

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Paul Frew MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA
Mrs Joanne Dobson MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk
Ms Roisin Kelly, Bill Clerk (for agenda item 5)
Mr Mark Allen, Research Officer (for agenda item 6)
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Clerk
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor
Ms Alison Ferguson, Clerical Officer

1.32 p.m. *The meeting commenced in Open Session.*

1. Apologies

There are no apologies.

2. Chairperson's Business

There is no Chairperson's Business.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2014.

1.34 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 11 June 2014 from the Minister regarding her availability to meet informally with the Northern Ireland Livestock Auctioneers Association (NILAA) and the Committee. The Committee agreed to meet informally with both parties on 1 July 2014.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 11 June 2014 from the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the issue of illegal slaughter of cattle in Northern Ireland.

5. Reservoirs Bill – Committee Consideration of Draft Report

The following officials joined the meeting at 1.35 p.m.

David Porter, Director of Development
Kiernan Brazier, Head of Bill Team

The officials briefed the Committee, providing clarification on the proposed amendments to clause 25(2)(k). This was followed by a question and answer session.

1.37 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.

1.45 p.m. Mr Swann joined the meeting.

1.58 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.

1.59 p.m. The meeting suspended.

3.07 p.m. The meeting resumed.

The following Members were in attendance: Mr Byrne, Mr Frew, Mr Milne, Mr McAleer and Mr McMullan.

The Committee resumed its deliberation of the amendments to the risk designation clauses as put forward by Rivers Agency.

The Committee considered the question that it was content with the proposed amendments and consequential amendments to the risk designation clauses.

However, some Members expressed strong concerns that they had insufficient time to consider the implications and practical outworking of the amendments.

3.25 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.

The Committee voted on the proposed amendments to clauses 17-23 and consequential amendments.

Ayes: Mr Byrne, Mr Milne, Mr McAleer and McMullan

Noes: Mrs Dobson and Mr Frew

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider a draft paragraph to reflect the vote, for inclusion in the Committee Report, at the next meeting.

The Committee gave consideration to the draft report on the Reservoirs Bill.

3.33 p.m. Mr Swann rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Introduction to the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 11-15.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider an amendment to paragraph 16 at the next meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 17-45.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of paragraphs 46-58 until the next meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 59-69.

3.46 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.

Agreed: In its consideration of paragraph 70, the Committee agreed to request that Rivers Agency brings forward a further amendment regarding clause 25(2)(k).

3.50 p.m. Ms McIlveen rejoined the meeting.

3.56 p.m. Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 71 and 72.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider an additional paragraph to be added to paragraph 73.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed paragraphs 74-86.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Summary of Evidence at pages 92-112.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the clause by clause consideration at pages 113-124.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed Appendix 1-7 of the report and noted that Appendix 7 was to be subdivided.

6. Oral Briefing RaISe: Rural Isolation & Farmer Welfare Issues

The Assembly Research Officer joined the meeting at 4.04 p.m. and briefed the Committee on his paper on Rural Isolation and Farmer Welfare Issues.

4.20 p.m. The meeting suspended.

4.38 p.m. The meeting resumed.

The following Members were in attendance: Mr Frew, Mr Irwin, Mr Milne, Mr McAleer, Ms McIlveen and Mr McMullan.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider Terms of Reference for a review on Rural Isolation and Farmer Welfare Issues at the next meeting.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the briefing paper on a DETI stakeholder event on the Review of Agri-Food Marketing and Promotion.

7. Correspondence

- Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 9 June 2014 from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in respect of the Agri-Food Marketing Review. The Committee agreed to request an update on Going for Growth for September 2014.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the Hansard of the discussion on the Farm Business Improvement Scheme to the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence forwarded by Research Services on the Scottish Government's final decision on the implementation of CAP.

8. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 24 June 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 5.07 p.m.

Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date