



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2016

ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

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

In Attendance: Mrs Stella McArdle (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Christopher McNickle (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Oliver Bellew (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)
Miss Zoe Rogers (Bursary Student)

Apologies: Mr Maurice Bradley MLA

The meeting opened in **closed** session at **9.37 am**

1. Committee planning

The Committee considered waste management issues which may form part of its forthcoming Forward Work Programme.

9.46 a.m. Mr Patsy McGlone MLA joined the meeting

9.47 a.m. Mr Sydney Anderson MLA joined the meeting

9.51 a.m. The meeting moved to public session

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Chairperson's business

The Committee noted a tabled invitation to the 2016 Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey Results Launch at Belfast Harbour.

4. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The draft minutes of the meeting on 10th November 2016 were agreed.

5. Matters Arising

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Infrastructure in relation to a fish kill on the Carrigs River, Dundrum.

The Committee noted an update from the Department on the uptake of the Tranche 2 of the EU Milk Production Reduction Scheme.

The Committee noted the UK Government response to the Committee on Climate Change's 8th Annual Progress Report.

The Committee considered departmental responses to Committee queries arising from the meeting on 13 October.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward an extract in relation to Together: Building a United Community to the Committee for the Executive Office for information.

The Committee noted departmental responses to Committee queries arising from the meeting on 27 October.

6. Oral briefing from the Loughs Agency – Role, remit and priorities for the industry

9.53 a.m. The following officials joined the meeting:

Mr John Pollock, Chief Executive Officer, Loughs Agency

Mr John McCartney, Director of Conservation and Protection, Loughs Agency

Mr Barry Fox, Director of Agriculture and Shellfish Fisheries, Loughs Agency

9.59 a.m. Mr William Irwin MLA joined the meeting.

10.09 a.m. Mr Edwin Poots MLA joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister and to the First and deputy First Minister on the issue of delays in finalising a management agreement, for Lough Foyle, between the Foreign Commonwealth Office and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request information on what action the Minister is taking to expedite the appraisal for the replacement of MMV Ostrea.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department on the issue of income generated by the Loughs Agency and the potential reinvestment of such income.

10.30 a.m. Mr Edwin Poots MLA left the meeting.

Mr William Irwin MLA declared an interest as an active farmer.

10.49 a.m. Mr Edwin Poots MLA returned to the meeting.

10.51 a.m. The witnesses left the meeting.

7. Oral briefing from Assembly Research and Information Services – Waste Management

10.51 a.m. Ms Suzie Cave, RaISe, joined the meeting.

Ms Cave briefed the Committee on her waste management research paper.

11.02 a.m. Mr William Irwin MLA left the meeting.

11.08 a.m. Mr William Irwin MLA returned to the meeting.

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

11.19 a.m. Ms Cave left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the research paper to the Department and request that it addresses the issues raised in the paper.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission further research into hazardous waste exports from Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to commission further research into a recycling model adopted in Germany.

8. Oral evidence from DAERA – NI Waste Strategy 2015-2020

11.19 a.m. The following officials joined the meeting:

Mr John Mills, Grade 5, Director of Environmental Policy Division, DAERA

Mr Tim Irwin, Grade 6, Environmental Policy Division, DAERA

Mr Derek Williamson, Grade 6, NIEA Controls and Operations Unit, DAERA

Mr William Dukelow, Grade 7, Waste Strategy, DAERA

The officials briefed the Committee on the NI Waste Strategy for 2015-2020.

11.19 a.m. Ms Caoimhe Archibald MLA left the meeting.

11.20 a.m. Mr Patsy McGlone MLA returned to the meeting.

11.22 a.m. Mr Robin Swann MLA left the meeting.

11.24 a.m. Ms Caoimhe Archibald MLA returned to the meeting.

11.43 a.m. Mr Edwin Poots MLA left the meeting.

11.51 a.m. Mr Robin Swann MLA returned to the meeting.

11.57 a.m. Mr Patsy McGlone MLA left the meeting.

12.02 a.m. Mr Patsy McGlone MLA returned to the meeting.

12.21 a.m. Mr William Irwin MLA left the meeting.

12.26 a.m. Mr William Irwin MLA returned to the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive further information from the Department on a range of issues.

12.28 p.m. The officials left the meeting.

9. Oral evidence from DAERA – Update on 2016 Single Applications /Area Based Schemes

12.29 p.m. The following officials joined the meeting:

Mr Richard Crowe, Head of Countryside Management Unit, DAERA

Mr Mark McLean, Grade 7, Principal Agricultural Economist, Food and Farming Group, DAERA

Brian Doherty, Grade 5, EU Area Based Schemes, DAERA

Jason Foy, Area Based Schemes Organisational Development, DAERA

The officials updated the Committee on the 2016 Single Applications/Area Based Schemes.

Mr William Irwin MLA declared an interest as an active farmer.

12.44 p.m. Mr David Ford MLA left the meeting.

12.45 p.m. Mr Harold McKee MLA left the meeting.

12.49 p.m. Mr Harold McKee MLA returned to the meeting.

12.56 p.m. Mr Harold McKee MLA left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to receive further information from the Department on a range of issues.

1.08 p.m. The officials left the meeting.

10. Written briefing from DAERA – Consultation on New Metal, Wood and Paper Packaging Targets to Reduce Waste

The Committee noted a briefing paper from the Department on the Consultation on new metal, wood, and paper packaging targets to reduce waste.

11. Written briefing from the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland – Farm Safety

The Committee noted a written briefing paper from the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland in relation to farm safety.

12. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office in relation to implications, for Northern Ireland Civil Service departments, arising from the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

13. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme including correspondence from the TB Strategic Partnership Group in relation to proposed arrangements for a Committee meeting scheduled for 15 December 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the briefing session from the TB Strategic Partnership Group, scheduled for 15 December 2016, be held in closed session.

The Clerk provided an update on the Committee's forthcoming meeting at Ebrington Barracks, scheduled for 24 November, and its visit to Dublin, scheduled for 02 March 2017.

14. Any other business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a briefing from the Department on the issue of milk prices.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 24th November 2016 in Ebrington, Parliament Buildings.

1.18 p.m. The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Linda Dillon MLA

Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

24th November 2016