

**The Board of Ulster-Scotch
73rd Board Meeting
10th December 2007
Europa hotel, Belfast**

Present

Chairman; Mr Mark Thompson
Mr Jim Devenney
Mr Pat Wall
Mr Eddie O'Donnell
Dr Lindy Lunney
Mr Alistair Simpson
Dr Ian Adamson
Mr Bob Stoker

Recording Secretary

Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Mr Thompson welcomed everyone to the 73rd Meeting of the Board at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Mr Patton, Mr McCullough and Mr Millar.

3. Minutes of Meeting 15th November 2007.

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meetings with some minor amendments.

Proposed and agreed; that minute be accepted.

Ms Hanna left the meeting at this point so that the Board could discuss a matter that had arisen.

Ms Hanna was later invited into the meeting and business resumed.

4. Matters Arising

Indicative Budget 2008

Mr Thompson advised the Board that he had written to Paul Sweeney, Permanent Secretary at DCAL. He is awaiting a response.

5. Chairman's Report

PBS American Television Channel

Mr Thompson met with Straight Forward Productions to initiate this project and will have further feedback at the next meeting

Mr Thompson attended an event in Kilkeel PS that was greatly attended by many including Lord Laird. It outlined how towns still hold onto their Ulster-Scots identity.

Mr Thompson attended a meeting with Liam Clarke, Northern Ireland Correspondent for the Sunday Times. Mr Clarke proposed that the Agency become involved in an Irish/American online Magazine.

Action: Mr Thompson is awaiting further information on this proposal.

Mr Thompson met with Dunfermline City Centre Management to progress the Robert the Bruce Heritage Trail project.

Mr Thompson held an opening meeting with keen activists wishing to participate in taking the Covenanters story forward.

He also met with Mammoth who was successful in the tender to take forward the "Agency New Corporate Identity".

6. Report from NSMC

Mr Thompson updated the Board from correspondence he had from Mr Patton. Mr Patton had met with the St Andrews Review team and NSMC on 30th November and the review is still work in progress.

7. Budget and Business Plan Progress 2007.

The Progress report was received and accepted.

Mr Devenney highlighted that an up-to-date report should be presented to the Board in early 2008 from the Ulster-Scots Heritage Council and regular written reports need to be addressed and followed up.

Regular reports and an update presentation from the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies was also requested by the Board for early 2008 regarding it's spend to date.

It was noted that the Internal Audit Committee met on Friday 30th November 2007. At this meeting it was highlighted that some members of staff were not returning travel claims within the time period. The Board instructed the Executive to look at this immediately to ensure that no payments from 2007 will carry into 2008 budget.

8 Grant Applications

The Board deferred decisions on the grant.

9 Staffing

Mr Thompson advised the Board that DCRGA had approved the CEO bonus for 2007 but he is waiting approval from DCAL.

The Board noted that Mrs Vanessa Wilson has resigned from her position at the Agency as Director of Culture.

10. AOB

Institute of Ulster-Scots

This report has been received but more time is needed to comment on this.

Action: Carried to next meeting.

Community Radio

Mr Thompson informed the Board that the Ballymoney Radio Station had received 1800 texts in a week. Dr Adamson would also be visiting the station this week to give an interview. Mr Darwin Templeton, editor of the News Letter also had dropped by to give a live interview on the station.

Items for the Language Body Meeting

Mr Thompson informed the Board that the following items would appear at the afternoon meeting with the Language Board meeting:

- Young American's Programme
- Education Package

Dr Lunney passed to Ms Hanna a document re: University of Edinburgh; that she thought the Executive might find of interest.

Action: Pass to Executive

Each member of the Board individually voiced their enjoyment of working on the Ulster-Scots Agency Board and their regrets that their term had come to a close.

15. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be decided when the new Board of the Ulster-Scots Agency has been appointed in early 2008.

Signed:

Dated: