

COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 10th December 2015

Room 30, Parliament Buildings

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

In attendance: Mr. Peter Hall (Clerk)
Mr. Jonathan Lamont (Assistant Clerk)
Ms. Gillian Kirk-Lyness (Assistant Clerk)
Miss Sabra Wray (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

The Committee commenced in closed session at 10.07am

1. Committee Inquiry into Issues Around Emergency Exiting Plans, Including their Impact on Stadium Capacity, for the Redeveloped Casement Park Stadium.

Agreed: The Committee agreed an approach to bring the Inquiry to the Chamber for debate.

Gordon Dunne joined the meeting at 10.12am

Basil McCrea joined the meeting at 10.12am

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information on witnesses for the Inquiry.

The meeting moved to open session at 10.18am

2. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

3. Draft Minutes of meeting on 3rd December 2015.

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting on 3rd December 2015 were agreed.

4. DCAL briefing regarding Transfer of Functions.

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.20am

David Carson,	Director of Finance, DCAL;
Aidan Cassidy,	Head of Policy and Admin, DCAL; and
Paul Gamble,	Transition Official, DCAL

A question and answer session followed their briefing.

Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 10.35am

Karen McKeivitt joined the meeting at 10.38am

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to all the Department's Arm's Length Bodies and PRONI seeking their views of the Transfer of Functions process and the impact of potential funding cuts to 2016-17 budgets.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 10.43am

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department for a copy of the letter sent by Mr Derek Baker to stakeholders inviting them to a meeting on the transfer process, and a list of who it was sent to.

Aidan Cassidy and Paul Gamble left the meeting at 10.52am

DCAL briefing regarding Budget 16/17.

The following official joined David Carson at 10.52am

Michael O'Dowd, Head of Finance, DCAL.

A question and answer session followed.

Rosie McCorley joined the meeting at 10.57am

William Humphrey re-joined the meeting at 11.02am

David Hilditch left the meeting at 11.04am

David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 11.24am

Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 11.24am

David Hilditch left the meeting at 11.45am

Oliver McMullan re-joined the meeting at 11.48am

David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 12.02pm

The following proposal was put by Mr William Humphrey and seconded by Mr Basil McCrea

Proposed:

That the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure write to the Permanent Secretary and issue a Press Statement regarding the content of the DCAL briefing.

Ayes	-	7
Noes	-	2
Abstentions	-	0
Non-Voters	-	0

Ayes:

N McCausland

B McCrea

W Humphrey

D Hilditch

L Cree

G Dunne

K McKevitt

Noes:

R McCorley

O McMullan

The motion was passed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further details from the Department on the issues in their briefing paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Officials back to brief the Committee on this issue.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information on items in storage at NMNI.

Mr David Hilditch declared an interest as a Member of IFA Council.

William Humphrey left the meeting at 12.15pm

5. DCAL & DARD briefing on Fisheries Bill

The following officials joined the meeting at 12.15pm

Seamus Connor,	Chief Fisheries Officer, DCAL;
Liam Devlin,	Inland Fisheries Group, DCAL; and
John Terrington,	Fisheries Bill Team, DARD.

A question and answer session followed.

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.16pm

Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting at 12.22pm

6. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence from IFA regarding health and safety at Windsor Park and agreed to return to it (and the response from Belfast City Council) when the response from Northern Ireland Football League is received.

Noted: The Committee noted the response from BBC Trust regarding the renewal of BBC Charter.

Noted: The Committee noted the response from the Department regarding the musical instruments for bands fund.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its position regarding the BBC Charter renewal subject to further proofing and any necessary amendments.

Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.40pm

Basil McCrea left the meeting at 12.40pm

Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting at 12.44pm

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold the response from Ulster GAA regarding the DCAL Cultural Awareness Strategy until the reply from Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland is received.

Noted: The Committee noted the Minister's statements on NSMC on Inland Waterways and Languages.

Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 12.48pm

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department regarding the sub-regional stadia programme.

7. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department regarding Armagh Observatory and Planetarium.

Agreed: The Committee noted the OFMDFM correspondence regarding European Commission Work Programme for 2016 and agreed to commission research to assist with a response to this.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from DCAL regarding the meeting with Ministerial Advisory Group on Ulster-Scots Academy.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL correspondence regarding the Cultural Programme and World Police and Fire Games.

8. Chairperson's Business

Noted: The Committee noted the NMNI invite to the Ulster American Folk Park anniversary event.

Noted: The Committee noted the Clerks memo detailing the visit of the BBC DG on 14 December 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the Arts and Business NI invite to their 2016 Awards Ceremony.

9. Forward Work Programme

Noted: The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

There were no items of business.

11. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will take place on Thursday 7th January 2016 at 10.00am in Room 30.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1.10pm.

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

Thursday 7th January 2016