

COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 8th October 2015

Room 30, Parliament Buildings

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

In attendance: Mr. Peter Hall (Clerk)
Miss Maria Magennis (Assistant Clerk)
Mr. Jonathan Lamont (Clerical Supervisor)
Miss Sabra Wray (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mrs. Karen McKeivitt MLA

The Committee opened in public session at 10.09am

1. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to send a message of support to the Northern Ireland Football Team and backroom team ahead of their game against Greece.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to send a message of support to the Republic of Ireland Football Team and backroom team ahead of their game against Germany.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to send a message of support to all the Home Nation teams competing in the Euro 2016 competition.

2. Draft Minutes of meeting on 1st October 2015

The minutes of the meeting on 1st October 2015 were agreed.

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

Noted: Members noted the Stadium Programme Board minutes and papers from May 2013 to May 2015.

Noted: Members noted the response from Mr. Blackall regarding the Committee's questions relating to the PAR.

Noted: Members noted the response from the Department regarding availability of an un-redacted Outline Business Case.

Mr Basil McCrea joined the meeting at 10.15am

The following official joined the meeting at 10.20am.

Mr. Edgar Jardine Former Deputy Secretary, DCAL

Mr William Humphrey left the meeting at 10.38am

Mr William Humphrey re-joined the meeting at 10.40am

A question and answer session followed the briefing.

The following proposal was put by Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín.

Proposed:

That the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure calls Mr. Nelson McCausland MLA, as a witness to the inquiry due to his former role as DCAL Minister.

Ayes - 4

Noes - 5

Abstentions - 1

Non-Voters - 0

Ayes:

Ms. Rosaleen McCorley

Mr. Oliver McMullan

Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín

Mr. Dominic Bradley

Noes:

Mr. Gordon Dunne

Mr. David Hilditch

Mr. William Humphrey

Mr. Leslie Cree

Mr. Basil McCrea

Abstentions:

Mr. Nelson McCausland

The motion fell.

The following proposal was put by Ms. Rosaleen McCorley.

Proposed:

That the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure calls for Mr. Nelson McCausland MLA to step aside as the Chairperson of the Committee during the inquiry sessions due to a potential conflict of interest with respect to his former role as DCAL Minister.

Ayes - 4

Noes - 5

Abstentions - 1

Non-Voters - 0

Ayes:

Ms. Rosaleen McCorley

Mr. Oliver McMullan

Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín

Mr. Dominic Bradley

Noes:

Mr. Gordon Dunne

Mr. David Hilditch

Mr. William Humphrey

Mr. Leslie Cree

Mr. Basil McCrea

Abstentions:

Mr. Nelson McCausland

The motion fell.

4. Matters Arising

Noted: Members noted the Correspondence Tracker.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to undertake a visit to Belfast Met to view the work being undertaken by students involved with the Creative Industries.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Committee team would review the previous meeting when Sport NI discussed affiliation for sporting bodies and provide Members with this information.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to DCAL to seek assurance that the concerns raised by whistle-blowers are being dealt with appropriately, and to seek a progress update on how the recommendations outlined in the Internal Auditor's report are being implemented.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek clarification regarding the process of the ‘Urgent Decision Procedure’.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ascertain the appointment process for the Sport NI Board and if there are any statutory regulations relating to the Board of Sport NI.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department regarding staffing reductions in ALBs through VES.

Agreed: Members agreed to consider the correspondence from the Department regarding Festival Funding once additional information has been received.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department recommending that NMNI/NIMC continue with co-location and do not merge as suggested in the ALB Review.

Noted: Members noted the Department’s response regarding safety concerns raised about the SSE Arena.

Noted: The Committee noted the Minister’s letter highlighting that she will host a reception to mark Jonathan Rea’s achievement.

Mr Cathal Ó hOisín left the meeting at 11.47am

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 11.50am

Mr Cathal Ó hOisín re-joined the meeting at 11.55am

Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.04pm

Mr Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting at 12.10pm

5. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the OFMDFM Committee’s memo and the NI Human Rights Commission submission to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Minister regarding the Ministerial Advisory Group Ulster Scots Academy.

Noted: The Committee noted the letter from Solace NI.

Agreed: Members agreed to write to the Minister highlighting the concerns raised by NI Fly Fishing Association.

Mr William Humphrey left the meeting at 12.25am

Mr Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 12.27am

Mr William Humphrey re-joined the meeting at 12.28am

Ms Rosaleen McCorley left the meeting at 12.31am

Mr Oliver McMullan re-joined the meeting at 12.35am

6. Chairperson’s Business

Noted: The Committee noted the update on the Commonwealth Youth Games Bid 2021.

7. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

8. Any Other Business

Members discussed the in-year cuts to funding that the Arts Council NI is expected to make due to the wider financial constraints facing the NI Executive.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that these issues were of serious concern and asked the Committee Team to bring back options on how the Committee could address these concerns with the Department.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Arts Matters Forum to the brief Members on the impact of these cuts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister seeking clarification regarding these in year cuts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to contact the large theatres seeking information regarding the opportunities for external organisations to share their space.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister seeking what strategic approach the Department can take to ensure the provision of space within art and cultural buildings is best utilised.

9. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will take place on Thursday 15th October 2015 at 10.00am in Room 30.

The Committee moved into Closed Session at 12.40pm.

10. Inclusion in the Arts Inquiry

Agreed: Members agreed recommendations 18, 19, 20 and 21 as drafted.

11. BBC Charter Renewal

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reflect the concerns of the Ulster Orchestra in their response.

Agreed: Members agreed to seek information from the Scottish and Welsh Statutory Committees.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that a draft response on the BBC Charter Renewal proposals should be brought forward for Members' consideration.

Mr William Humphrey left the meeting at 12.52pm

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12.55pm.

Mr. Nelson McCausland
Chairperson, Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

Thursday 8th October 2015

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____