

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
86th Board Meeting
20th February 2009
Ulster-Scots Agency Board Room, Belfast**

Present;	Mr Mark Thompson
	Mrs Angela Graham
	Mr William Humphrey
	Dr Aileen Douglas
	Dr Ian Adamson
	Mr William Leathem
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 86th Board Meeting at the Agency Board Room, Belfast.

2. Apologies

Apologies were tabled on behalf of Mrs Jacqui Reed and Mr William Roulston.

3. Minutes

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 they are in the final process of completion.

Mr McCullough joined the meeting at this point.

North American Budget

£20,000 was suggested for the budget for North American Festivals such as Pow Wow, Stone Mountain and Milwaukee Irish Festival; the Board discussed the level of involvement that the Ulster-Scots Agency will be putting into these Festivals in the future. The Board asked that they revisit this matter at a later stage.

Proposed and Agreed.

5. Chairman's Report

Meetings:

- BBC Radio Ulster Burns Night live broadcast from the John Hewitt
- John Anderson re: Tourism Ireland advertising
- Two meetings with Tourism Ireland
- BBC meeting
- DCAL afternoon session at Cultra Manor for Chairs and CEOs
- Union College Library (bigger collection than Linenhall, much of which is of Ulster/Scottish interest)
- Meeting with Minister Arlene Foster re: Ulster Scots America strategy
- Glasgow Ulster-Scots Society
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency – potential for partnership at state monuments
- Northern Ireland Tourist Board – draft audit of Ulster-Scots tourism product
- Ards Borough Council – Donaghadee public art and Agency presence in possible seafront heritage centre. Discussions to take place over coming weeks
- Scottish Covenanters Memorial Association (correspondence re: possible partnerships)
- Presbyterian Historical Society – now wish to make applications for publication projects they have already discussed with the Agency. Also want to discuss an application to replace their microfilm reader (valuable resource used by students and researchers, broken and confirmed as unrepairable)
- Carrickfergus Covenanter events in 2 primary schools

Strategies: (as mentioned at previous Board meeting, but missing from draft Minutes)

- Integrated 9 county community development strategy
 - Border counties strategy
 - Language Promotion strategy
 - Tourism development strategy
- To be presented to the April Board meeting (circa 8 weeks to develop)

Projects:

- Irish Manuscripts Commission: Digitized edition of Bishop George Montgomery's 1607 Survey of Derry, Raphoe and Clogher – a partnership production between IMC and the Agency. Costs, roles and timetables to be discussed with IMC over coming weeks. IMC are to confirm on 31 March.
- Launch or photo opportunity and PR to be organized for the digital editions of The MacDonnell's of Antrim and The Plantation in Ulster (accompanied by Raven maps supplied by PRONI, with narrative written by Prof Raymond Gillespie of NUI Maynooth). Suggest late April / early May.

Contracts: (as mentioned at previous Board meeting, but missing from draft Minutes)

- List of outsourced services

- Move from project-by-project tendering, to service provision tendering (3 year contract, reviewable every 12 months) to appoint one, or a roster of 2 or 3, suppliers for each service
- Design, advertising, PR, drama, etc

Forthcoming meetings:

- Covenanters Information Days – Coleraine tomorrow
- DCAL/DCGRA accountability meeting Fri 27 February

6. Executives Report

Copies of this report were tabled.

The Board accepted this report from the Executive.

Proposed and Agreed.

11. Audit Report

Appointment of Mr Arthur Scott

The chairman thanked Mr Scott for his work over the past few weeks at the Agency.

Goldblatt McGuigan Verification of drawdown

A draft copy of the Drawdown Verification Exercise was tabled and discussed by Board Members. The Board decided to set up a meeting with Goldblatt McGuigan to clarify certain details and accelerate the report. It will be presented at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

Proposed and Agreed.

10. Grants

The Board agreed that the Grant applications would be revisited at the next Board Meeting.

Festival applications were tabled and discussed. The Board approved the Festival applications with one exception where further information was to be sought. The Board also decided to run a second tranche of Festival funding applications closing on 10th March which would be advertised on the Agency's website.

Mr McCullough and Mr Millar left the meeting at this point

7. ASM Horwath

The report was received at the previous Board Meeting. However the Board decided they needed more clarity surrounding specific job posts and the change of certain titles. The

Chief Executive and Chairman are to meet with ASM Howarth along with any other Board Members available to discuss these matters. It was also suggested that Mr Arthur Scott would comment on the report.

The topic of the Visitors Centre was also brought up, it was decided by the Board that it will not open until a business case is made for it.

Mr McCullough and Mr Millar returned to the meeting at this point.

8. Budget

Papers were tabled and discussed.

12. Staffing

The Chief Executive explained to the Board that Mr Mark Fitzsimmons was due to finish his work with the Agency mid February. He proposed they extend this to the end of March.

Proposed and Agreed.

9. Revised Financial Scheme

The board were updated on the revised financial scheme. The Board agreed to amend the policy of “up front” payment for summer schools to 30% of award.

13. AOB

Presentation on the Plantation

Dr Roulston to discuss at next Board Meeting.

Agency Organisational Days

Agency staff will be attending 26th, 27th February 2009.

Letter from the Ulster Scots Community Network

Letter was tabled and discussed and the Executive to follow up.

14. Date and venue of next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on Friday 27th March 2009 at the Agency offices.

Signed:.....

Date:.....