

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
85th Board Meeting
23rd January 2009
Ulster-Scots Agency Board Room, Belfast**

Present;	Mr Mark Thompson
	Mrs Angela Graham
	Mr William Humphrey
	Dr Aileen Douglas
	Mrs Jacqui Reed
	Dr Ian Adamson
	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 85th Board Meeting at the Agency Board Room, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tabled on behalf of Mr William Leathem.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (15th December 2009)

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with some minor amendments.
Proposed and Agreed: that the minute be accepted.

4. Matters Arising

TV Programme

Mr Millar informed the Board that the Programme was delayed due to difficulties with an end piece. A primary School in Donegal had now agreed to participate in the programme to facilitate the concluding scenes. Completion is due after these scenes have been finalised.

Sister Cities Gala

This joint project with Foras na Gaeilge is work in progress.

BELB-Central Library

Mr Patton informed the Board that Board Members are invited to attend different workshops relating to the refurbishing of Central Library.

Young Ambassadors Programme-Milwaukee Irish Fest

The Board discussed the level of involvement that the Ulster Scots Agency will be putting into North American Festivals in the future, and agreed that budget figures should be presented at the next Board Meeting.

6. Executive Report

Copies of this report were tabled.

The Board accepted this report from the Executive.

Proposed and Agreed.

8. Budget and Business Plan

Copies of this report were tabled and discussed.

10. Grants

(1) North Antrim Media & Events Committee

Proposal	£8836.39
	The proposal will promote The Ulster-Scots Language through radio broadcasting as well as music, literature and promoting Ulster-Scots events.

The Board were in agreement to offer this group £8836.39 funding for this project.

Proposed and Agreed.

(2) Stephenstown Pond Trust LTD

Proposal	€29,120
	The proposed project will promote an awareness of The Ulster-Scots Culture and

	Heritage through the works of Robert Burns along with students from North and South of the border. Upon completion of the project the students will record a CD of the songs/poetry that they have learned.
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The Board discussed this project and agreed that it did not meet the criteria for grant under the Financial Assistance Scheme.

(3) Cairncastle LOL 692 Community and Cultural Group

Proposal	£6,746.25
	This project, which is a number of soirees, is an event promoting the study, conversation and development of The Ulster Scots Language.

The Board were in agreement to offer this group funding for this project on the basis of each event equating to an “Ulster Scots Night”.

Proposed and Agreed.

(4) Ullans Speakers Association

Proposal	£52,240.00
	The proposal is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Ullans Leid.

The Board discussed this project and agreed in principle to approve funding. The Group would need to present amended figures and discuss the project further with the executive.

Proposed and Agreed.

(5) The Ulster Scots Language Society

Proposal	
	The project is to maintain a full time staffed office to deliver the 2009 Business Plan of the Language Society.

The Board approved core funding and the Executive is to prepare the terms and conditions compliant with this.

Proposed and Agreed.

7. Report from ASM Howarth

Mr Humphrey and staff with the exception of the Chief Executive and the Recording Secretary left the meeting at this point.

A representative from ASM Howarth joined the meeting.

Mr Humphrey returned to the meeting at this point.

Copies of this Report were tabled and discussed by Mr McKay of ASM Howarth. He clarified points and answered questions from Board Members. It was agreed that Board Members would further consider the document and confirm their acceptance of the Report to the Chief Executive by 28th January.

The Board adjourned for lunch.

Mr Humphrey leaves for the day.

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

9. Revised Financial Assistance Scheme

The Board gave further consideration to the Report and Policies and the Executive answered questions raised by the Board. The Board agreed the revised scheme and accompanying policies. The board emphasised the necessity for aspects of these to be implemented without delay.

11. Audit Update

Mr Alan Thompson from Goldblatt McGuigan joined the meeting. He circulated a document on the internal audit he completed on the Agency.

Mr Thompson highlighted areas of the report that were of concern for discussion with the Board.

Mr Thompson left the meeting at this point.

All staff left the meeting at this point as the Board discussed other issues.

Staff then returned to the meeting.

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.

12. Staffing

Mr Patton reminded the Board that Mr David McComb had joined the Agency earlier that month as The Finance and Administration Manager. He then went on to inform them of the Organisational Day the Agency Staff were attending next month. The Board also discussed the idea of getting a skilled meet and greet type person who has a good knowledge of Ulster-Scots into the Visitors Centre.

13. AOB

PR Marketing

The Board discussed a tender for an external PR person.

Newton Emerson Article

The article was tabled and read by Board members.

Agency Presence at the American Tourism Pow Wow

The Board agreed that they would have to take some consideration of what events to attend in USA.

Report from NSMC Meeting

Mr Thompson gave an update on this event.

Presentation on the Plantation

To be discussed at the next Board Meeting.

Agency Burns Night

Mr Patton thanked the organisers and those who attended.

American Students

A great success, the students now have a much improved understanding of Ulster-Scots Heritage.

14. Date and venue of next Meeting

The next Board meeting will take place on Friday 20th February 2009 with a 9am start at the Agency offices.

Signed:

Dates: