

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Third Meeting of Council 2007

Open Meeting held on Tuesday 5 June 2007 in The Townhall, Fermanagh District Council, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh

PRESENT

In the Chair:	E D Saunders
Members:	H Brady O Brown J Gallagher B McCargo H McCaughey A Strong
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness S Ogle A Sloan T Gorman E Bailey C Jennings R McCormick D Steele J News

No members of the public were in attendance.

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Messrs G Carson, J Campbell, C Logue, A Hamill, J Rodgers and Ms M Cusdin, Ms M Muldoon and Ms M Murphy.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

2.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Open Meeting and thanked Fermanagh District Council for providing the Council Chamber for the meeting and for their hospitality. He and the Chief Executive had met earlier with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Executive and officers of Fermanagh District Council to inform them of the work of Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) and the forthcoming Strategy for Sport.

2.2 The Chairman referred to the recent deaths of past Council Members.

Mr Jimmy Davidson (Member 2000-2003) who died on 28 April 2007.
Miss Joy Williams (Member 1982-1993) who died in April 2007.
Mr Dick McColgan (Member 1981) who died on 6 May 2007.

Members heard that letters of condolence had been sent to the families; and they stood to observe a one-minute silence as a mark of respect to the three past Members.

2.3 Council Membership

The Chairman informed Members that the Minister wished to extend the life of the current Council to 31 December 2007. The posts of Chair and Vice-Chair would be re-advertised but the original applications for Members would be carried forward into a selection process. Members would be written to individually by the Minister.

Members noted the Nolan and Cadbury principles of public life. They expressed their views on the selection and recruitment process and thought that the term should be determined in advance; and that anyone performing well and wishing to serve eight years, having served four; should not have to go through the selection and recruitment process. Members also referred to a rolling system of membership which would help to ensure that there was a continuum of expertise amongst Council Members. Members suggested that their views should be made known to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL).

2.4 The Chairman welcomed Mr Turlough Gorman to the meeting. Mr Gorman had taken up the post as Human Resources Manager following the retirement of Mrs Jenny Crooks. He also welcomed Mr Colm Jennings who was assisting in the Chief Executive's suite during the absence on sick leave of Miss Lisa Beattie.

2.5 Sport Northern Ireland

The Chief Executive reminded Members that if they had not previously received branded goods they should inform the Marketing Manager.

2.6 The Chairman informed Members that Cllr Jim Rodgers OBE had the previous evening been elected as Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast the previous evening. Members expressed their warmest congratulations.

2.7 All-Island Planning Group

The Chairman referred to the recent meetings of this group which was still meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest.

2.8 Northern Ireland Assembly

The Chairman referred to the new Assembly and the lobbying exercise undertaken by SNI.

The Marketing Manager provided an update on meetings of the Culture Arts and Leisure (CAL) Committee chaired by Barry McElduff of Sinn Fein and the submissions put to the Committee by SNI.

Members noted that SNI would have the opportunity to brief MLAs before and during meetings of the CAL Committee and suggested it would be useful if they could be provided with relevant information regarding MLAs and the CAL Committee.

3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2007, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Rt Hon P D Robinson MP MLA Minister for Finance and Personnel

Members noted letter dated 31 May 2007 which was an extremely positive letter giving hope that, when the Comprehensive Spending Review was being analysed by him, sport would get a fair hearing.

6 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had any interest to declare. Mr J Gallagher declared an interest in the Hanwood Trust Project. The Director of Corporate Services asked Members to complete the Declaration of Interest forms which had been provided.

7 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

7.1 Building Sport Programme

Members considered Paper SNI/07/76 which detailed seven Stage Two Project Assessment Reports. Members considered the attached Assessment Reports and made decisions as follows.

Ballymote Community Project - £1,275,000 - approved
Bready Cricket Club - £1,573,694 - approved

Mr J Gallagher left the room

Donaghmore and District
Community Association - £570,000 - approved
Hanwood Trust Company Ltd - £1,000,000 – approved

Mr J Gallagher returned to the room

Lisnaskea Emmetts GAC - £220,000 – approved
Seacourt Community Council - £1,000,000 – approved
St Mary's GAC Faughanvale - £235,000 – approved
Greenisland War Memorial
Sports Club - £250,000 – rejected

Mr H McCaughey joined the meeting

7.2 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults in Sport in Northern Ireland

Members considered Paper SNI/07/77. This paper proposed an organisational child protection policy for Sport Northern Ireland. It outlined the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations enabling and providing opportunities for children to participate in sport and presented the findings of the Section 75 screening process.

After discussion Members approved the draft organisational child protection policy (Appendix 1); noted the findings of Section 75 screening process (Appendix 2); and noted the proposed roles and responsibilities of the various partners involved in enabling and providing opportunities for children to participate in sport in Northern Ireland (Appendix 3).

7.3 Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland

Members received Paper SNI/07/78 and noted the appointment of a new Chair of Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland. Mr Ross Millar, Director of Leisure Services Craigavon Borough Council, had been appointed following the death in November 2006 of Mr Allister McQuoid.

7.4 Delegated Decisions

Members received Paper SCI/07/79 and noted delegated decisions that had been taken in accordance with Council policy.

8 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

8.1 Management Accounts

Members considered the Management Accounts for the one-month period to 30 April 2007 (Paper SNI/07/80) and approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.

8.2 Cheques Bearing Facsimile Signatures

Members considered Paper SNI/07/81 and approved the resolution, authority and indemnity forms, which would enable the Bank of Ireland to clear cheques bearing facsimile signature.

8.3 Marketing

8.3.1 Press and Media Report

Members received an update of recent activities in Marketing and Communication (Paper SNI/07/83).

Members offered their congratulations on the publications "Sportszone" and "Sportsline" which were excellent publications with very good coverage.

Members suggested that they could benefit from more e-mailed communications about interesting issues and also that they should have business cards.

Members sought an update on the Stadium which the Chief Executive provided. They agreed the importance of having a Stadium fit for purpose to enable Northern Ireland to have a lifetime opportunity to participate in the 2012 Olympic Games.

9 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

9.1 UK Coaching Framework

Members considered Paper SNI/07/84 which provided a background to the production to the UK Coaching Framework; outlined the implications for SNI of endorsing the Framework document; and recommended endorsement of the UK Coaching Framework (UKCF).

Members raised questions about the future of Coaching Northern Ireland. The Chief Executive updated Members on recent discussions with them.

Mr R McCormick left the meeting.

After discussion Members approved the recommendation to endorse the UKCF and support the proposed approach to taking forward coaching development in Northern Ireland as outlined; and also to produce a Targets and Resources Paper for the next Performance Committee meeting.

Mr H McCaughey left the room.

9.2 DCAL Funding for Ulster Council GAA and Ulster Branch IRFU

Members considered Paper SNI/07/85 which updated on DCAL's allocation of the ring-fenced budget to strategically develop gaelic games and rugby. And sought approval for the release of funding via a letter of offer to the Ulster Council GAA and the Ulster Branch IRFU for the 2007/08 financial year.

Members heard that the Performance Committee had noted their continuing concerns about the apparent disproportionate amount of time spent by SNI officers working with association football, gaelic football and rugby. They also referred to the considerable amount of time devoted by Members and staff on these issues without additional resources as the funding had been ring-fenced. It was noted that there was the very real potential for other sports to suffer as a result of this situation.

After discussion Members approved the release of the letters of offer to the Ulster Council GAA and the Ulster Branch IRFU.

Mr H McCaughey returned to the room.

9.3 Soccer Strategy

Members considered Paper SNI/07/86 which provided an update on the work carried out to date with the IFA in terms of capacity building for the capital element of Soccer Strategy. It also provided an overview of the proposed capital programme; a budgetary overview on spend to date and sought approval for the release of funding via a letter of offer for the 2007/08 financial year.

Members approved the recommendation to send a letter of offer to the IFA for the 2007/08 financial year.

9.4 Delegated Decisions

Members received Paper SNI/07/87 and noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy.

9.5 SINI

Members received an update (Paper SNI/07/88) and noted that outputs are now beginning to flow significantly for the investment made.

Members made some comments about the content of the Paper and amendments will be made appropriately.

Members were reminded of the success of the Hockey squad which beat Germany and which had contained eight SINI athletes.

It was agreed that good news stories from SINI should be sent to Members by e-mail.

9.6 World Rally Championship Event and Rally Ireland

Members considered Paper SNI/07/89. This provided an overview on the World Rally Championship stage to be held in Ireland in November 2007 and the promoters, Rally Ireland Management Ltd. It presented the salient points of the Business Case in support of funding the event; and presented the key findings of the Management Audit carried out on Rally Ireland Management Ltd. The Paper then sought approval for the draft funding contract to manage the funding for Rally Ireland over the remainder of the financial year.

In discussion Members noted that this would be the biggest sporting event in Ireland in 2007; with three stages in Northern Ireland including the opening super special stage at Stormont; and three in the Republic of Ireland.

Members noted that this would be a test event in 2007 with the potential to secure the event for Ireland for three years from 2009 onwards. Members also noted that the event was supported by the Secretary of State and the Department of Finance and Personnel.

The Director of Corporate Services said that prior to the meeting the Vice-Chairman had expressed concerns in terms of how costs were split but that after receiving further information he was satisfied with the explanations.

Miss Brady made a point about Rallying being a wealthy sport but noted that the rationale for this was the economic benefits to Northern Ireland and that presumably the Irish Government were also backing this. This was confirmed as the case. Also, it was noted that the event was limited in terms of Fermanagh and Tyrone rather than province wide.

Members noted the political reality of this event and approved the recommendations as follows:

The overview on the World Rally Championship stage to be held in Ireland in November 2007 and the promoters Rally Ireland Management Ltd; the salient points of the business Case in support of funding the event; the key findings of the Management Audit carried out on Rally Ireland Management Ltd; and approved the draft funding contract to manage the funding for Rally Ireland over the remainder of the financial year.

10 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR ADOPTION**

10.1 Participation Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Eighty-Sixth Meeting held on 20 March 2007.

10.2 Performance Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Second Meeting held on 22 March 2007.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

There were no reports.

12 **PUBLICATIONS**

There were no publications.

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members agreed that as there would be Special Meetings on 14 June and 10 July the next full meeting of Sport Northern Ireland would take place on Tuesday 4 September.

14

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and also Fermanagh District Council for their hospitality before and during the meeting. A reception and dinner would take place at 7.30 for 8.00 pm in the Manor House Hotel.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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