park.**

The following officials joined the meeting at 1.56pm.

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mr. Ciaran McGurk | Former Stadium Programme Manager   |
| Mr. Carl Southern | Former Stadium Programme Architect |

The officials briefed the committee.

Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 2.49pm  
Mr Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting at 3.45pm  
Mr Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 3.49pm  
Mr Dominic Bradley re-joined the meeting at 3.55pm

A question and answer session followed.

***The meeting suspended at 4.09pm.***

***The meeting reconvened at 4.18pm.***

Mr Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 5.07pm  
Mr Oliver McMullan re-joined the meeting at 5.14pm  
Mr William Humphrey re-joined the meeting at 5.24pm  
Mr Leslie Cree left the meeting at 5.51pm  
Mr Leslie Cree re-joined the meeting at 6.03pm  
Ms Rosaleen McCorley left the meeting at 6.12pm  
Ms Rosaleen McCorley re-joined the meeting at 6.15pm  
Mr William Humphry left the meeting at 6.23pm  
Mr Leslie Cree left the meeting at 6.44pm

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek any record regarding a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 which might be held by the Department.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek clarification regarding when the Memorandums of Understandings were superseded and on what grounds.

**7. Matters Arising**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider all Matters Arising by e-mail.

**8. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider all Correspondence by e-mail.

**9. Chairperson's Business**

None to consider.

**10. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold an additional meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

**11. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to examine the viability of visiting Windsor Park, Kingspan Stadium and Casement Park.

*Agreed:* The Member agreed to consider possible expert witnesses that could provide evidence to the Committee.

**12. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will take place in Room 30 on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 10.00am.

**13. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 6.51pm*

**Mr. Nelson McCausland**

**Chairperson, Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015**