

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 4 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 Robin Swann MLA

Apologies: Mr Oliver McMullan MLA

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

1.35 p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session

1. Apologies

The apologies are recorded above.

2. Chairperson's Business

There is no Chairperson's Business.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2014.

1.37 p.m. Ms Cochrane and Ms McIlveen joined the meeting.

4. Matters arising

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 30 January 2014 from the Department regarding issues raised at the Committee meeting on 14 January 2014. The Committee agreed to request an oral briefing with the Minister and Permanent Secretary on the issue of Remote Sensing.

5. Rural Support Networks: Oral Briefing

The following representatives from Rural Support Networks joined the meeting at 1.40 p.m.

Wendy Kerr, South Antrim Community Network
Conor Corr, Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network
Nicholas McCrickard, Down Rural Community Network
Christopher Spence, Fermanagh Rural Community Network

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

1.45 p.m. Mr Irwin joined the meeting.

1.47 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.

1.57 p.m. Ms Cochrane and Ms McIlveen left the meeting.

1.59 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.

2.01 p.m. Mr Swann left the meeting.

2.10 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.

2.15 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to commend the work of the Rural Support Networks.

6. Update on the development of RDP 2014-2020: Oral briefing DARD

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.25 p.m.

Colette McMaster, Grade 5
Lorraine Lynas, Grade 7

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

2.28 p.m. Mr Swann rejoined the meeting.
2.29 p.m. Mr Buchanan left the meeting.
2.33 p.m. Mr Buchanan and Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.
2.43 p.m. Mr Irwin left the meeting.
2.52 p.m. Mr Irwin and Ms McIlveen rejoined the meeting.

Mr Irwin declared an interest as a farmer.

3.05 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.
3.06 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.
3.22 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.
3.25 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.
3.29 p.m. Ms McIlveen left the meeting.

3.30 p.m. The meeting suspended.

4.05 p.m. The meeting resumed with the following Members present: Mr Frew, Mr Byrne, Mr Buchanan, Mrs Dobson and Mr Milne.

7. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 23 January 2014 from the Committee for Finance and Personnel regarding Departmental Savings Plans.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 24 January 2014 from the ETI Committee which contains an invitation to a Community Energy Stakeholder Event on 18 February 2014.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 29 January 2014 from the Department regarding the publication of the DARD Enforcement Policy.

Noted: The Committee noted the DARD Investment Strategy Report for January 2014.

8. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft Press Release in respect of the forthcoming visit to AFBI on 13 February 2014.

Noted: The Committee noted the draft programmed for the visit to AFBI.

Noted: The Committee noted the costs associate with the signposting advertisement for the Reservoirs Bill.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 11 February 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 4.07 p.m.

Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date