



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2015

BRYSON RECYCLING, MALLUSK

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Paul Girvan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Sharon Young (Clerical Officer)
Ms Suzie Cave (RAiSe – agenda item 9)

Apologies: Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10.07am.

The Chairperson welcomed Paul Girvan to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Lord Morrow thanking him for his contribution to the Committee.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to George Robinson congratulating him on receiving an MBE.

2. Chairpersons Business

The Committee noted an invitation to the Chair to attend an event to mark Ulster Wildlife's Nature Skills traineeships.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chair should attend on behalf of the Committee; and that a quote from the Chair should be provided for Ulster Wildlife's press release.

The Committee noted the programme for the Committee visit to Bryson Recycling and Ballycraigy Primary School.

Mr Maginness joined the meeting at 10.10am.

The Chairperson thanked Bryson Recycling for hosting the Committee meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with a press release that Bryson Recycling wish to issue regarding the visit.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the wording of its Committee Motion on the Climate Change Conference in Paris.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the meetings held on 10th November 2015 and 12th November 2015 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Japanese Knotweed.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to all local councils for statistics and details of the level of problem in each area as a result of Japanese Knotweed, including on private housing, NIHE property and road service property; and to the roads service and NIHE regarding this matter.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to invite Departmental officials to brief it on this matter, once the information from councils was received.

The Committee noted a response from the Department on how it measures carcinogens in the atmosphere.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the member of the public who raised this matter with the Committee.

The Committee noted a response from the Department on European Union Infraction proceedings regarding the transposition of the Water Framework Directive.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request research on pollution incidents, number of court cases/prosecutions and level of fines/sentencing levels.

The Committee noted a response from the Department providing an update on the DVA Test Centres Infrastructure Project.

5. SL1 - The draft Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee considered the draft Smoke Control Areas (Exempted Fireplaces) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Department to proceed with the proposed statutory rule.

6. SR 2015/366 The Private Water Supplies (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Question put and agreed:

“The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/366 The Private Water Supplies (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.”

7. SR 2015/369 The Nitrates Action Programme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Question put and agreed:

“The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2015/369 The Nitrates Action Programme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and, subject to the report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objection to the Rule.”

8. Environmental Better Regulation Bill – Consideration of draft report

The Committee considered the draft Committee Report on the Environmental Better Regulation Bill.

The Committee considered the Executive Summary section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Executive Summary section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Introduction section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Introduction section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Committee Approach section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Committee Approach section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Key Issues section of the Bill section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Key Issues section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered the Summary of Evidence section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Summary of Evidence section as drafted.

The Committee considered the Clause-by-Clause Consideration section of the report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with the Clause-by-Clause Consideration section of the report as drafted.

The Committee considered Appendix 1 to 5 of the draft Report.

Agreed: The Committee was content with all Appendices.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content for the Chair to approve an extract from the minutes of this meeting to be included in its report.

Agreed: The Committee ordered its report on the Environmental Regulation Bill (NIA 55/11-16) to be printed.

9. River Pollution - Briefing from RAiSe

The Committee was briefed by Ms Suzie Cave from the Assembly Research and Information Service on a paper on river pollution.

Mr Girvan made a declaration of interest that he was a founding member of the Six Mile Water Trust.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to conduct further research into: incidents of river pollution, particularly preventative measures, monitoring and raising awareness; and the model in Scotland. The Clerk agreed to bring proposals to the Committee in terms of approach and timeline.

10. Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive Sensitive Area Review.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding the performance by departments in implementing their Savings Delivery Plans.

The Committee noted a copy of correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment to the Department regarding Mineral Development Licenses.

The Committee noted the EU Matters newsletter for November 2015.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted its Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department regarding the postponement of a briefing on the Strategic Waste Management Programme.

The Committee noted that the Business Committee rules that the Committee for the Environment should consider the Scrap Metals Dealers Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue a call for evidence on the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the draft call for evidence notice, and with Friday 11th December as the deadline date for written submissions.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the list of suggested organisations to contact directly for evidence; and to write to the Committee for Justice for its views in the Bills.

12. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

13. Date, Time and Place of next meeting.

The Committee noted that its next meeting will be held at 10.00am on Thursday 26th November 2015 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11.49am.

Anna Lo, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
26 November 2015