

## COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2014  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA  
Mrs Joanne Dobson MLA  
Mr Tom Elliott MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

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

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

#### **1. Apologies**

There are no apologies.

*1.35 p.m. Mrs Dobson joined the meeting.*

#### **2. Oral briefing DARD: Going for Growth**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 1.35 p.m.

Tony O'Neill, Chairperson of Agri-Food Strategy Board  
Colette McMaster, Assistant Secretary  
Dan Cartland, Deputy Principal

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

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

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

*1.55 p.m. Mr Anderson and Mr McCarthy left the meeting.*

*1.57 p.m. Mr Anderson rejoined the meeting.*

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

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

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

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

The Chairperson advised the Committee that he had met with the Minister this morning following his appointment as Chairperson of the Committee.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that he will be meeting with the Permanent Secretary and his officials on Wednesday 15 October 2014.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that an informal meeting had been held this morning with Farmers for Action and that a note of the discussion will be included in next week's meeting pack for discussion.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that a visit pack for the NI Ploughing Championships has been distributed to those Members who have agreed to attend.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the venue for the stakeholder event as part of the Committee review on Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion has been changed to Greenmount College.

The Chairperson advised the Committee that he has agreed to speak at a seminar in London on 11 December 2014 on CAP. Any Member wishing to attend the seminar is advised to inform the clerk.

### **4. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2014**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2014 subject to one amendment regarding a letter to issue to the Permanent Secretary.

## **5. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 6 October 2014 from the Department in respect of issues raised at the meeting on 3 June 2014.

## **6. RSPB Briefing: Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**

The following representatives of the RSPB joined the meeting at 2.28 p.m.

Anne-Marie McDevitt, Conservation Manager  
John Martin, Senior Conservation Manager  
Colum Delaney, Policy Advocacy Officer

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

*2.29 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*  
*2.34 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*  
*2.37 p.m. Mr Elliott left the meeting.*  
*2.43 p.m. Mr Elliott rejoined the meeting.*  
*2.48 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*  
*2.53 p.m. Mr Elliott left the meeting.*  
*3.03 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the RSPB to request the briefing on the badger population in Northern Ireland.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the RSPB to request an update on the Bulrush issue.

## **7. Oral briefing DARD: Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.10 p.m.

Colette McMaster, Assistant Secretary  
Lorraine Lynas, Principal Officer  
Brian Ervine, Principal Office

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

*Mr Irwin declared an interest that he is a farmer.*

*3.35 p.m. Mr McCarthy rejoined the meeting.*

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

*3.42 p.m. Mr McCarthy left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ascertain what the interaction is between councils and LAGS in the completion of community plans for the rural development process.

*3.43 p.m. The meeting suspended.*

*3.59 p.m. The meeting resumed.*

*The following Members were in attendance: Mr Anderson, Mr Buchanan, Mrs Dobson, Mr Irwin, Mr McCarthy, Mr McMullan and Mr Poots.*

## **8. Correspondence**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 9 October 2014 from the Department in respect of the appointment of members to the TB Strategic Partnership Group.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 9 October 2014 from the Committee for Finance and Personnel in respect of its Terms of Reference for the Review of the Operation of the Barnett Formula.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the informal meeting with the NI Retail Consortium on Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 12.00 p.m. in Room 30.

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

## **10.AOB**

There is 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 21 October 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*The meeting adjourned at 4.02 p.m.*

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William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date