

## **SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND**

### **MINUTES**

### **CONFIDENTIAL**

#### **Fifth Meeting 2009**

Held on 1 December in the Wellington Park Hotel, 21 Malone Road,  
Belfast BT9 6RU

### **PRESENT**

In the Chair:	D Walsh
Members:	O Brown M Cowan U Duncan B Macaulay A Money Penny B McCargo D O'Connor J Rodgers P Turnbull
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness S Ogle A Sloan E Bailey L Beattie R McCormick P Donnelly W Devlin J News C McKeown

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr J D'Arcy, Ms Muldoon, and Mr A Strong.

### **2 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

- 2.1 The Chairman informed Members that a letter had been received from Mr Hugh McCaughey in which he stated that he was resigning from his membership of Council with immediate effect. Mr McCaughey advised that his work commitments in his new position were such that he could not devote the time he would like to his work with Sport Northern Ireland (SNI). He expressed thanks and best wishes to the staff of Sport Northern Ireland for all their help to him. Members expressed their regret at Mr McCaughey's resignation and recognised the commitments he had made to SNI and SINI since 2003.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of staff, put on record the outstanding contribution made by Mr McCaughey from participation to elite performance, particularly in relation to SINI.

Dr O Brown added her personal best wishes to Mr McCaughey as she had had the pleasure of being on the SINI Board with him and had learnt much from him.

Members asked that an appropriate recognition be made of Mr McCaughey's involvement with SINI as soon as possible.

Mr B McCargo said that Mr McCaughey was a very valued Member of Council and he was sorry that SINI had lost his services.

Cllr J Rodgers said that he would be badly missed but understood why he had taken the decision to resign.

- 2.2 The Chairman informed Members of recent interactions with NI Judo Federation and of a recent meeting which took place with the Chairman of that organisation. The Chairman pointed out that despite attempts to conduct the meeting in a professional manner he found NI Judo to be aggressive, confrontational and unfoundedly critical.

Members noted the background to the meeting and the abrupt way in which it ended. The Chairman said that SINI would strive to work closely with all governing bodies but that meetings should be conducted in a manner which is cordial and safe for SINI staff for whom there exists a duty of care. Members asked to be kept informed of ongoing developments regarding NI Judo Federation.

- 2.3 The Chairman informed Members that that, Mr Alan Money Penny was stepping down from the Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland Committee and Dr Olive Brown who had a background in this area had agreed to take his place.
- 2.4 The Chairman congratulated Mr John News and his wife on the recent birth of their daughter Aoife.

### 3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Fourth Meeting held on 20 October 2009 having been previously circulated, were approved.

### 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 The Director of Participation Unit informed Members that an appeal had been received from Belfast City Council in connection with Elite Facilities Programme.

### 5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### 5.1 **ILEX Letter dated 10 November 2009**

This letter from the Mayor of Derry City Council and Chairman of ILEX asks that their proposal for outline bid for designation of Derry as City of Culture in 2013 be brought to the Board's attention. Members gave their full support to the bid.

- 5.2 Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) Letter dated 17 November 2009
- This letter from the Permanent Secretary outlined new procedures regarding attendance at meetings of Council and Audit Committee.
- 6 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. Mr M Cowan declared an interest in NI Orienteering Association.
- The Chairman asked to change the running order of the agenda – item 7.7 would follow 7.1
- 7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**
- 7.1 Stadia Safety Budgets
- Members received an update on a request from DCAL to identify savings of £4m from the 2010/2011 Stadia Safety budget (Paper SNI/09/210). Members agreed with SNI's response to this request and the Places Committee request to write to DCAL detailing the financial implications for the applicants in paying outstanding design team fees.
- 7.2 Safety at Sports Grounds Legislation (Agenda Item 7.7)
- Members heard a presentation from Mr P Scott on the progress of the Safety at Sports Grounds legislation. Members heard that SNI had agreed the methodology for assessing capacity of a venue and that the Regulations would take effect from 30 December 2009.
- SNI had been requested by DCAL to issue guidance on operational matters while DCAL would issue guidance on strategic matters. SNI has been working with stakeholder groups. Assessments of grounds would be carried out by District Councils and SNI would oversee the process. SNI had provided four training seminars.
- Members congratulated Mr Scott for the progress that had been made in this area.
- 7.3 Transition of Current Monitoring Procedures (Agenda Item 7.2)
- Members considered Paper SNI/09/211 which updated Council on recent monitoring activity and the valuation of the Old Capital Programme. It sought approval to accept the Places Committee's recommendation for the transition to new monitoring procedures following the introduction of SNI's new monitoring policy.
- Members approved the recommendation.
- 7.4 Motorsport Investment (Agenda Item 7.3)
- Members considered Paper SNI/09/212 which sought approval to accept the recommendation of Places Committee to note the ring-fenced £2m investment in motorsport through the 2+4 Wheels Motorsport Steering Group.

It also sought approval to deviate from the existing SNI Security of Tenure requirements in order to meet the specific requirements of the investment.

Members noted that if SNI were to apply normal terms and conditions to all awards under the 2+4 Wheels ring fenced funding stream then a significant number of the projects (14 projects totalling £418,000) would not be able to proceed as they are unlikely to provide the necessary security of tenure. Members also noted the likely difficulties in spending the £1m this year.

Members noted that this expenditure was 'ring-fenced' for 2+4 Wheels and the Places Committee sought Council approval. Dr O Brown said that whilst we have to go along with this investment SNI does not necessarily have to agree with it and she strongly disapproved of any form of 'ring-fenced budgets.

Members requested that their views be reflected in a letter to be sent to DCAL saying that Council was largely in favour but had some concerns regarding ring-fencing and informing DCAL of the proposed deviation from normal grant management policy.

#### 7.5 Delegated Decisions (Agenda Item 7.4)

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/09/213).

#### 7.6 Participation Team Update (Agenda Item 7.5)

Members received an update on the Team's activities (Paper SNI/09/214) and noted the successful Active8 event at Cregagh Primary School which Jonathan Edwards had attended. The Chief Executive agreed to write to the Principal of the School commending him, his staff and the pupils on an excellent performance.

Members agreed that it would be very useful if more Members could attend such events.

Members congratulated the Participation Team on the amount of work undertaken by them.

#### 7.7 Active Communities Project Review (Agenda Item 7.6)

Members received three Project Review Reports for the consortia of North Down and Ards; Castlereagh and Lisburn; and Craigavon, Armagh and Banbridge (Paper SNI/09/215). Members noted that the remaining Project Review Reports will be presented to the Participation Committee and SNI Board for information and that all 11 consortia will be invited to deliver a presentation to the Participation Committee between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011.

#### 7.8 Mountain Rescue

Members received Paper SNI/09/220 which provided an update on a funding opportunity for Police Service Northern Ireland compatible radios for voluntary mountain rescue teams

Members approved the recommendation that SNI officers have delegated authority to allocate the funding to the two teams relevant to the business case, the requirements of the teams and the purchase costs of the items.

## 8 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

### 8.1 2010 Athlete Support Programme Funding

Members considered Paper SNI/09/216 and after discussion approved the recommendations:

- to prioritise investment in “World Class” and “International” athletes over “Developmental” athletes within the 2010 Athlete Support Programme (ASP);
- to approve the amended maximum funding limits from £9,000 (International Athletes) and £4,000 (Development Athletes) to £8,000 (International athletes ) and £3,000 (Developmental athletes) respectively;
- and the recommended 2010 ASP Awards contained in the Project Assessment Reports prepared by Performance Consultants.

### 8.2 Appointment of Partner for Performer Development Centre in Belfast

Members considered Paper SNI/09/217 and approved the recommendation to appoint St Mary’s University College as a preferred partner to host a pilot Performer Development Centre in Belfast.

### 8.3 Delegated Decisions – Athlete Support and Event Programmes

Members noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy (Paper SNI/09/218).

### 8.4 Recognition of Activities and Governing Bodies

Members considered Paper SNI/09/219. Members approved the recommendations made by the UK Joint Officers’ Panel and SNI staff to reject the applications for the recognition of Brazilian Ju Jitsu, New Age Kurling, Octathalon and Padel as sporting activities; and rejected an application from The Padel Federation (United Kingdom) for governing body recognition.

## 9 **CORPORATE SERVICES**

### 9.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the seven-months period to 31 October 2009 (Paper SNI/09/200) and approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL).

### 9.2 Delegated Decisions – Contracts

Members noted delegated decisions taken in accordance with Council Policy (Paper SNI/09/201).

### 9.3 Adoption of DCAL Requirements re Distribution of Council and Committee Minutes

Members considered Paper SNI/09/202.

The Paper referred to a CIPFA report which concluded that draft Council and Committee Minutes should be issued within five working days of the meeting with a copy being sent to DCAL at the same time as Board Members.

DCAL had allowed for easement of the deadline and agreed that draft Minutes be forward to them within 15 days of the meeting date.

Members agreed that with SNI having had a number of meetings and receiving legal advice, Minutes were drafted and considered following the meeting. Members noted that under Freedom of Information a draft may become a public document and they were concerned that SNI would be exposed to what was in effect a working document rather than an agreed document.

Member agreed that the Chief Executive should indicate to DCAL their level of concern and that the Director of Corporate Services Unit should obtain legal advice on SNI's position regarding the CIPFA recommendation.

The Chair of the Staffing Committee expressed that Committee's view that a letter be sent to DCAL on this issue; and that they did not think it was appropriate and were surprised at CIPFA's recommendation.

### 9.4 Business Plan 2009-10 Quarter 2 Review

Members received Paper SNI/09/203 and noted the progress made in the Business Plan Performance Review against its output targets for 2009-10.

Members noted that staff absence was low and was less than it had been last year. They heard of the serious illness of two members of staff and asked about their progress. Members agreed that the Staffing Committee should write to those members of staff with cards and flowers wishing them well in their recovery.

### 9.5 Multi-Sport Museum for Northern Ireland

Members received Paper SNI/09/204 and noted the policy position set out in the Paper on a multi-sports museum for Northern Ireland.

Members supported the contents of the paper and the position that it took. They felt that sport is a very important cultural activity and as such should be recognised within the statutory museum mechanism. This would enable the skills and competencies of NMNI to be used to promote, develop, curate and manage sporting artefacts. Members noted the need to ensure that the museum is sustainable and that funding does not draw away from active sport. Members also noted the current practice across the UK and NI is for sporting bodies to maintain their own artefacts in their own facilities the purpose of which was to add value. Members accepted the recommendations of the paper.

9.6 Report on Visit to New York/Washington

Members received a report on the Chief Executive's recent visit to New York and Washington (Paper SNI/09/205) and noted the outputs achieved from the visit.

9.7 Sport Northern Ireland Response to Department of Culture Arts and Leisure Letter

Members considered Paper SNI/09/206 which was presented by Dr John Kremer of Queen's University of Belfast. The Paper sought approval for SNI's strategic response to the letter received from DCAL on 18 September 2009 regarding an alleged incident at Galbally Pearse's GAC on 16 August 2009, together with a DCAL information request regarding the naming of clubs, grounds and competitions after deceased members of the Provisional IRA. In particular the Paper addressed policy implications arising from the correspondence.

Members heard that at a meeting with the GAA they had made it very clear that their constitution stated they were apolitical and facilities can only be used for the purposes agreed by the Central Council in Dublin. Central Council of the GAA are actively reviewing their usage policy as a result of this incident.

Members discussed the Paper at length. They noted that the Ulster Council of the GAA had been asked to carry out an investigation and report back. Members agreed to send a letter to DCAL informing them that a response is awaited from the GAA and that when that is received SNI will respond in a more complete manner.

9.8 Strategic Prioritisation of Budgets 2009-14

Members considered Paper SNI/09/207 which reported on the consolidation of exchequer and lottery resources against existing commitments and identified remaining resources for prioritisation. The Paper presented the new and emerging strategic pressure facing the organisation and the framework for prioritisation. It also presented the proposed priorities for SNI within the context of a balanced budget and highlighted the assumptions upon which the budget had been balanced and the challenges that lie ahead.

Members considered and approved the recommendations.

9.9 SNI Evaluation Policy

Members considered and approved the Sport Northern Ireland Evaluation Policy the principal aim of which is to establish a consistent approach to evaluation across SNI relevant to all programmes, projects and policies regardless of the source scale and type of investment (Paper SNI/09/208).

9.10 Council and Committee Dates for 2010

Members considered and approved the Council and Committee dates for 2010 (Paper SNI/09/2009).

9.11 Marketing – Press and Media Report

Members received an update (Paper SNI/09/199).

10        **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR ADOPTION**

10.1      Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-Eighth Meeting held on 5 May 2009.

10.2      Northern Ireland Mountain and Cave Rescue Co-ordinating Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-Second Meeting held on 27 August 2009.

11        **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no reports for information.

12        **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

13        **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

13.1      World Police and Fire Games

Members heard a report on the work proceeding through the Participation Committee. They noted that Mr Brian McCargo had been nominated by the Participation Committee to be representative for SNI on the World Police and Fire Games Steering Group.

13.2      Stadia Development

Members heard an update on Stadia development. SNI had commissioned FGS McClure Watters, Consultants who had been appointed by Central Procurement Division. This was done against a very tight timeline for completion and delivery to the Minister circa early December; but their draft report had failed to take cognisance of some issues and this was being addressed.

Work is proceeding on finalising business cases for submission to the Minister who will advance them to the Executive. Members were asked to contact the Chief Executive, the Director of Participation Unit, the Director of Corporate Services Unit or Mr J Beggs if they wished a further update on this matter.

13.3      There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their hard during 2009 and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

14        **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**



Tuesday 2 February 2010

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

House of Sport  
Upper Malone Road  
Belfast  
BT9 5LT