

## COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Paul Frew MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA  
Ms Judith Cochrane MLA  
Mrs Jo-Anne 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

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk  
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Clerk  
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor  
Ms Michelle McDowell, Clerical Officer  
Mr Mark Allen, Research Officer

*1.34 p.m. The meeting commenced in Closed Session*

#### **1. Reservoirs Bill – Key Issues**

The Committee discussed the key issues contained in the Reservoirs Bill.

*1.36 p.m. Ms Cochrane joined the meeting.*

*1.44 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.*

*1.46 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.*

*1.54 p.m. Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*

*2.00 p.m. Ms Cochrane left the meeting.*

*2.01 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed a methodology for taking forward the key issues in the Reservoirs Bill during Committee Stage.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the Minister has forwarded correspondence regarding the request from the Committee that she attends the meeting on 18 February 2018 to discuss Remote Sensing.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request that the Minister and Permanent Secretary attend the meeting on 18 February 2014 to discuss the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and other CAP Pillar 1 issues.

*2.01 p.m. The meeting moved into Open Session.*

*2.01 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.*

## **2. Apologies**

There are no apologies.

*2.02 p.m. Mr Irwin joined the meeting.*

## **3. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson advised the Committee that he and the Deputy Chairperson are meeting with a delegation from the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly on Tuesday 18 February 2014 to discuss a range of issues. The Chairperson extended an invitation to all Committee Members to attend.

## **4. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2014**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2014.

## **5. Matters arising**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 3 February 2014 from the Justice Committee and the correspondence dated 27 January 2014 from the PSNI. The Committee agreed to seek a meeting with the PSNI to discuss rural and agricultural crime.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 31 January 2014 from the Department which provides a January Monitoring Round update.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 6 February 2014 from the Department regarding issues raised at the meeting on 21 January 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 6 February 2014 from the department on the UK Government's Review of the Balance of Competences. The Committee agreed to request that the Department keeps the Committee informed of any developments in respect of this issue.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the update from the Department on Ash Dieback.

## **6. Oral Briefing RaISe: Reservoirs Bill**

The Assembly Research Officer joined the meeting at 2.05 p.m. and briefed the Committee on the Reservoirs Bill. This was followed by a question and answer session.

*2.15 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.*

*2.16 p.m. Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.*

*2.27 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

*2.35 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

## **7. Oral briefing Rivers Agency: Reservoirs Bill**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.42 p.m.

David Porter, Grade 6  
Kieran Brazier, Grade 7

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

*2.45 p.m. Mr Irwin left the meeting.*

*3.00 p.m. Ms McIlveen left the meeting.*

*3.01 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*

*3.07 p.m. Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.*

*3.31 p.m. Ms Cochrane rejoined the meeting.*

*3.35 p.m. Ms McIlveen rejoined the meeting.*  
*3.46 p.m. Mr Irwin left the meeting.*  
*3.47 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*  
*3.49 p.m. Ms Cochrane left the meeting.*  
*3.49 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*  
*4.00 p.m. Mr Buchanan left the meeting.*  
*4.11 p.m. Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.*  
*4.25 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*  
*4.30 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* Rivers Agency agreed to forward information to the Committee on a number of Reservoir Bill issues.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the motion to extend the Committee Stage of the Reservoirs Bill until 4 July 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the Delegated Powers Memorandum to the Examiner of Statutory Rules.

## **8. Oral briefing RaISe: Common Fisheries Reform**

The Assembly Research Officer joined the meeting at 4.32 p.m. and briefed the Committee on Common Fisheries Reform. This was followed by a question and answer session.

*4.37 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the Committee.*

## **9. Oral Briefing DARD: Implementing the Reforms of the Common Fisheries Policy**

Mr Paddy Campbell, Departmental Official, joined the meeting at 4.42 p.m. Mr Campbell briefed the Committee on Implementing the Reforms of the Common Fisheries Policy. This was followed by a question and answer session.

*4.43 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*  
*4.55 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*  
*4.59 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*  
*5.04 p.m. Mr McAleer and Mr Milne left the meeting.*  
*5.06 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*  
*5.07 p.m. Ms McIlveen left the meeting.*

## **10. SL1 – The Zoonoses (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that SL1 – The Zoonoses (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014 should progress to the next legislative stage.

## **11. SR 2014/1: The Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment and Support Schemes (Cross Compliance) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014.**

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR2014/1: The Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment Support Schemes (Cross Compliance) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014.

## **12. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 5 February 2014 from the Ulster Farmers Union (UFU) requesting to meet with the Committee to discuss the Common Agriculture Policy. The Committee agreed to meet with the UFU on Monday 17 February 2014.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 31 January 2014 from the Committee for Finance and Personnel in respect of its inquiry into Flexible Working in the Public Sector in NI. The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for input.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 31 January 2014 from Mrs Eve in respect of an on-going complaint with the Department regarding Single Farm Payment. The Committee agreed to write to Mrs Eve to advise her that her correspondence will be forwarded to the Department and constituency MLAs.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 27 January 2014 from the Horticulture Forum for NI in respect of the Rural Development Programme and agreed to forward it to the Department for comment.

*Noted:* The Committee noted three reports from NIFPO on fishing concerns.

- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 16 January 2014 from Briege Rogers and Gerald Flynn regarding coastal flooding and damage to property on the Ards Peninsula.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 22 January 2014 from the Ulster Arable Society advising that they launched their report “Review and Strategy for the Development of the Arable Sector in NI”.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the copied correspondence dated 4 February 2014 from Mr Murphy to the Department in respect of landowners/active farmers and Single Farm Payments entitlements.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 30 January 2014 from the OFMDFM Committee on the NI Executive European Priorities 2013-14 – Mid Year Progress Report.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 5 February 2014 from the OFMDFM Committee in respect of the Joint Ministerial Council (Europe) October 2013.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 4 February 2014 from Rural Network in respect of the latest edition of Rural Report.

### **13. Forward Work Programme**

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Culture, Arts and Leisure, Regional Development and Environment Committees to seek their input into the Reservoirs Bill.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Water Appeals Commission to give oral evidence in respect of the Reservoirs Bill.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

### **14. AOB**

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek a briefing from Rivers Agency on coastal and river flooding.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek an update from DETI and DFP on the Agri-Food Loan Scheme regarding the time for implementation.

**15. Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Monday 17 February 2014 at 12.00 p.m. in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting adjourned at 5.25 p.m.*

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Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date