

SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND

MINUTES

CONFIDENTIAL

Second Meeting 2010

Held on Tuesday 13 April 2010 in the House of Sport, Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

PRESENT

In the Chair:	D Walsh
Members:	M Cowan U Duncan B Macaulay A Money Penny B McCargo D O'Connor J Rodgers A Strong
Observer (Department of Culture Arts and Leisure)	M Cory
Chief Executive:	E McCartan
Staff in Attendance:	N Harkness S Ogle A Sloan R McCormick P Donnelly E Bailey

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Dr O Brown, Mr J D'Arcy and Mr P Turnbull.

2 **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

2.1 The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and also Mr Mick Cory from the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) who was attending in his capacity as observer

2.2 **Budgets**

The Chairman informed Members that Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) was currently involved in consultation with DCAL regarding the 2010-2011 budget. As yet there had been no confirmation from DCAL on budget for 2010-11. Mr Cory informed the meeting that this was the case with other arms-length bodies and as soon as figures were received from the Executive DCAL would be able to confirm.

Members discussed capital issues, pre-games training camps and elite facilities programme.

2.3 Pre-Games Training Camps

Members noted SNI's five major legacy outputs of the 2012 Olympics – the establishment and delivery of a high-class sporting system, identification, confirmation and development of Paralympians and Olympians, increased participation in sport, training and holding camps and new high performance training, competition and facilities. Members noted that a paper would be provided for Council at its next meeting.

2.4 Council Membership

The Chairman informed Members that Ms Maura Muldoon had submitted her resignation as a Member of Council for personal and health reasons. Members noted that Ms Muldoon's mother had died recently and Members expressed their condolences and observed a short silence to reflect on her bereavement.

Members agreed that Ms Muldoon had been a very active and strong influence in both her first and second term in Council, particularly with her involvement in ladies football.

The Chairman put on record his personal and Members' thanks to Ms Muldoon for the contribution she had made to Council over many years. The Chief Executive also expressed the thanks of staff

Members noted that this now meant that, with the earlier resignation of Mr Hugh McCaughey, Council numbers were now 12 instead of the original 14. Members agreed that the Chairman should speak to the Permanent Secretary about the possibility of filling the vacant positions.

2.5 Events

The Chairman informed Members that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board was now responsible for major events. Mr Cory reported that NITB had given a commitment to consult with sport and arts under their tourism strategy.

The Chairman referred to the Northern Ireland Milk Cup and a reported current shortfall in budget. Members agreed that it would be unfortunate if the event ceased to take place as it brought value to the immediate area and Northern Ireland generally. Members agreed that another letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary seeking a meeting on this subject.

2.6 Protestant Community Lobby Group (PCLG)

The Chief Executive informed Members of a number of e-mails received recently from the PCLG regarding the Cliff Project in Larne in which they intimate that a fraud had taken place. Members heard that all claims had been investigated and found to be unwarranted and noted that this project had received cross-party support and that the Chief Executive had met with representatives of the PCLG in an attempt to assure them of the community benefits associated with the project in Larne. The issue is now putting stress and strain on staff.

The Chief Executive read aloud the contents of the e-mail and Members agreed that SNI had a duty of care to its staff and that further advice should be sought

from the PSNI regarding any security implications with regard to the recent correspondence.

2.7 Camogie

Members were informed that a second whistle blowing allegation had been received regarding Camogie. An investigation has been carried out and the Northern Ireland Audit Office have prepared a draft response for DCAL. Queries have been raised by a whistle blower who had contacted a Member directly.

2.8 Commonwealth Games

Members heard that the Chair and Chief Executive were to meet the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council as there was an ongoing concern that team preparations were not progressing as satisfactorily as they might. Attempts have been made to try to build a better approach in parallel with the Commonwealth Games Councils in England Scotland and Wales.

Members agreed that the concern felt by SNI should be stressed in future meetings with the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council Executive.

3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the First Meeting held on 2 February 2010, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed.

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

5 **CORRESPONDENCE**

5.1 Irish Rugby Football Union

Members noted letter dated February 2010 from Mr Declan Kidney, Irish Rugby Coach, thanking the Chief Executive for SNI's support and congratulations.

5.2 Department of Culture Arts and Leisure

Members noted letter dated 18 February 2010 which referred to the Budget for 2010-11 and the recent lobbying exercise.

5.3 Department of Culture Arts and Leisure

Members noted letter dated 11 March 2010 in which the Minister confirmed that he had requested a meeting with the Minister for Education about collaboration on delivery of sports facility provision for schools and community.

6 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chairman asked everyone individually if they had an interest to declare. The following Members declared an interest.

Mr A Money Penny - North Down Borough Council

Mr D O'Connor – North Belfast Play Forum – delegated authority paper.

7 **CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT**

7.1 Members considered the Management Accounts for the 11-month period to 26 February 2010 (Paper SNI/10/75) and approved their submission to the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure.

Members congratulated finance staff on their excellent work during the year.

7.2 Business Plan Review 2009/10 Quarter3 Review

Members noted the Business Plan Performance Reviews highlighting Sport Northern Ireland's Quarter 3 progress against key performance indicators for the period 2009/10 (Paper SNI/10/76).

7.3 Draft Business Plan 2010-11

Members considered and approved the Draft Business Plan for the period 2010-11 (Paper SNI/10/77).

The Chair thanked the Manager of the Policy Planning and Research Department and his team. He also acknowledged the input made by DCAL to the Plan.

7.4 Sport Northern Ireland Publications Scheme

Members reviewed and approved the Publications Scheme (Paper SNI/10/78)

7.5 Marketing

Members received a Press and Media Report for information (Paper SNI/10/79).

Members noted that the Tollymore National Outdoor Centre website was now live; and that the official opening of the Centre would take place in June.

7.6 Delegated Decisions - Corporate Services Unit

Members received Paper SNI/10/80 and noted decisions taken in accordance with Council policy.

8 **PARTICIPATION UNIT**

8.1 Tollymore National Outdoor Centre Provision of Bar Facility

Members received an overview of the outcomes of the business case for a proposed liquor license at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre (TNOC) and considered costs involved in the provision of a residents' bar facility (Paper

SNI/10/70).

Members noted the background and context to having such a license at Tollymore and considered a number of options. After discussion Members approved option two. Members gave SNI staff delegated authority to select the most appropriate license on the basis of legal advice. Members agreed that TNOC should promote a mature, responsible and moderate attitude to alcohol.

8.2 Capital Programme and SNI Overseeing Function

Members received an update on the various Capital Programmes and overseeing functions run by Sport Northern Ireland (Paper SNI/10/71).

8.3 Delegated Decisions – Places

Members received Paper SNI/10/72 and noted action taken in accordance with Council policy.

8.4 Participation Team

Members received an update on the work of the Participation team in the period December 2009 - March 2010 and noted key areas of work over the next three months (Paper SNI/10/73).

Members commented on the lack of progress made on the World Police and Fire Games and urged that the organisation to run the games be set up as soon as possible. Members agreed that a letter be sent to DCAL expressing their concern.

Members recognised the amount of work carried out by staff and expressed their congratulations.

8.5 Delegated Decisions

Members received Paper SNI/10/74 and noted actions taken in accordance with Council policy.

9 **PERFORMANCE UNIT**

9.1 Recognition of Activities and Governing Bodies

Members considered Paper SNI/10/65 which sought approval to reject applications to recognise Slot Car Racing and Waterfluming as sporting activities; and also to reject the application from the British Slot Car Racing Association to be the recognised governing body of slot car racing operating in the UK.

Members approved the recommendation to reject both applications.

9.2 Request for an Award Adjustment

Members considered a request for an increase to a Living Costs Award under the Athlete Support Programme (ASP) for the period April to December 2009 (Paper SNI/10/66).

Members noted the comments of the Performance Committee and approved the recommendation to increase the ASP Living Costs award by £7,777 from £1,546 to £9,323 for the period 1 April to 31 December 2009, subject to some additional information being provided.

9.3 Athlete Support Programme Performance Targets

Members received Paper SNI/10/67 and noted the achievement of agreed performance targets by athletes funded through the 2009 Athlete Support Programme.

9.4 Sport Northern Ireland Work to Protect Children and Vulnerable Adults in Sport

Members received an update on the commissioned NSPCC child protection audit of governing bodies of sport and broader advisory service to sporting organisations (Paper SNI/10/68).

9.5 Delegated Decisions – Performance

Members received Paper SNI/10/69 and noted action taken in accordance with Council policy.

Members commended the co-opted members of the Places Committee, Mr N Carr and Mr P Faithful for their input to the work of the Committee; and also to the co-opted members of the Performance Committee.

Members noted the recent death of the father of Mr P O'Sullivan of the NIAO and agreed that a letter be sent.

Members also noted the current situation regarding the preliminary review of the former Chief Executive of the IFA and agreed that it should be included in the risk register.

10 **COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR ADOPTION**

10.1 Northern Ireland Mountain and Cave Rescue Co-ordinating Committee

Member adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-Second Meeting held on 27 August 2009 and the Ninety-Third Meeting held on 12 November 2009.

10.2 Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland

Members adopted the Minutes of the Ninety-Ninth Meeting held on 10 November 2009.

10.3 Performance Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting held on 14 January 2010.

10.4 Places Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2010.

10.5 Participation Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2010.

10.6 Audit Committee

Members adopted the Minutes of the Fifty-Ninth Meeting held on 18 March 2010.

11 **COMMITTEE REPORTS - FOR INFORMATION**

There were no Committee Reports for information.

12 **PUBLICATIONS**

The following publications were made available.

12.1 Developing Children's Physical Literacy

12.2 Summary Report: A Baseline Survey of Timetabled PE in Primary Schools in Northern Ireland – 2009.

12.3 Active People, Healthy Communities

12.4 Review: Countryside Recreation Strategy

13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 1 June 2010.

14 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 Members noted that St Gall's GAA won the All-Ireland Club Championships and asked the Marketing Manager to confirm that a letter of congratulations from SNI had been sent to them.

- 14.2 The Chairman reminded Members that the Belfast City Marathon would take place on Monday 3 May and wished Mr D O'Connor, Chairman of the Marathon Committee a very successful event.
- 14.3 Members also asked that their congratulations to the Belfast Giants be recorded in the Minutes.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

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Belfast
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