



Committee for Infrastructure

Minutes of Proceedings

23 June 2021

Meeting Location: Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings

Present: Mr Roy Beggs MLA

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Ms Martina Anderson MLA

Mr Cathal Boylan MLA

Mrs Dolores Kelly MLA

Ms Liz Kimmins MLA

Mr Andrew Muir MLA

Mr George Robinson MLA

Apologies: Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA (Chairperson)

Mr David Hilditch MLA (Deputy-Chairperson)

In Attendance: Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assembly Clerk)

Mrs Alison Ross (Assembly Clerk)

Mr Jonathan Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)



Mr William Kinnear (Clerical Supervisor)

The meeting commenced at 10.06 am in public session.

As the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson were not in attendance the Clerk advised Members that a temporary Chairperson was required and invited nominations. Mr Cathal Boylan proposed Mr Roy Beggs. Mr George Robinson seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations.

Mr Roy Beggs assumed the role of Chairperson for the duration of the meeting.

The Committee moved to agenda item 1.

1. Apologies

As above.

2. Chairpersons Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the former Chairperson Michelle McIlveen and former Committee member Mr Keith Buchanan thanking them for their service and contribution to the Committee.



3. Draft Minutes.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 June 2021.

4. Matters Arising

Mrs Dolores Kelly joined the meeting at 10:14 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson should raise the issue of how Committee's deal with outstanding responses to Committee correspondence with the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to revise the protocol for dealing with outstanding correspondence for consideration at next week's meeting.

5. Correspondence

Copy of the Examiner for Statutory Rules Forty-Second Report of the Session 2020-2021.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

Correspondence from Mobiles UK regarding priorities for mobile connectivity in Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

Correspondence from Foyle Port congratulating the Chairperson on his appointment and offering the opportunity to visit the port.



Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and that a visit to the port had previously been scheduled in the forward work programme and will be arranged when suitable to do so.

Response from the Minister for Infrastructure to issues arising from the Committee meeting on 2 June 2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to highlight that while it welcomes the Minister for the Economy's Tourism Recovery Plan, that there remain aspects of the bus and coach industry that are not covered by the plan and to urge the Minister to revisit ways of providing support to these parts of the industry.

Correspondence from the Minister for Infrastructure regarding appointments to the Drainage Council of Northern Ireland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

6. Subordinate Legislation - SL1s - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SL1's not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SL1 - The Road Races (Armoy Motorcycle Road Race) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Road Races (Eagles Rock Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Ballyclare) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Parking and Waiting Restrictions (Ballynahinch) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SL1 - The Roads (Speed Limit) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021



- SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions (Whitehead) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposals for the Statutory Rules.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting a map detailing the work being carried out for the SL1 - The Waiting Restrictions (Whitehead) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021.

7. Subordinate Legislation - SRs - Not Subject to Assembly Proceedings

The Committee considered the following SR's not subject to any Assembly proceedings.

- SR 2021-162 The Waiting Restrictions (Draperstown) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-163 The Loading Bays on Roads (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021
- SR 2021-164 The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment No. 5) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the Statutory Rules.

8. Departmental Briefing – Review of the Planning Act

The Departmental officials joined the meeting at 10:29 am.

Mr Angus Kerr, Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning (*via Starleaf*)

Mr Alistair Beggs, Director of Strategic Planning Division (*via Starleaf*)

Ms Irene Kennedy, Assistant Director, Planning Policy Division (*via Starleaf*)

Mr Tom Mathews, SPTO (Planning Officer) (*via Starleaf*)



The Departmental officials provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andrew Muir joined the meeting at 11:06 am.

The Chairperson thanked the Departmental officials for their attendance.

The Departmental officials left the meeting at 11:37 am.

9. Briefing from Taxi Operators – Current Issues Facing the Sector

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:37 am.

Mr Eamonn Corrigan, Depot Owner, Regency Taxis (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Eamonn O'Donnell, Manager, North West Taxi Proprietors (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Stephen Anton, Communications Manager, Fonacab (*via Starleaf*)
Mr Christopher McCausland, Director, Value Cabs (*via Starleaf*)

The representatives provided the Committee with an oral briefing.

A question and answer session followed.

Mr Andrew Muir left the meeting at 12:03 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure providing a copy of the taxi operators submission for information and comment; highlighting the concerns around the shortage of taxi drivers; the need for a review of the current fare structure which was implemented in 2016; and the impact these will have on economic recovery post Covid-19.



Agreed: The Committee agreed prepare a Committee motion for debate prior to the summer recess in relation to the issues highlighted by taxi operators.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Departmental officials in relation to the issues raised by taxi operators.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure and the Department for Education regarding the issue around the use of Class C taxis for school transport.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:46 pm.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting further information on the road resurfacing contracts that have been delayed as indicated in the Ministerial statement on 15 June 2021.



12. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at 10:00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.

Mr Jonathan Buckley MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Infrastructure
30 June 2021