

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2014
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Apologies: Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

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

1.03 p.m. The meeting commenced in Closed Session.

1. Committee Review on Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion

The Committee discussed the Terms of Reference for the Review on Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion.

1.04 p.m. Ms Cochrane joined the meeting.

1.07 p.m. Ms Cochrane left the meeting.

1.08 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.

1.12 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee amended the Terms of Reference for the Review on Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion.

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

2. Apologies

The apologies are recorded above.

3. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised Members that the visit to Scotland will take place on 22/23 October 2014 and asked Members to indicate their intention to take part or otherwise.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2014.

5. Matters Arising

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department dated 5 August 2014 in respect of the Foyle Area (Complimentary Angling Permit) (River Finn and River Foyle) Regulations 2014.

6. SR 2014/184: The Animal By Products (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2014/184: The Animal By Products (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, and has no objections to the rule.

1.21 p.m. Ms Cochrane rejoined the meeting.

7. SR 2014/196: The Trade in Animals and Related Products (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2014/196: The Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objections to the rule.

8. SR 2014/209: The Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2014/209: The Sea Fishing (Licences and Notices) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to comment from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objections to the rule.

9. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Ulster Farmers' Union dated 8 September 2014 in respect of an invitation to a Rural Crime Conference on 4 November 2014.

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Northern Ireland Retail Consortium (NIRC) in respect of a request to brief the Committee on its paper "Retail and Agri-Food in Northern Ireland: Investing in our futures". The Committee agreed to arrange an informal meeting with NIRC and request a written briefing on their paper.

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence from the RSPB dated 15 September requesting to brief the Committee. The Committee agreed to seek a written brief from RSPB and schedule a briefing at a future date.

10. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consideration agenda item 14 next.

11. AOB

There was no other business.

1.30 p.m. The meeting suspended

1.38 p.m. The meeting resumed.

The following Members were in attendance: Ms Cochrane, Mrs Dobson, Mr Elliott, Mr Frew, Mr Irwin, Mr Milne, Mr McAleer, Ms McIlveen and Mr McMullan.

12. Ministerial Briefing

The Minister, Ms Michelle O'Neill MLA and the following officials joined the meeting at 1.40 p.m.

Noel Lavery, Permanent Secretary
Gerry Lavery, Deputy Secretary
Louise Warde Hunter, Deputy Secretary

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

1.41 p.m. Mr Buchanan rejoined the meeting.

1.57 p.m. Ms Cochrane and Mr Elliott left the meeting.

Mrs Dobson declared an interest that her husband is a beef farmer.

2.18 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.

2.24 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.

2.25 p.m. Mr Elliott rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request that information on the Fisheries Taskforce is shared with the Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request the overall administration figure for the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consideration agenda item 14 next.

13. Racing Industry in Northern Ireland

The following representatives from the Northern Ireland Racing Group joined the meeting at 2.40 p.m.

James Nicholson, Down Royal Racecourse
Mike Todd, Down Royal Racecourse
Peter Stewart, Downpatrick Racecourse
Richard Lyttle, Downpatrick Racecourse

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

2.46 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.

2.52 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.

2.59 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

3.00 p.m. Ms Cochrane rejoined the meeting.

3.07 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.

3.08 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask what role the Department has played in facilitating the Northern Ireland Racing Group with its issue of funding from bookmakers.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Turf Guardians Association to ask if they intend to meet with the Northern Ireland Racing Group to discuss the issue of funding.

14. DARD Briefing: CAP Pillar 1

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.18 p.m.

Norman Fulton, Director of Policy and Economics Division

Mark McLean, Head of CAP Reform Branch

Rosemary Agnew, Head of Policy Development Branch

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

3.18 p.m. Ms Cochrane left the meeting.

3.20 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.

3.30 p.m. Ms McIlveen left the meeting.

3.34 p.m. Mr Elliott left the meeting.

3.37 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

3.56 p.m. Mr Elliott rejoined the meeting.

3.57 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.

Mr Irwin declared an interest that he is a farmer.

15. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 30 September 2014 at 1.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 4.08 p.m.

William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date