

**Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch
Board Meeting
30th March 2007
Ramada Hotel,
Ayr, Scotland**

Present: **Chairman;** Mr Mark Thompson
 Dr Ian Adamson
 Dr Linde Lunney
 Mr Alistair Simpson
 Mr Patrick Wall

In attendance: Mr George Patton
 Mr Michael McCullough
 Mr Jim Millar
 Mrs Vanessa Wilson

Recording Secretary: Miss Lyndsey Hanna

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman Mr Thompson welcomed the Board to the 65th meeting of the Board at the Ramada Hotel, Ayr in Scotland.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr Devenney and Mr O'Donnell.

3. Minutes of Meeting 25th January and 16th February 2007

The Board accepted the minutes of the previous meeting with some amendments.
Proposed and agreed; that the Minutes be accepted

4. Matters Arising

Letter to NSMC

NSMC have held a meeting with Sponsor Departments. To date the Agency has not been advised of any outcome.

TV Programme

Mr Millar advised the Board that he was in discussions with Deirdre Davitt from Foras na Gaeilge. Screening tests are now taking place to find a suitable presenter. Further feedback will be given at next meeting.

Archive Project

Mr Patton tabled a paper on the timeline and responsibilities of the Agency for the Archive Project. The Board approved this paper and suggested that the Executive include specific names of projects outlined.

Proposed and agreed; that The Board were in agreement with the proposals outlined.

Primary Schools

The Board and Executive discussed the issue of the Primary Schools Website. The Executive presented a number of options to the Board:

The Board were in agreement, after discussion, to hand this project over to the Ulster-Scots Academy Implementation Group, with the stipulation that the website should be live by 31st August 2007. It was recommended that CCEA should continue to be involved in alterations to the site, and that an ownership clause be included in the terms and conditions to be outlined in the handover documentation.

A copy of the original site, as prepared by Stranmillis and CCEA, is to be retained.

Proposed and agreed; that this strategy be adopted.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman listed the events that he had attended and the organisations he had been in contact with since the previous meeting:

- He met with Gerry Slater and Valerie Adams from the Public Records Office, NI about the possibility of digitizing manuscript and other sources of information about the plantation. Material might include *the Hamilton and Montgomery Manuscripts*, George Hill's *Plantation of Ulster*, Bishop George Montgomery's *Survey* and Hill's *The McDonnells of Antrim*. The Board gave approval for this project to continue and for a launch on 17th September 2007.
Proposed and agreed; that The Board were in agreement on the proposals
- Mr Thompson met with Frank Collins from the West Tyrone Historical Society after a presentation that he gave at the Society. They discussed a possible project on the historical rôle of the Campbell family.
- Mr Thompson met with the Presbyterian Historical Society in a follow up to a presentation that they had made some months earlier to the Board. The Historical Society is drawing up possible proposals for joint projects with the Agency.
- Mr Thompson has had correspondence with Richard MacMaster in America. He has recommended that Mr Thompson meet with Harold and Joyce Alexander from the Scotch Irish Society, USA to discuss work on a transatlantic project to digitize material in the USA and Northern Ireland.

6. Executive Reports

All Executive reports were tabled. The following items on Mr Patton's report were discussed.

- Item G and K – After meetings on the Belfast/Nashville links proposals for a programme to be held on 28th and 29th June 2007 were made. Mr Patton will keep the Board updated and asked that they note these dates in their diary.
- Mr Patton, representing the Ulster-Scots Agency, attended the European Framework Convention on National Minorities.
- Mr Patton, along with Dr Lunney, met with Mr McReynolds re: the development of the 1718 website. An article by Mr McReynolds has now been published in *The House Magazine* (the in-house magazine of the House of Commons) and will also appear in *Agenda NI*. Dr Lunney undertook to forward suggestions of suitable Republic of Ireland publications.

Mrs Wilson's report was tabled. Issues discussed were:

- "How to organise a Festival" seminar at Park Plaza Hotel. As a result of discussions there, Mrs Wilson had undertaken to prepare an article on Health & Safety at functions for the information of groups; it will appear on the Agency website.
- Mrs Wilson is organising a Child Protection training course for all Agency staff.
- After speaking with Glen Ross, Mrs Wilson is working with him to put together a package that may be useful for groups planning community festivals.
- The Board were informed that Mr Reaney has visited the Maiden City Festival representatives twice since September to encourage a further grant application for August 2007. The Maiden City Festival Committee will have until the end of May 2007 to submit an application to the Agency.

Mr Millar's report was tabled. Issues discussed were:

- Mr Millar is in discussion with a primary school in Dublin about hosting a performance of the Ulster-Scots Schools Drama in the republic of Ireland
- Mr Millar met with Mr Norman Houston, DETI after he visited a local Primary School to see the Schools Drama. Mr Houston was very impressed and is now sourcing funding to adapt the play to take it to the USA. Further information will follow at the next meeting.
- Mr Millar met with the Director of Musical Education from East Ayrshire Council, John Wilson. After jointly producing a presentation of the "Jolly Beggars Musical", based on the work of Robert Burns, along with schools from co. Antrim, Mr Wilson is working to develop further connections between the Agency, schools, and East Ayrshire.

7. Budget and Business Plan 2006/7

A report on the expenditure to date for 2007 was tabled. To date spend is going according to projections.

8. Presentation from RSPBA

The Board received a presentation from RSPBA representatives George Ussher and Ian Embleton

9. Grants

(1) Dunloy Accordion Band

Proposal:	£7,200 from a total of £8,000
	Project – “Commission of Musical Arrangements”. This project will produce material which will become a core part of musical performances, including concerts and recordings, and bringing the Ulster-Scots musical culture to a wide range of people.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £7,200 with a condition that the resulting musical material is made widely available.

(2) Cairncastle LOL 692 Community Cultural Group

Proposal:	£28,800
	This 4 day Ulster-Scots festival will promote the appreciation of the Ulster-Scots heritage and culture locally and further afield. The group has also applied to Larne Borough Council to cover core costs.

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved for £15,000 with £3,000 funding to be available immediately

(3) “We come from the County of Antrim”

Proposal:	£52,379 of £113,037

Proposed and agreed; that this application be approved and funding secured for the outlined eighteen months, making the stipulation that Mr Millar meet with Dr Lawrence Holden to set specific outcomes for this project.

(4) York Island Arts and Heritage Association

Proposal:	£19,675
	This programme will run for two months incorporating costume making courses, a play, and a concert with songs on Ulster-Scots themes. The Liberty Day festival will consist of bands, folk music and Scottish dancing and also a re-enactment.

Proposed and agreed; that Mrs Wilson investigate this application further, and the Executive should follow up

(5) Lost Legacy of Reivers Programme

Proposal:	£
	This programme will be aimed towards key stage 1 and key stage 2 pupils. A pilot program for 10 schools had been organised.

Proposed and agreed: that Mr Millar is to work on this project alongside Mr Mattison.

10. Corporate Plan 2008 - 2010

A working group paper was presented by the CEO. It was agreed by the Board that the Executive are to proceed with the draft of the new Corporate Plan, which is to be tabled at the next Board meeting.

11. Community Radio Station

Mr McCullough advised the Board that to date seven groups have expressed an interest in running of the community radio station. Work is continuing and the first licence has been purchased to run the station in Newtownards in June 2007.

12. Staffing

The CEO briefed the Board on the staffing situation.

13. AOB

SEUPB Project Update

All posts have now been filled. Conferences have been arranged in Armagh and Derry to showcase the planned work to be undertaken by SEUPB Development Officers. Government officials are to be invited to attend.

Robert the Bruce

Mr Patton expressed his appreciation of the Chairman’s enthusiastic work on this project.

Mrs Wilson and Mr Hanna have been finalizing details for the Bushmills Robert the Bruce Festival, which has a total budget of £50, 000. Mr Thompson informed the Board that photographer Chris Hill was photographing sites in North Antrim, particularly the famous cave, for use in the promotion of the festival.

Mr Thompson mentioned that he had been in contact with the chairman of the Robert the Bruce Commemoration Trust, who hoped to attend the dinner that evening along with the Board.

Joint Language Officer for Arts Council

This post was advertised in the Belfast Telegraph 30th March 2007.

Office Accommodation

Mr McCullough circulated the plan of the new office space for the Board’s information. The completion date for planned renovations and for the move is June 2007.

Ulster/Virginia Links/Smithsonian

www.UlsterVirginia.com

Mr Thompson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the above. It outlined potential posters and a preview of how he expected the website to look. The Board approved the work and requested that a proposal be put together by our PR on advertising costs. **Proposed and agreed;** that the Chairman should further develop the concepts outlined.

The Agency will be working in partnership with Virginia Tourism Corporation. There has also been great interest from other potential partners.

15 Date and Venue of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in Letterkenny, Co Donegal on Friday 27th April 2007

SIGNED:

DATED: