



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL
AFFAIRS**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 09 JUNE 2016

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Linda Dillon MLA (Chairperson)
Ms Caoimhe Archibald MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA
Mr David Ford MLA
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA
Mr Harold McKee MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Stella McArdle (Assembly Clerk)
Miss Ciara McKay (Assistant Clerk)
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Supervisor)

Apologies: None

10.03 a.m. The meeting opened in closed session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that Agenda Item 1: Committee Protocols, be held in closed session.

1. Committee Protocols

Agreed: The Committee agreed the practicalities and approach relating to questions; and that outstanding questions which did not receive a verbal response would be forwarded to the Department for written answer, via the Clerk.

10.16 a.m. The meeting moved into public session.

2. Apologies.

There were no apologies.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Committee noted a request from Northern Ireland Rural Development Council to meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair; and that a meeting had been scheduled for Monday 13th June.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair should attend the meeting; and agreed that other interested Members who wished to attend should inform the Clerk.

4. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of 2nd June 2016 were agreed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Departmental briefing – Veterinary Service Animal Health Group Overview

10.19 a.m. The following officials from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs joined the meeting:

Mr Robert Huey, Deputy Secretary;

Ms Geraldine Fee, CAP Policy, Economics, Statistics and Animal Health;

Mr Colin Hart, Enzootic Division; and

Mr David Torrens, NIFAIS Division.

10.20 a.m. Mr Patsy McGlone joined the meeting.

The officials provided the Committee with an overview of the Veterinary Service Animal Health Group.

11.17 a.m. Mr Edwin Poots joined the meeting.

11.26 a.m. Officials left the meeting.

7. Departmental briefing – June Monitoring and Main Estimates

11.27 a.m. The following officials from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs joined the meeting:

Ms Louise Warde Hunter, Deputy Secretary;

Mr Graeme Wilkinson, Finance Director; and
Mr Roger Downey, Financial Planning Branch.

The officials provided the Committee with an update on the Main Estimates.

Agreed: Officials agreed to provide to the Committee: a written summary of the breakdown of resource and capital allocations, including income generating projects; and information on the interaction between QUB and AFBI and on Horizon 2020.

11.45 a.m. Mr Patsy McGlone left the meeting.

Agreed: Officials agreed to provide to the Committee: further information on the £0.2m for waste repatriation and clarification of the Department's legal obligations in relation to waste repatriation; and a breakdown of the income generated by Forest Service.

11.53 a.m. Mr Patsy McGlone rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: Officials agreed to provide to the Committee: further information on and the criteria for the £0.3m capital expenditure for broadband; further information on the schemes that may be allowed under the FBIS funding; an update on June Monitoring; and information on how the Department intends to finance total landings obligations faced by fishermen.

12.12 p.m. Officials left the meeting.

8. Departmental briefing – Designated Areas of Natural Constraint and Review of CAP Coupled Support

12.12 p.m. The following officials from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs joined the meeting:

Ms Rosemary Agnew, Food and Farming Group; and
Mr Mark McLean, Principal Agricultural Economist.

The officials provided the Committee with an outcome to the consultations on Designated Areas of Natural Constraint and the Review of CAP Coupled Support.

12.30 p.m. Mr Patsy McGlone left the meeting.

Mr David Ford made a declaration that the farm for which he has a shared interest came under the previous Less Favour Areas Compensatory Allowance Scheme.

12.45 p.m. Officials left the meeting.

9. S.R. 2016/190 The Seed Potatoes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

Question: “That the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has considered S.R. 2016/190 The Seed Potatoes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules report, has no objections to the Rule, put and agreed”.

10. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from NILGA regarding its flagship conference in October 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that any member who wishes to attend the conference should bring it to the attention of the Committee, for discussion and agreement.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair should request a meeting with NILGA.

The Committee noted an invitation to an event to launch Independent Day.

The Committee noted correspondence from RSPB to all Members.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Clerk should schedule a visit to RSPB in due course.

11. Forward Work Plan

Agreed: The Committee agreed changes to its Forward Work programme to summer recess.

The following Member indicated his intention to attend the Grocery Code Adjudicator Conference in London on 27th June 2016: Mr Harold McKee MLA.

The following Members indicated their intention to attend the National Ploughing Championships in County Offaly from 20th to 22nd September 2016: Ms Linda Dillon MLA (Chairperson); Ms Caoimhe Archibald MLA (Deputy Chairperson); Mr Harold McKee MLA. Mr Edwin Poots MLA and Mr Oliver McMullan MLA agreed to confirm their attendance with the Clerk.

12. Any Other Business

Apologies for the Committee meeting on 16th June 2016 were given from: Mr Edwin Poots MLA and Mr Sydney Anderson MLA.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 16th June 2016 in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

12.53 p.m. The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Linda Dillon MLA

Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

16th June 2016