

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 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

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

1. Briefing from the Bill Office on Legislative Procedures

The Committee received a briefing from the Bill Office Clerk on Legislative Procedures in respect of the Reservoirs Bill.

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

1.40 p.m. *Ms McIlveen joined the meeting.*

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

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

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

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Judith Cochrane to the Committee and advised that her Declaration of Interests has been tabled.

2. Apologies

There are no apologies.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson reminded Members that the visit to AFBI will take place on Thursday 13 February 2014 at 1.30 p.m. Members are asked to indicate if they will be attending.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2014.

5. Matters arising

.Agreed: The Committee noted the submission on Committee EU Priorities 2014 and agreed that it be forwarded to the COFMDFM for inclusion in its 2014 report on Assembly Committee EU Priorities.

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 22 January 2014 from the Department regarding a Food Standard Agency Consultation on a Proposal for a Regulation of the EU Parliament and of the Council on Official Controls and other Official Activities. The Committee agreed to request that the Department keeps the Committee informed of any developments.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 22 January 2014 from the Department in respect of the Olive Oil (Marketing Standards) Regulations 2014.

6. Oral Briefing: Nuffield Scholarship

Mr Timothy McClelland joined the meeting at 2.00 p.m.

Mr McClelland briefed the Committee on the Nuffield Scholarship. This was followed by a question and answer session.

- 2.01 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*
- 2.10 p.m. Mr McAleer re-joined the meeting.*
- 2.22 p.m. Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*
- 2.31 p.m. Mrs Dobson joined the meeting.*
- 2.35 p.m. Mr Swann left the meeting.*
- 2.40 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*
- 2.50 p.m. Mr Irwin and Ms McIlveen left the meeting.*

7. Oral Briefing DARD: Cluster Network on RDP 2014-2020

The following representatives from the Cluster Network joined the meeting at 2.51 p.m.

David Kerr, Down Rural Area Partnership LAG
Vera McWilliam, GROW, South Antrim LAG
Councillor Paul Duffy, Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas LAG
Andrew McAllister, North East Region, LAG

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

Mr Frew declared an interest as a former member of the North East Region Cluster Group.

- 3.07 p.m. Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.*
- 3.15 p.m. Ms McIlveen rejoined the meeting.*
- 3.16 p.m. Mr Swann rejoined the meeting.*
- 3.29 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.*
- 3.32 p.m. Mr Byrne rejoined the meeting.*
- 3.38 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

Mr Swann declared an interest as a member of the North East Region Cluster Group.

- 3.50 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*
- 3.57 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*
- 3.59 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*

Agreed: *The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to raise a number of issues raised by the Cluster Network.*

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek an update from the Department and the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment on the Rural Broadband Programme.

8. Correspondence

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 6 January 2014 from Mr Lambe regarding the Single Farm Payment appeal process. The Committee agree to write to Mr Lambe to advise that the Committee has no role or remit in the appeal process.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 16 January 2014 from COFMDFM regarding the Barroso Task Force Officer Progress Report.

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 21 January 2014 from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure (CAL) in respect of its Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities. The Committee agreed to forward the Rural White Paper Action Plan to the CAL Committee and to write to the Department to ask for their input also.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 18 December 2013 from the Department for Regional Development in respect of the gritting of Tirgracy Road.

Noted: The Committee noted the copied correspondence dated 19 December 2013 from the Department for Regional Development in respect of the Translink Timetable for CAFRE students.

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 23 January 2014 from the Committee for Employment and Learning in respect of its Inquiry into Post School Provision for Individuals with Learning Disabilities. The Committee agreed to request that the Committee is copied into any response that the Department may make to the Inquiry.

9. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request oral evidence from Strangford Lough Wildfowlers, Creggan Country Park and Ligonel Community Association in respect of the Reservoirs Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

4.01 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

10. AOB

There was no other business.

11. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 4 February 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 4.05 p.m.

Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date