

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
91st Board Meeting
6th August 2009
Ulster-Scots Agency Office, Belfast**

Present;	Mrs Angela Graham
	Mrs Jacqui Reed
	Mr William Humphrey
	Dr Ian Adamson
	Dr William Roulston
In Attendance:	Mr George Patton
	Mr Michael McCullough
	Mr Arthur Scott
Recording Secretary;	Miss Siobhan McNally

1. Welcome from the Chairperson

Mrs Graham welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the 91st Board Meeting at the Agency Board room, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tabled on behalf of Mrs Aileen Douglas and Mr William Leathem who were unable to attend the meeting. Mr Jim Millar was on annual leave and Dr William Roulston would not be present at the morning part of the meeting.

3. Minutes

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

Proposed and agreed: that the minutes are accepted.

4. Matters Arising

The Question of Plantation

Commemorations were subject to a business case which would be submitted to the Departments.

The project involving First Derry Presbyterian Church to be pursued.

Dr Roulston joined the meeting at this point.

Language Promotion Strategy

A paper was tabled and discussed on developing a strategy to mark the plantation. The Board will have feedback on or before 31st August 2009.

TV Programme

A letter that Mr Millar had received from David Rane, Managing Director of Soilsiu Films was tabled. He explained in the letter that a final cut of the film was submitted to TG4 and they have now asked for about one week of "fine cutting", which means just a polish on the edit. An email was then sent to Mr Millar explaining that the two preferred editors are engaged with other projects; David Rane has asked TG4 for a list of recommended editors.

Community Workers Scheme

Following approval of the Community Workers Scheme the Executive presented options to the Board for a policy which would ensure maximum community benefit while maintaining corporate governance compliance.

The Agency will request business cases to include the Community group's full year of activity for 2010. This would allow a full award of salary £10,000 and a full award of running costs and overheads providing the 25% shortfall in total project costs would be made up through the planning and delivery of a number of one-off Ulster-Scots nights which only attract a FAS award of £250.00 or projects which are not Agency funded. Proposed and Agreed.

5. Audit Update

Goldblatt McGuigan Report

Copies of these reports were tabled and discussed.

Mr Humphrey left the room at this point.

Ulster-Scot Newspaper

Tenders will be taking place and will hopefully be finalised by 30th September 2009.

Mr Humphrey returned to the meeting.

6. Report from Executive

Copies of this report were tabled and discussed.

Proposed and Agreed: The Board accepted the report.

The Board adjourned for lunch.

After lunch the Board continued the meeting with item 7 on the Agenda.

7. Budget and Business Plan Progress

Papers were tabled and discussed. Mr Patton explained that work still has to be done on budget profiles. He also informed the Board of the excellent work Mr Mark Fitzsimmons has been doing for the Agency as his secondment is coming to an end.

Mr McCullough returns from lunch.

A re-tender will be taking place for a new IT provider and will hopefully be in place by 1st January 2010.

8. Revised Financial Assistance Scheme

Letters have been sent out to Community Groups regarding the Financial Assistance Scheme. All information is on the Ulster-Scots website.

Dr Roulston left the room at this point.

10. 2010 Business Plan

A meeting is being held with Mr Alan Shields and the Executive team on the 13th August, there will be a paper for the Board at the next meeting.

Dr Roulston returned to the meeting.

9. Grants and Appeals

John McCavitt

Project: General Ross and the Second War of Independence

Amount of grant being sought from the Ulster-Scots Agency: £12,990

The Board decided that the project didn't fall under Partnership Funding, therefore couldn't take this forward.

Proposed and Agreed.

Jonathan Burgess

Project: The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner

Amount of grant being sought from the Ulster-Scots Agency: £20,000

The Board approved this application in September 2008 but it was placed on hold until the new Financial Assistance Scheme was approved. The Board agreed that this project fell under Partnership Funding and approved.

Proposed and Agreed.

Jonathan Burgess

Project: Love in a Bottle

Amount of grant being sought from the Ulster-Scots Agency: £6,000

The Board approved the level of funding requested.

Proposed and Agreed.

Markethill Presbyterians

Project: Exhibition-1610 Plantation of the Fews and 400 Years of Presbyterianism

Amount of grant being sought from the Ulster-Scots Agency: £2,190.00

The Board collectively agreed for this application be given further consideration.

Proposed and Agreed.

Wae A Heart An A Half-Banbridge

Amount of grant being sought from the Ulster-Scots Agency: £3,845.00

This was dealt with under grants but is an Agency led initiative to introduce Ulster-Scots through drama to communities.

The Board approved the level of funding requested.

Proposed and Agreed.

11. Staffing

ASM Horwath

Staff had previously attended sessions to give comments regarding the ASM Horwath report and how it had been conducted. These will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.

Music Tutors

A paper on Peripatetic Tutor Evaluation was tabled.

The Board discussed the resignation of Miss Georgina Kee and asked that the minute note their thanks to her for the work she had done for the Agency.

Mr Patton and Mr Humphrey left the room at this point.

CEO Targets

The Board discussed the approval of the CEO targets for 2009. A query was raised regarding the 07 and 08 position. Mr Scott suggested that advice be sought from DCAL for the next Board Meeting.

Mr Patton returned to the meeting.

12. AOB

Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies

A paper was tabled.

The Board decided to invite members of the Institute to do a presentation for the Board at Octobers Board Meeting.

Proposed and Agreed.

Co Antrim Etymology Project

The Board noted the presentation made by the Executive regarding procurement issues and authorised the closure of the project before delegated limits were breached.

Mr Humphrey returned to the meeting.

Agency information Centre

Mr McCullough explained to the Board the idea of the Agency, the Community Network and the Ulster Society working together to have a pilot opening in the Agency Information Centre at the end of August for three weeks. Promotional work and staffing issues would be resolved between the three organisations.

Proposed and Agreed.

Letter from Scottish Covenanters Memorials Association

A letter from the association was tabled and discussed.

Community Development Strategy

Mr Patton suggested that the Board revisit the draft report before next months meeting.

Sister Cities International

Mr Patton informed the Board that the feedback from people involved in Sister Cities International had been excellent.

Dinner with Minister

Some of the Board Members attended the dinner in the Malone Lodge hotel later that evening.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on 25th September 2009 in the Agency offices, Belfast.

Signed.....

Date.....