



The Voice of Chief Officers of Cultural, Community and Leisure Services in Scotland

**Minutes of VOCAL Extraordinary General Meeting on
12 October 2007 at Committee Room 3, 14 City Square, Dundee**

Present: Gail Penman, Ian Hooper, Joyce McKellar, Graham Watson, Tom Shearer, Ken Graham, Merrill Smith, Charlie Raeburn, John Zimny, Gerry Fitzpatrick, Stewart Atkinson

Apologies: Neil Bruce, Susan Carragher, Blane Dodds, Jim Goodall, Richard Grieveson, John Griffiths, Steve Grimmond, Stephanie-Anne Harris, Alan Jones, Elaine Melrose, Ciaran Monaghan, Margaret O'Connor, Kathleen O'Neil, Pam Scott, Tony Thistlewaite, Alastair Wilson, Nick Russell, Richard Grierson, Rod Stone, Andy Farr, Moira Methven, Norman Atkinson

1. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

2. Motions for Changes to Constitution

The two motions previously circulated were discussed but as there were not enough members present to allow a vote it was agreed that a ballot on both motions would be undertaken. Secretary would write to all members outlining the motions and enclosing a ballot paper to allow all members to vote by post.

Action JMCK

3. Future Direction of VOCAL

Discussion followed around the following areas:-

- (i) Constitution of VOCAL - in relation to Trusts
- (ii) VOCAL representation - how do we get more people involved
- (iii) Workshop to look at forward planning

It was agreed that in order to progress the above agreement would be sought at the next meeting on the range of issues we are trying to address as an organisation. Should these be as Section 3 of constitution "disciplines".

Agreed to ask PMP to facilitate a session on future planning - a brief will be developed by VOCAL for the session to ensure we achieve our objectives and outcomes.

The meeting agreed some of the outcomes which should be achieved:-

- Ensure we engage further with other agencies
- Plan meetings around live topics or disciplines as per Item 3 of Constitution
- Ensure we are focused on high level strategic issues.

Session would need to be well advertised with reasonable lead time. Brief and date of session to be agreed at next meeting.

4. Audit Scotland Review of Sport

Secretary reported that comments on the document had been returned to Audit Scotland (enclosed) and that Irene Coll who is leading the project was keen to meet with VOCAL members. Agreed to invite her to next meeting on 2 November 2007.

5. Sport Scotland Review

The Chair reported that discussion between the Scottish Government and COSLA had taken place and that a paper will be taken to the COSLA Community Wellbeing and Safety Executive Group on 6 November 2007 outlining COSLA's view on SportsScotland. Meeting agreed it was vital VOCAL worked with COSLA on production of this paper. Meeting arranged with COSLA on 24 October 2007 at 4.00 pm. Joyce McKellar, Ian Hooper and John Zimny to attend.

Creative Scotland

The members at the meeting raised concern over this agency and its influential role. Agreed that COSLA/VOCAL should discuss and that VOCAL should arrange to meet with Creative Scotland. Agreed that Rod Stone, Graham Watson, Lorraine Grant and Margaret O'Connor would meet with Creative Scotland. Graham Watson to arrange this.

Action G W

6. Annual Conference Review

Treasurer reported that the conference had made a small profit, mainly through the increase in fees.

Expenses for speakers were lower than in previous years. Still some outstanding invoices and accounts but profit estimated at £4,000.

Venue - All agreed the venue was too large. Communication with the hotel staff had proved difficult.

Programme - Good and comprehensive but may be too many items on day one.

Conference 2008

- Agreed date 11/12 September 2008
- Venue - meeting agreed that support from the hosting local authority was vital. Both Angus and East Lothian would be willing to host if suitable accommodation can be secured.
- Tom Shearer, East Lothian Council and John Zimny, Angus Council to report back at next meeting on suitable venues in their area and confirm their local authority support for conference. Fun run to be included in programme.

7. Treasurer's Report (enclosed)

Treasurer presented his report and sought approval for payment of £50.00 fee to auditor and to Lynn Youngson for her services before, during and after conference. Both requests approved by meeting.

8. Secretary's Report

Correspondence received from HMle highlighting a new publication "Making a Difference in Scotland's Communities: A Five Year Review of Community Learning and Development in Scotland". Web publication only.

Agreed that copy be brought to meeting in November for discussion.

Action JMCK

9. AOCB

9.1 Sporta

Chair reported that he had met with Keith Jackson to discuss joint working with Sporta on areas around sport which both organisations felt a joint voice would be more powerful. Keith had agreed this would be useful.

9.2 Review of Skills

John Zimny asked that it be noted that this had been issued by the Scottish Government and that Skillsactive would be represented. John represents VOCAL on the Skillsactive Scottish and UK Forum.

9.3 Executive Members

Nominations were sought for the two remaining places on the Executive as they had not been filled at the AGM. Lorraine Grant, Aberdeenshire Council, stated her interest and was duly elected by the meeting.

10. Future Meetings

The next VOCAL Meeting will be held on 2 November 2007 at The Clydesdale Bank, 50 Lothian Road, Edinburgh at 10.30 am.