

COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 17th September 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. David Hilditch MLA
Mr. William Humphrey MLA
Mrs. Rosaleen McCorley MLA
Mr. Dominic Bradley MLA
Mr. Oliver McMullan MLA
Mrs. Karen McKeivitt MLA

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

The Committee opened in public session at 10.09am

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

Karen McKeivitt joined the meeting at 10.10am

2. Draft Minutes of meeting on 14th September 2015

The minutes of the meeting on 14th September 2015 were agreed.

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

The following official joined the meeting at 10.12am

Ms. Rosalie Flanagan Former DCAL Permanent Secretary

Agreed: The Committee agreed to re-call Mr. Noel Molloy to give evidence to the Inquiry.

Mr. Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11.18am.

Mr. Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting 11.21am.
Mr. Dominic Bradley left the meeting 11.23am.
Mr. Dominic Bradley re-joined the meeting at 11.39am.

4. Matters Arising

Noted: The Committee noted the response from easyJet.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask DCAL for a copy of DCMS correspondence on the Irish Language and Ulster Scots Broadcast Fund.

Noted: The Committee noted the response from Ulster Scots Agency regarding their 2013 Internal Audit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask DCAL for an update on the Fisheries Bill timetable.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to DCAL requesting the number of staff that would be released under the Voluntary Exit Scheme for each of ALBs and the Department.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL Forward Work Programme to June 2016.

Noted: The Committee noted the following ALBs Forward Work Plans; Armagh Planetarium; NI Museums Council; NMNI; Foras na Gaeilge; Sport NI; and Libraries NI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Arts Council NI to brief the Committee on their Forward Work Programme, the impact of future budget reductions and the MAC façade.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department for a copy of the Head of Internal Audit Report on Sport NI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the NI Water correspondence regarding redundant reservoirs to Sport NI and ADSEA for information purposes.

Noted: The Committee noted the PAR Report on the MAC.

Mr. Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 11.56am.
Mr. Oliver McMullan re-joined the meeting at 12.08pm.

5. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the NI Screen Commission Report, Directors' Report and Financial Statement for Year End 31 March 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the Investment Strategy Report for DCAL for July 2015.

Agreed: The Committee noted the Sport NI Corporate Plan 2015-2020 and agreed to ask Sport NI for further information on participants' affiliation.

Noted: The Committee noted the Ofcom Communications Marketing Report 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence between Philip Robinson and Bill Smith regarding Ulster Scots Historical Dictionary.

Noted: The Committee noted the Investment Strategy Report for DCAL for August 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL correspondence detailing the Fishery Management Plan Consultations for Lough Neagh and Lough Erne.

Noted: The Committee noted the Executive's Strategic European Priorities 2015-16.

Noted: The Committee noted the recommendations made by the OFMDFM Committee regarding the Inquiry into Building a United Community.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL 2014-15 Annual Report and Accounts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to ask the Department for a confirmation of the recruitment process for the Board of Sport NI.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL correspondence deferring the October Monitoring update until December.

6. End of Session Report

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek the financial spend of other Statutory Committees when figures are available.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the End of Session Report 2014-15.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the actions discussed during the informal Strategic Planning meeting the previous week.

The Committee moved into Closed Session at 12.22pm.

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

The following officials joined the meeting at 12.23pm.

Ms. Tara Caul	Head of NI Assembly Legal Services
Mr. Jonathan McMillen	Legal Advisor

The Clerk advised the Chair person that he should step aside as Chairperson for the question and answer session and any subsequent actions based on this.

Mr. Nelson McCausland left the meeting at 12.40pm

Mr. Gordon Dunne took the chair at 12.40pm

Noted: The Committee noted the Legal Advice presented.

The following proposal was put by Mr. Dominic Bradley and amended by Mr. Basil McCrea.

Proposed:

That the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure seeks a further legal opinion regarding relevant media articles, in particular an Irish News article, within the context of legal advice already received around a potential conflict of interest or bias.

Ayes - 6

Noes - 4

Abstentions - 0

Non-Voters - 0

Ayes:

Ms. Rosaleen McCorley

Mr. Oliver McMullan

Mr. Cathal Ó hOisín

Mrs. Karen McKeivitt

Mr. Dominic Bradley

Mr. Basil McCrea

Noes:

Mr. William Humphrey

Mr. David Hilditch

Mr. Leslie Cree

Mr. Gordon Dunne

The motion was passed.

Agreed: The Committee would again seek an unredacted copy of the Outline Business Case for the proposed new Casement Park Stadium from the Department.

8. *Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from DCAL regarding the resignation of Tim Cooke.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 1.08pm.

9. Chairperson's Business

Noted: The Committee noted dates of the Disability Sports and Active Recreation Plan public consultation events.

Mr. Basil McCrea left the meeting at 1.18pm

Mr. Basil McCrea re-joined the meeting at 1.19pm

Noted: The Committee noted the invite from Belfast International Arts Festival to “The Kitchen” event in the Grand Opera House.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the table a motion demonstrating the Committee’s support of the bid for Northern Ireland to host the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games.

10. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

There were no items of Other Business.

12. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will take place on Thursday 24th September 2015 at 10.00am in Room 30.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1.35pm.

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

Thursday 24th September 2015