

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Paul Frew MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA
Ms Judith Cochrane MLA
Mrs Joanne Dobson MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA

Apologies: Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk
Ms Roisin Kelly, Bill Clerk (for agenda item 8)
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Clerk
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor
Ms Alison Ferguson, Clerical Officer

1.34 p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session.

1. Apologies

The apologies are recorded above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson expressed sympathy on behalf of the Committee to the Christie family on the tragic death of their son in a farm accident at the weekend.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write a letter of congratulations to the new President of the UFU, Mr Ian Marshall and a thank you letter to the outgoing President, Mr Harry Sinclair.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that five Members have now confirmed their attendance at the National Ploughing Championships in County Laois in September 2014; Mr Byrne, Mrs Dobson, Mr Irwin, Mr Milne and Mr McAleer.

1.35 p.m. Mr Buchanan and Mr Milne joined the meeting.

1.37 p.m. Mr Irwin joined the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2014.

4. Matters Arising

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 29 May 2014 from the Minister in respect of the proposals for the Management of Lough Neagh.

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 3 June 2014 from the Minister in respect of the co-ordinated introduction with the Republic of Ireland on the pre-notification legislation for tree imports. The Committee agreed to seek an update as soon as any decision has been reached.

5. Oral Briefing DARD: Outturn Report on the DARD 2013/14 Business Plan Targets

The following officials joined the meeting at 1.39 p.m.

Graeme Wilkinson, Assistant Secretary
Pauline Keegan, Assistant Secretary
Colin Hart, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer
Pauline Rooney, Senior Principal Officer

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

1.45 p.m. Mr Irwin left the meeting.

1.47 p.m. Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek clarification and updates on a range of issues in respect of the Business Plan.

1.52 p.m. Mr Buchanan, Mr Irwin and Ms McIlveen left the meeting.

2.10 p.m. Mr Irwin and Ms McIlveen rejoined the meeting.

2.13 p.m. Mr Swann left the meeting.

2.14 p.m. Mr Buchanan rejoined the meeting.

6. The Agricultural (Miscellaneous Revocations) Regulations 2014

Noted: The Committee noted the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Revocations) Regulations 2014.

7. The Plant Health (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: The Committee noted the Plant Health (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 and agreed that it was content with the merits of the policy.

8. Reservoirs Bill: Formal Clause by Clause

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.18 p.m.

Mr David Porter, Director of Development
Mr Kieran Brazier, head of Bill Team

The officials briefed the Committee on its proposals for amendments.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the proposals for amendments to the risk assessment process at the next meeting.

The Committee commenced its formal clause by clause consideration of the Reservoirs Bill.

2.23 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting and Mr McAleer joined the meeting.

2.31 p.m. Ms McIlveen left the meeting.

2.36 p.m. Ms Swann rejoined the meeting.

2.39 p.m. Ms Cochrane joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the letter to the Minister outlining concerns with the risk assessment process until the next meeting.

Agreed: The Committee acknowledged receipt of the amendments on risk designation but as the formal clause by clause consideration of the

Reservoirs Bill has already commenced, the Committee agreed to consider the proposed amendments at the next meeting.

2.48 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

2.53 p.m. Ms McIlveen rejoined the meeting and Mrs Dobson left the meeting.

Clause 21

Question: That the Committee is content with the amendment to clause 21(9) in connection with the regulations to make provisions for the fee for the appeal and the awarding of costs of the parties in an appeal put and agreed to.

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 21 as amended not agreed.

Clause 22

Question: That the Committee is content with the amendment to clause 22(4) in connection with two distinct rules when perhaps there should be one put and agreed.

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 22 as amended not agreed.

The Committee formally acknowledged receipt of the amendments on risk designation from the Department. Unfortunately the Committee had already started its clause by clause decision making on the bill. The Committee is therefore content to consider the amendments proposed by the Department once the Committee has had adequate time to consider the text of the proposed amendments and the impact of the amendments on what is a complex and interconnected bill.

Clause 23

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 23 put and agreed to.

Clause 24

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 24 put and agreed to.

Clause 25

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is not content with Clause 25 as amended, specifically 25(k). The Committee agreed its concerns

were around the minimum number of visits by a supervising engineer and on the lack of an upper limit of visits.

Clause 26-28

Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 26-28 put and agreed to.

Clause 29

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 29 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 30-32

Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 30-32 put and agreed to.

Clause 33

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is not content with Clause 33 as amended specifically clause 33(4)(i).

Clauses 34-35

Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 34 and 35 put and agreed to.

3.22 p.m. Ms Cochrane left the meeting.

3.27 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

3.28 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.

Clause 36

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 36 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 36A

Question: That the Committee is content with the new clause at 36A put and agreed to.

Clause 37

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 37 as amended put

and agreed to.

Clause 38-48

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 38-48 put and agreed to.

Clause 49

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 49 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 49A

Question: That the Committee is content with the new clause at 49A put and agreed to.

Clause 50

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 50 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 51-52

Question: That the Committee is content with clauses 51 and 52 put and agreed to.

Clause 53

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 53 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 54-64

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 54-64 as drafted put and agreed to.

3.31 p.m. The meeting moved into Closed Session.

3.40 p.m. Mr Irwin left the meeting.

3.43 p.m. The meeting moved into Open Session.

The following Members were present: Mr Frew, Mr Buchanan, Mrs Dobson, Ms McIlveen and Mr Swann.

3.48 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.

4.03 p.m. Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.

Clauses 65

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 65 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 66

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 66 put and agreed to.

Clause 67

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 67 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 68

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 68 put and agreed to.

Clause 69

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 69 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 70

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 70 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 71

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 71 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 71A

Question: That the Committee is content with the new clause 71A put and agreed to.

Clause 72

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 72 put and agreed to.

Clause 73

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 73 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 74

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 74 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 75-76

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 75 and 76 put and agreed to.

Clause 77

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 77 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 78

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 78 put and agreed to.

Clause 79

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 79 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 80-81

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 80 and 81 put and agreed to.

Clause 82

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 82 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 83

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 83 put and agreed to.

Clause 84

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 84 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 85

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 85 put and agreed to.

Clause 86

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 86 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 87

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 87 put and agreed to.

Clause 88-91

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 88-91 put and agreed to.

Clause 92

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 92 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 93-103

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 93-103 put and agreed to.

Clause 103A, B and C

Question: That the Committee is content with new clause 103A, B and C put and agreed to.

Clause 104-105

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 104-105 put and agreed to.

Clause 106

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 106 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 106A

Question: That the Committee is content with new cause 106A put and agreed to.

Clause 107-116

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 107-116 put and agreed to.

Clause 117

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 117 as amended put and agree to.

Clause 118

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 118 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 119

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 119 put and agreed to.

Clause 120

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 120 as amended put and agreed to.

Clause 121

Question: That the Committee is content with clause 121 put and agreed to.

Schedule 1

Question: That the Committee is content with schedule 1 put and agreed to.

Schedule 2

Question: That the Committee is content with schedule 2 as amended put and agreed to.

Schedule 3

Question: That the Committee is content with schedule 3 as amended put and agreed to.

Schedule 4

Question: That the Committee is content with schedule 4 put and agreed to.

Long Title

Question: That the Committee is content with the Long Title of the Bill put and agreed to.

9. Correspondence

- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the Central Committee Office in respect of the revised guides to the powers and operations of statutory and standing committees for Chairpersons and Members.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 3 June 2014 from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in respect of the LOCFOOD project.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the invitation from the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium to a reception on 25 June 2014.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the advance notice from the Rural Development Council advising of an event on 1 July 2014.

10. Forward Work Programme

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to move the oral briefing on the TVR project to 24 June 2014 and postpone the NIFAIS briefing to September 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme

11.AOB

There was no other business.

12.Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 17 June 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 4.11`p.m.

Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date