

**COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Paul Frew MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Thomas Buchanan 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

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk  
Ms Roisin Kelly, Bill Clerk (for agenda item 5)  
Mr Sean McCann, Assistant Clerk  
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor  
Ms Alison Ferguson, Clerical Officer

*1.36p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session.*

**1. Apologies**

There are no apologies.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to hold its meeting on 1 July 2014 in the Senate Chamber and to meet informally with the NI Livestock Auctioneers on the same date in Room 30.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to request an urgent meeting to discuss CAP Pillar 1.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2014**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2014.

### **4. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 13 June 2014 from the Department on the EU Explanatory Memorandum on Fruit and Vegetable processing organisations.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 20 June 2014 from the Department on issues raised at the meeting on 3 June 2014.

### **5. Reservoirs Bill – Committee Consideration of Draft Report**

The Committee continued its consideration of the draft Committee Report on the Reservoirs Bill.

Members considered but did not register a position on the further amendment to Clause 25(2)(k) and Clause 33(4)(i).

*1.50p.m.* *Mr Milne joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 1 of the executive summary of the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 2 of the executive summary of the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 3 of the executive summary of the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 4 of the executive summary of the report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 5 of the executive summary of the report.

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 6 of the executive summary of the report subject to a line to reflect the position of the further amendment to clause 25 and clause 33.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 7 of the executive summary of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 8 of the executive summary of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 9 of the executive summary of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 10 of the executive summary of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 11 of the executive summary of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 17 of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraphs 47-53 of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee amended paragraph 54 of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee amended paragraph 55-61 of the report.
- 2.00 p.m.* *Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 74 of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 75 of the report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 79 of the report.
- Agreed:* Members agreed that, in relation to today's meeting, an unapproved version of the Minutes of Proceedings and Hansard transcript will be included in the appendices of the Report.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed that its Report on Reservoirs Bill should be laid in the Business Office and that it should be printed.

The Chairperson stated that the laying of the Report and ordering to print results in the end of the Committee stage of the Reservoirs Bill.

## **6. Oral Briefing DARD: TVR Exercise**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.08 p.m.

Kate Davey, Principal Officer  
Colin Hart, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer  
Nigel Trimble, Divisional Veterinary Officer

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

The Departmental officials issued an invitation for the Committee to visit the TVR project.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to visit the TVR project over the summer period.

*2.32p.m* *Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

*2.54p.m.* *Mr Milne left the meeting.*

*2.58p.m.* *Mr Irwin left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to amend the draft press release and have it forwarded to the Chair and Deputy Chair for agreement.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for further information on the 7½% of farmers who have refused permission for TVR to be carried out on their land and to ask if these farmers have had a herd down with TB

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask why it is carrying out the TVR research rather than one of the local universities or AFBI.

## **7. Oral Briefing DARD: Lough Neagh Cross-Departmental Working Group Report**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.17p.m.

Pauline Keegan, Assistant Secretary  
John Waddell, Deputy Principal  
Ray McClurg, Deputy Principal

- 3.20 p.m. *Mr McAleer joined the meeting.*  
3.20 p.m. *Mr McMullan left the meeting.*  
3.22 p.m. *Mr Irwin rejoined the meeting.*  
3.35 p.m. *Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*  
3.35 p.m. *Mr Byrne left the meeting.*

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to forward the Hansard of this session to the CAL, Environment, ETI and Regional Development Committees for information.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask for clarification on the caveated responses to the consultation.

3.40p.m. *Mr Byrne and Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.*

## **8. Simplification of Fishing Vessel Licensing Rules**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the intention of the Department to issue a consultation on the Simplification of Fishing Vessel Licensing Rules; and agreed that it briefs the Committee on the outcome of the consultation responses.

- 3.45 p.m. *Mr Irwin left the meeting.*  
3.45 p.m. *Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*

## **9. Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (NI) 2014**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the intention of the Department to issue a consultation on the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (NI) 2014; and agreed that it briefs the Committee on the outcome of the consultation responses.

## **10. SL1 – The Trade in Animals and Related Products (TARP) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014**

3.46 p.m. *Mr McMullan left the meeting at 3.46p.m.*

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the SL1 – The Trade in Animals and Related Products (TARP) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014 and agreed that it was content with the merits of the policy.

3.47p.m. *Mr Swann joined the meeting*

## **11. SR 2014/151: The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014**

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2014/151: The Foot and Mouth Disease (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2014 and has no objections to the rule.

## **12. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received.

*3.48 p.m. The meeting moved into closed session.*

## **13. Terms of Reference for Committee Review**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Review would include a stakeholder event in a rural location, that a debate in plenary would follow the publication of the review, that Assembly Research would be commissioned to produce research papers and that the Review is finalised by December 2014 subject to any additional and unexpected work.

*4.00 p.m. The meeting moved into open session.*

## **14. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the first meeting after summer recess will be held on 9 September.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it would hold a strategic planning meeting on 9 September 2014.

## **15. AOB**

There was no other business.

## **16. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 1 July 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting adjourned at 4.03 p.m.*

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Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date