

## COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr Tom Buchanan MLA  
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Tom Elliott MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots 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 Dagmar Walgraeve, Clerical Officer  
Mr Mark Allen, Research Officer (Agenda item 11)

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

#### **1. Oral briefing DARD: TB Update Annual Plan, TVR and Committee Inquiry Recommendations**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 1.10 p.m.

Geraldine Fee, Animal Health and Welfare Assistant Secretary  
Colin Hart, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer  
Roly Harwood, Senior Principal Veterinary Officer  
Andrew Kell, Acting Grade 7

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

*1.17 p.m. Mr Poots joined the meeting.*

*1.22 p.m. Mr Anderson joined the meeting.*

*Mr Irwin declared an interest that his herd has tested positive for TB.*

*1.56 p.m. Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.*

*1.57 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.*

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

*1.59 p.m. The meeting suspended.*

*2.45 p.m. The meeting resumed with the following Members present: Mr Anderson, Mr Byrne, Mr Irwin, Mr Milne and Mr McAleer.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request the parameters for the next set of figures the Department will produce for TB incidence.

## **2. Apologies**

The apologies are noted above.

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

The Chairperson advised that Committee that he had accepted an invitation from the Community Development Support Service to speak at its event on 12 February 2015.

## **4. Minutes of the meeting held 27 January 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015.

## **5. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the supplementary information on the Republic of Ireland Dairy Market research paper.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 28 January 2015 from the Department in respect of issues raised at the Committee meeting on 13 January 2015.

## **6. Correspondence**

- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 26 January 2015 from the ETI Committee on the Rural Road Fuel Rebate Scheme.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 23 January 2015 from the ETI Committee on its Inquiry to consider the potential for economic growth and job creation following reduction in corporation tax in Northern Ireland.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 22 January 2015 from the Department advising that the Food from Britain Annual Reports and Accounts 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 is now available.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the invitation from the Committee for OFMDFM to a seminar on 9 February 2015 on Building a United Community – Shared Space Design and Delivery.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the invitation from the Institute for Global Food and Security to its annual lecture on 5 February 2015 the Riddell Hall, Queen's University, Belfast.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the Activity Investment Strategy for January 2015.

## **7. Oral Briefing DARD: Update on the Second Annual Progress Report on the Rural White Paper**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.51 p.m.

Colette McMaster, Assistant Secretary  
Niall Heaney, Principal Officer

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

- 3.14 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*  
*3.19 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.*  
*3.19 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.*  
*3.29 p.m. Mr Anderson left the meeting.*

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to seek clarification from the Department in respect of the 2016 funding for the MARA programme.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing with the TB Strategic Partnership Group on 3 March 2015.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing with Professor Elliott on 10 March 2015.
- Noted:* The Committee noted that the briefing on the Farm Business Improvement Scheme, originally scheduled for 10 February 2015, has now been deferred until 3 March 2015 at the request of the Department.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a visit to the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine in September 2015.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a visit to the Grocery Code Adjudicator and sponsoring Minister in Westminster, in autumn 2015.
- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft Forward Work Programme

## **9. AOB**

There was no other business.

## **10. Date, time and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 10 February 2015 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

## **11. RaISe Briefing on Food Animal Traceability Systems**

The Assembly Research Officer joined the meeting at 3.35 p.m. and briefed the Committee on Food Animal Traceability Systems.

This was followed by a question and answer session.

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

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request further research on transition between such systems.

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

## **12. Oral briefing DARD: NIFAIS**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.51 p.m.

Robert Huey, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer  
David Torrens, Deputy Veterinary Officer

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

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that the information received in the written and oral briefing is restricted due to commercial sensitivity.

*3.58 p.m. Mr Anderson left the meeting.*  
*4.18 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*  
*4.44 p.m. Mr Poots rejoined the meeting.*  
*4.46 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.*

## **13. Committee Review - TRPSI**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the TRPSI position paper subject to amendments at paragraphs 45 and 66.

*5.13 p.m. The meeting adjourned.*

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William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date