

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 20 JANUARY 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 Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

Apologies: Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA

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

1.33 p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session.

1. Apologies

The apologies are noted above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the budget briefing with the Minister scheduled for today's meeting has been postponed until 27 January 2015.

Agreed: The Committee noted the details of the informal meeting with John Dallat on 12 January 2015. The Committee agreed to write to the PSNI to seek an update on the case discussed at the informal meeting.

Noted: The Committee noted the details of the informal meeting with Rural Community Development Support Service on 13 January 2015.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 13 January 2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015.

4. Matters Arising

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 14 January 2015 from the Department on issues raised at the Committee meeting on 2 December 2014.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 7 January 2015 from the Department which provides an update on avian flu.

Noted: The Committee noted the emailed correspondence dated 6 January 2015 from Ulster Bank in respect of the NI dairy industry.

5. Oral Briefing DARD: Public Consultation on Proposed Rural Proofing Bill

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

Louise Warde Hunter, Deputy Secretary
Colette McMaster, Grade 5
Astrid Stuart, Grade 7

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

1.40 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.

1.42 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.

1.55 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

1.57 p.m. Mr Buchanan left the meeting.

2.00 p.m. Mr Buchanan rejoined the meeting.

2.03 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

2.10 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.

2.13 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.

2.22 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.

2.31 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a detailed analysis from the Department of the consultation responses.

6. Oral Briefing DARD: Consultation on draft flood risk management plans

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.32 p.m.

Jonathan McKee, Grade 6
David Porter, Grade 6

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

2.43 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.

2.50 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.

2.53 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a detailed analysis from the Department of the consultation responses.

7. Oral briefing DARD: The Transitional Payment of Disadvantaged Area Scheme

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.56 p.m.

Norman Fulton, Grade 5
Rosemary Agnew, Grade 7

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

3.02 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.

3.04 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.

3.05 p.m. Mr Elliott joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that regulations should move to the next legislative stage.

8. Written Briefing DARD: SL1 Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (LFACA) 2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed to seek further clarification on this issue for the meeting next week.

3.10 p.m. Mr McAleer and Mr Poots left the meeting.

9. Committee Memorandum: The Public Bodies (Abolition of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides) Order 2015

Agreed: The Committee noted the Memorandum: The Public Bodies (Abolition of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides) Order 2015; and agreed to circulate it to all MLAs and publish on the Committee website in advance of the debate.

10. Correspondence

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 14 January 2015 from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment on the Agri-Food Loan Scheme. The Committee agreed to advise the ETI Committee that a briefing on the Poultry Litter Project has been scheduled for 24 March 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 14 January 2015 from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment on the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy.

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 4 December 2014 from the Finance and Personnel Committee on Monitoring – Post project Evaluations as at 30 September 2014.

11. Forward Work Programme

Noted: The Committee noted the informal meeting with the Committee for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 27 January 2015 at 12.00 p.m.

Noted: The Committee noted the informal presentation on Remote Sensing scheduled for 17 February 2015 at 1.30 p.m.

Noted: The Committee noted the date for the sheep open day at the Grange on 20 June 2015. Members are advised to inform the clerk if they wish to attend.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft Forward Work Programme.

12.AOB

There was no other business.

13.Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

3.12 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date