



Northern Ireland
Assembly

COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2014
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present:

Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Sean Lynch MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA
Mr John Dallat MLA
Mr Alex Easton MLA
Mr Ross Hussey MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr David McNarry MLA
Mr Cathal Ó hOisín MLA

In attendance:

Mr Paul Carlisle (Clerk to the Committee)
Mr Gavin Ervine (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Ms Tara McKee (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Alison Ferguson (Clerical Officer)

Apologies:

Mrs Brenda Hale MLA

10:03am *The meeting commenced in open session*

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairperson's Business

None.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 8th January 2014.

10:06am *Mr Dallat joined the meeting*

10:09am *Mr McNarry joined the meeting*

4. Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence received.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from Lough Foyle Ferry Company Limited regarding the future of the Lough Foyle Ferry Service. The Committee declined their request to present to the Committee as it was outside the Committee remit to support funding applications of private organisations. The Committee agreed to write to Limavady Borough Council to request a copy of their report into the subvention of Lough Foyle Ferry.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the Attorney General for Northern Ireland inviting the Chairperson to an event on Good Administration.

5. Utility Regulator Briefing: PC15 Price Control 2015 – 2021

10:10am *The following representatives joined the meeting*

Jenny Pyper – Chief Executive Officer, NI Authority for Utility Regulation
Jo Aston – Director of Water Regulation, NI Authority for Utility Regulation
John Mills – PC15 Programme Manager, NI Authority for Utility Regulation

The representatives presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

10:21am *Mr McAleer joined the meeting*

10:23am *Mr McAleer left the meeting*

10:30am *Mr Hussey left the meeting*

10:34am *Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting*

10:37am Mr Hussey re-joined the meeting

11:00am Mr Dallat left the meeting

11:06am The representatives left the meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Utility Regulator to request an breakdown of the indicative £990m capital budget for NI Water.

6. Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Briefing: Archaeological Claims Settlement

11:07am The following representatives joined the meeting

Rob Lynch – Chairperson, Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

Christina O'Regan – Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland

The representatives presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

11:08am Mr Byrne left the meeting

11:19am Mr Byrne re-joined the meeting

11:23am Mr Dallat re-joined the meeting

11:39am Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

11:45am Mr Hussey left the meeting

11:50am Mr McCarthy left the meeting

11:53am The representatives left the meeting

7. Department for Regional Development Briefing: Archaeological Claims Settlement

11:54am The following officials joined the meeting

Pat Doherty – Director of Engineering, Transport NI, DRD

Mark McPeak – Head Of Roads Service Consultancy, Transport NI, DRD

Colin Hutchinson – Strategic Road Improvement Manager, Transport NI, DRD

The officials presented to the Committee in respect of the work of the above. Following the presentation, Members put questions.

12:05pm Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting

12:22pm Mr McAleer left the meeting

12:26pm The officials left the meeting

8. Subordinate Legislation not Subject to Assembly Procedure

Members noted:

- The Waiting Restrictions (Dungannon) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

9. SR 2013/279: The Trunk Road T7 (A26 Dualling-Glarryford to A44 Drones Road Junction) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013

Agreed: That the Committee for Regional Development has considered SR 2013/279: The Trunk Road T7 (A26 Dualling-Glarryford to A44 Drones Road Junction) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013 and has no objection to the rule.

12:32pm Mr Byrne left the meeting

10. Any Other Business

Mr McNarry raised the issue of the Minister's Statement to the House on Monday 13th January 2014 and, in particular, to his response regarding the gritting of roads that morning.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request that it is kept up to date on the outcome of any review into this issue.

Mr Ó hOisín raised the issue of the joint childcare strategy being developed by Department for Regional Development and the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to both Departments to request further information on this issue.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday 22nd January 2014 at 10:00am in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

12:34pm The meeting was adjourned

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Mr Jimmy Spratt MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Regional Development
22/01/14