

# COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Room 30, Parliament Buildings

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

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

Apologies: Mrs. Karen McKeivitt MLA  
Mr. Dominic Bradley MLA

*The Committee commenced in closed session at 10.05am*

### 1. Legal Services Briefing on Funding for Sports Clubs

The following official briefed the Committee

Simon Kelly, Legal Advisor, Assembly Legal Services.

*Basil McCrea joined the meeting at 10.16am*

*Noted:* The Committee noted the briefing from Legal Services.

### Correspondence

*Agreed:* Members noted the correspondence to Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council regarding the Business Case for the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games and agreed to write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment for an update.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence from Antoinette McKeown and agreed to seek written evidence in the first instance.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence received from Paul Scott and agreed to return to it at next week's meeting.

The meeting moved into public session at 10.44am

**2. Apologies**

Apologies noted above.

**3. Draft Minutes of meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015.**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 were agreed.

**4. Inquiry into issues around emergency exiting plans, including their impact on stadium capacity, for the redeveloped Casement Park stadium.**

The following witness joined the meeting at 10.45am

Dominic Walsh      Former Chairperson, Sport NI.

Members' previous declarations of interest with respect to the inquiry have been carried forward, as per the Committee's agreement.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek clarification on why Mr Walsh was not afforded access to papers.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to ask the Department for papers in relation to the weekly meetings between Mr Walsh and the Minister in 2012.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to invite further witnesses to give evidence as part of the inquiry.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to return to Mr McMullan's proposal to request Mr McCausland to give evidence as part of the Casement Park Inquiry.

**5. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the Department's response regarding costs for the draft Statutory Rule to provide privileged access to information contained in court and inquest files.

*Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 11.45am*

*Noted:* The Committee noted the Department's response regarding the savings and projected savings in relation to the ACNI and NIMC office moves.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the Department's response regarding the purchase and fitting out of buildings.

Mr David Hilditch declared an interest as a Director of Carrick Rangers Football Club and that he had previously assisted Larne Football Club.

*David Hilditch left the meeting at 11.58am*

*William Humphrey left the meeting at 12.01pm*

*William Humphrey re-joined the meeting at 12.05pm*

*David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 12.06pm*

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department regarding issues raised at the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and agreed to ask again for specific information in relation to the Culture Programme.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the response from Ofcom regarding the BECTU correspondence on the ITV purchase of UTV.

## **6. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to return next week to the issue of Cultural Partners delivering the Culture Programme.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the Regional Development Committee regarding flood alleviation schemes.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the Finance and Personnel Committee regarding Voluntary Exit Scheme.

*Oliver McMullan left the meeting at 12.23pm*

*Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.23pm*

*Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting at 12.30pm*

*Noted:* The Committee noted the January edition of EU Matters.

## **7. Chairperson's Business**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the invitations received.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

*Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 12.34pm*

## **9. Any Other Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek the DCAL Minister's support for a Fans' Embassy at the 2016 European Football Championships, and consider offering some financial support for such a project.

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

The next meeting of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10.00am in Room 30.

**12. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 12.39pm*

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

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016**