



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2015

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Colum Eastwood MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Gary Middleton MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mrs Sandra Overend MLA
Lord Morrow MLA

In Attendance: Miss Ciara McKay (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Mark McQuade (Assistant Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)

Apologies: Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10.04am.

1. Apologies.

The apologies are noted above.

2. Chairpersons Business.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr William Irwin to the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Ian McCrea MLA thanking him for his contribution to the Committee.

The Committee noted a report on the Chair and Deputy Chair's informal meeting with Kingspan on permitted development rights for solar pv.

The Committee noted correspondence inviting members to the Northern Ireland Road Safety Awards.

The Chairperson informed Members that she had been invited to speak at the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful's Coast Care Awards.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should speak at the event on behalf of the Committee.

3. Minutes.

The minutes from the meeting held on 1st October 2015 were agreed.

4. Matters arising.

The Committee noted a response from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council regarding the use of fire prevention panels.

The Committee noted a response from Derry City and Strabane District Council regarding the use of fire prevention panels.

The Committee noted a response from the Department for Social Development, on behalf of Northern Ireland Housing Executive, regarding the use of fire prevention panels.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the responses to the Committee for Finance and Personnel and Chimcoat, who raised the issue of fire prevention panels in Building Regulations.

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding Anaerobic Digesters in a village setting.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 10.15am.

Mrs Overend joined the meeting at 10.15am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information regarding the implementation of planning policy in applications for anaerobic digesters.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to publish a written briefing from the Department responding to the Committee's Wind Energy inquiry.

The Committee deferred consideration of the Department's response on the Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order until later in the meeting when officials were present to brief the Committee on the draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations.

5. Environmental Better Regulation Bill – Written Correspondence

The Committee noted a response from the Department regarding the Environmental Better Regulation Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department outlining additional issues raised by stakeholders during the Committee Stage.

6. Draft Statutory Rule - the Draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Officials joined the meeting at 10.28am.

Mr Eastwood joined the meeting at 10.30am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Ms Julie Broadway, Local Government Policy Division, DOE

Ms Brenda Kelly, Local Government Policy Division, DOE

Ms Nicola Creagh, Local Government Policy Division, DOE

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the Draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 until 22nd October. The Committee agreed that officials should attend this briefing.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information on the proposals and amendments to the Draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

The Committee considered the Department's response to queries raised on the SL1 on the draft Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order. Officials addressed Members queries in relation to this Order.

Officials left the meeting at 11.19pm.

Mr Eastwood left the meeting at 11.19am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for further information on the policy proposal.

7. Pollution in NI Rivers - Briefing from the Freshwater Taskforce

Officials joined the meeting at 11.43am.

The Committee was briefed by:

Dr Stephen McCabe, Senior Policy Officer, NIEL

Mr John Martin, Acting Conservation Manager, RSPB

Mr Milne joined the meeting at 11.43am.

Mr Irwin made a declaration that he is a farmer.

Mr Middleton left the meeting at 12.30pm.

Officials left the meeting at 12.33pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the Freshwater Taskforce's briefing paper to the Department for a response on the issues raised.

8. Pollution in NI Rivers - Briefing from the Ulster Angling Federation.

Officials joined the meeting at 12.34pm.

The Committee was briefed by:

Mr Jim Haughey MBE, Chairman, Ulster Angling Federation Ltd

Mr Robbie Marshall, Development Officer, Ulster Angling Federation Ltd

Mr Milne left the meeting at 12.47pm.

The Chairperson, Ms Lo, left the meeting at 12.54pm. The Deputy Chairperson, Mrs Cameron, took the Chair at 12.54pm.

Officials left the meeting at 1.07pm.

Mr Irwin left the meeting at 1.07pm.

As quorum was lost, the Deputy Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.07pm

Anna Lo, MLA

Chairperson, Committee for the Environment

15 October 2015