

COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Thursday 22nd 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. 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 McKevitt MLA
Mr. Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr. Leslie Cree MLA

The Committee commenced in public session at 10.10am

1. Apologies

Apologies noted above.

Agreed: Members agreed to offer their condolences to Mr McMullan following a family bereavement.

2. Draft Minutes of meeting on 15th October 2015

The minutes of the meeting on 15th October 2015 were agreed.

3. Libraries NI Briefing on Review of Opening Hours, the Impact of In-Year Cuts and their Engagement with Local Councils.

The following officials joined the meeting at 10.11am.

Ms Irene Knox

Chief Executive

Ms Helen Osborn
Terry Heron

Director of Library Services
Director of Business Support

A question and answer session followed their briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further information on the number of hours lost and the reduction in stock due to budget cuts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a further briefing from Libraries NI in the New Year regarding the impact of the Transfer of Functions Order.

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 10.44am

Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 10.46am

Mr Basil McCrea joined the meeting at 10.46am

Mr Dominic Bradley left the meeting at 11.00am

Ms Rosie McCorley joined the meeting at 11.02am

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the issue of defibrillators is best taken forward by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and Members will support that Department's efforts.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a further briefing from DHSSPS officials in 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further clarification from the Department regarding correspondence relating to the Ulster GAA and Young Farmers Association.

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 11.15am

Mr Basil McCrea left the meeting at 11.15am

Mr Dominic Bradley re-joined the meeting at 11.16am

Mr Basil McCrea re-joined the meeting at 11.17am

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department regarding Casement Park Residents' Groups.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department regarding the Casement Park PAR team.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to upload the Casement Park correspondence to the Committee's Sharepoint system.

Noted: The Committee noted the follow up correspondence from BBC NI requested after the recent briefing by officials.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL correspondence regarding the Irish Language Bill.

Noted: The Committee noted the Clerk's memo regarding the Urgent Decision Procedure.

Noted: The Committee noted the DCAL correspondence with DMCS regarding Ulster Scots and Irish Language Broadcast Funds.

Agreed: The Committee considered the response from DCAL regarding the recent internal audit of Sport NI; Members agreed to schedule a briefing from officials following the analysis of the Sport NI staff survey.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for clarification regarding the article on UK City of Culture and the Bands Forum.

Noted: The Committee noted the list of 32 arts organisations that recently received a grant reduction from the Arts Council NI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the “One Plan” received from OFMDFM to DCAL for information.

5. DCAL Briefing regarding Community Festivals Fund

The following officials joined the meeting at 11.30am

Ms Angela McAllister	Head of Arts Branch
Ms Patricia McAuley	Director of Culture Division

Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 11.30am

Mr Gordon Dunne left the meeting at 11.37am

A question and answer session followed their briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a copy of the evaluation used for the Community Festivals Fund.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request further information from the Department on a range of issues relating to funding for festivals outside of the Community Festivals Fund remit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite the Minister to brief Members on these issues at the next meeting.

6. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the Ulster University’s response to the DCMS Strategy for Sports.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence from a member of the public relating to Libraries NI website to their Chief Executive asking for a response.

Noted: The Committee noted the latest edition of EU Matters.

Agreed: The Committee to hold an informal meeting with the BBC National Trustee regarding the renewal of the BBC Charter.

Noted: The Committee noted the AERC correspondence regarding the Assembly and Executive Review Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from Libraries NI regarding their engagement with Europe.

Mr Gordon Dunne re-joined the meeting at 12.17pm

Noted: The Committee noted the OFMDFM correspondence regarding the Contested Space / Interface Programme.

Noted: The Committee noted the OFMDFM correspondence regarding the Carnegie UK Trust report on Towards a Wellbeing Framework.

Noted: The Committee noted the Libraries NI Annual Report and Accounts for 2014-15.

7. Chairperson's Business

Noted: The Committee noted the Clerk's memo on the Scottish and Welsh Committees engagement with BBC.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to launch a public consultation on the BBC Charter Renewal.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department offering support for the BBC Memoranda of Understanding.

Noted: The Committee noted the Clerk's table of spend by each of the Statutory Committees as detailed in the End of Session Reports.

Noted: The Committee noted the Chairperson's update from the Chairperson's Liaison Group (CLG); per the CLG agreement, all Committees should continue to undertake deliberations on Inquiry reports in closed session in line with good practice.

8. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

9. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Sport NI regarding the withdrawal of funding for Cairn Lodge Boxing Club.

10. Date, Time and Place of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will take place on Thursday 5th November 2015 at 10.00am in Room 30.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1.05pm.

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

Thursday 5th November 2015