

MINUTES OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2023

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April and matters arising.

Order: Agreed.

2 St. Patrick's Festival - Richard Shakespeare

The Members raised the following issues in relation to the St. Patrick's Festival:

- Access to the unredacted report on the governance of St. Patricks Festival
- Councillor representation on the Board
- Greater recognition of Dublin City Councils role in supporting the Festival both financially as a sponsor but also the infrastructure of the City.

Richard Shakespeare responded to these issues as follows:

- The Governance report is a government document and therefore it is not within the authority of Dublin City Council to release it. A request for its release is currently with the Information Commissioner who's decision will determine if it is made available to Councillors.
- The request for additional Councillor representation on the Board will be considered at the AGM of St. Patrick's Festival. Although the Lord Mayor already sits on the Board as a special Member. The executive of Dublin City Council made a decision to withdrawn its representative due a conflict of interest.
- The Manager confirmed that Dublin City Council is a significant sponsor of the Festival, providing €398,000 in funding in 2022. The Members can have an influence on the Festival through the Memorandum of Understanding which is agreed as part of the sponsorship process. The Arts Strategic Policy Committee could provide the Members with an appropriate forum to raise issues in relation to the Festival. The Manager was happy to take on-board any recommendations from the Members in terms of what other goals they wanted to achieve through involvement in the Festival.

Order: Noted.

3 Conference Reports

Order: Conference reports noted.

4 International Relations

- a) **Annual Report**
Order: Report Noted.
- b) **Quarterly Report on International Travel & Delegations**
Order: Report Noted.

5 **Minutes from the City Hall - Newcomen Bank Sub Committee from 30th January and 17th May 2023.**

Order: Minutes Noted.

6 **Motion in the name of Councillor Mannix Flynn:**
"That this meeting of the Protocol Committee call on the Chief Executive, Mr Owen Keegan, to clarify remarks he made publicly regarding an official forging a signature on a document."

The Manager clarified that the Chief Executive made the remarks as part of an aside during a speech at an event in the Mansion House. The events referred to took place 26 years ago and the Chief Executive was not a witness to them and the individuals involved are now both deceased. The Members were satisfied with the clarification provided by the Manager.

Order: Motion not agreed.

7 **Lighting Requests for City Hall:**

Order: Lighting requests agreed.

8 **Manager's Report**

- The Manager confirmed that the sculpture on the O'Connell Plinth had been removed. The Arts Officer had contacted the OPW, IMMA and the Hugh Lane Gallery and was informed that they had no art works which would be appropriate for the display on the O'Connell Plinth.
- The Manager informed Members that Minister Simon Harris's Office had received the Protocol Committees endorsement of the introduction of EU wide legislation to combat online abuse. He thanked the Members for bringing the motion to his attention and assured them that it has been shared with the relevant legislative officials within the Department for their consideration.

9 **A.O.B.**

- Cllr. Joe Costello informed Members that Sabina Higgins on behalf of the Sean O'Casey Committee had written to Dublin City Council asking the Council to investigate the commissioning of a public monument of Sean O'Casey to recognise his contribution to Irish literature.

The Manager advised that the request would be best progressed through the Arts SPC and the Commemorations and Naming Committee.

Order: The correspondence would be circulated to Members of the Protocol Committee.

- Cllr. Alison Gilliland asked that the Manager ensure that adequate recycling facilities are in place in City Hall and also that reusable kitchenware be provided.

Order: The Manager confirmed that the issue was being addressed and that reusable plates and cutlery had been purchased. Recycling facilities were being investigated.

- Members also expressed concern at the cleanliness level of the City and the decision to no longer collect green waste from residents who maintain their local areas.

Order: Noted.

10 **Proposed date of next meeting: 29th June at 8am.**

Order: Agreed.

Councillor Deirdre Heney
Chairperson
Thursday 1 June 2023

Attendance:

Members:

Deirdre Heney (Chairperson)
Racheal Batten
Donna Cooney
Dermot Lacey
Michael Pidgeon

Members:

Anthony Connaghan
Joe Costello
Naoise Ó Muirí
Noeleen Reilly

Members:

Caroline Conroy
Mannix Flynn
Cat O'Driscoll

Officers

Ruth Dowling
Richard Shakespeare

Michael Gallagher

Fanchea Gibson

Non-Members:

Alison Gilliland