

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
87th Board Meeting
27th March 2009
Ulster-Scots Agency Board Room, Belfast**

Present;	Mr Mark Thompson
	Mrs Angela Graham
	Mr William Humphrey
	Dr Aileen Douglas
	Dr Ian Adamson
	Mrs Jacqui Reed
	Mr William Leathem
	Dr William Roulston
In attendance:	Mr George Patton
	Mr Michael McCullough
	Mr Jim Millar
Recording Secretary;	Miss Siobhan McNally

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Mr Thompson welcomed everyone to the 87th Board Meeting at the Agency Board Room, Belfast.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Minutes

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with no amendments needed.
Proposed and Agreed: that the minute be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

TV Programme

Mr Millar informed the Board that they are in the final process of completion.

7. Presentation from Ulster Scots Community Network

Mr Matthew Warrick and Mr Ian Carlisle joined the meeting at this point.

Mr Warrick, Mr Carlisle and Mr Humphrey gave an in depth presentation to the Board on behalf of the Ulster Scots Community Network.

The Board thanked the members of the Ulster Scots Community Network for their presentation.

Mr Warrick, Mr Carlisle and Mr Humphrey left the meeting at this point.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the events he had attended and the organisations he had been in contact with since the last meeting.

The Board accepted the report.

Mr Humphrey returned to the meeting at this point.

6. Report from Executive

Copies of this report were tabled and discussed with the Executive and the Board.

Work has been ongoing in the case of allegations made by a former member of a community organisation. The Agency is working with the Arts Council and DCAL on this.

The Board gave unanimous support to the Executive in terms of how this was being dealt with.

The Board accepted the report.

8. Budget

A paper on possible savings in the event of budget cuts was tabled and agreed.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding Community Festivals and specifically the issues that would arise should groups not receive an “up front” payment. A possible solution regarding “on the day payments” was suggested by Mr McCullough and endorsed by the Board.

Proposed and Agreed.

The Executive provided an update on Audit and the Board approved a decision to seek guidance from the Department Solicitors Office regarding the Financial Assistance Scheme.

The Board adjourned for lunch.

Dr Douglas and Mr Humphrey left the meeting for the day.

After lunch the Board started with item nine on the Agenda.

9. Revised Financial Assistance Scheme

A paper on Sponsorship was tabled and discussed. The Board were asked to have feedback on the paper by the 1st April.

Proposed and Agreed.

10. Grants

Festival Applications were tabled. After discussion and consideration the Board agreed to the awards as listed.

Proposed and Agreed.

Grant applications were tabled and discussed.

Ulster Scots Folk Orchestra Organisation

The Board decided to leave until a report is received from the Arts Council on how they hope to progress this project.

Proposed and Agreed.

The Executive drew the attention of the Board to a number of issues surrounding funding awards.

The Executive advised that the Festival organised by Tyrone Orange Vision was subject to a series of meetings. The community has been brought on Board following meetings between the Agency and Dungannon Council regarding The Plantation. There was a need for the group to revisit their plans and scale back on them.

A revised application from the Ullans Speakers Association meeting the requirements of the board was received and in line with their previous decision the Board agreed to fund this project. However it would be subject to a Service Level Agreement and not of the Financial Assistance Scheme.

The Ullans Speaker Association had a proposal at the previous Board Meeting to get it below £50,000 and the application was approved.

A sponsorship application from RSPBA could not be considered as it was not received in time. It will be tabled at the next meeting.

A revised timetable and events listing was received from Bushmills Ulster Scots Heritage group and the Board agreed the revised funding.

A number of other projects were discussed and the Board advised that they could not proceed under the revised schemes until NSMC approval was received.

Mrs Graham and Dr Adamson leave the meeting for the day.

14. Date and venue of next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on Friday 24th April 2009 at the Agency offices.

13. AOB

Language Promotion Strategy

Policy was tabled and will be discussed in more detail at the next Board Meeting.

ASM Horwath

Paper was tabled and discussed. Board members to have comments with the CEO by 1st April and the paper would be revisited at the next meeting.

Presentation on Plantation

Dr Roulston talked to the Board about him producing a short guide to the Plantation for groups to use. He will have more details at the next Board Meeting.

Border Counties Strategy

The CEO advised that with Mr Reaney's absence there could be slippage on this.

IUSS

An update on funding of the IUSS was provided to the Board.

Signed:.....

Date:.....