

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 19 MAY 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 Ian Milne MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA
- Apologies: Mr Tom Elliott MP 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)
Ms Barbara Love, Research Officer (agenda item 11)

1.35 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 Committee Twitter account has now been set up and tweets will issue on behalf of the Committee.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2015

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meetings held on 12 May 2015.

4. Matters Arising

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 11 May 2015 from the Department in respect of issues raised at the Committee meeting on 21 April 2015.

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence from the UFU on Cross Compliance and agreed to forward it to the Department in advance of its briefing on the same issue on 26 May 2015.

5. Oral Briefing National Sheep Association

The following representatives joined the meeting at 1.37 p.m.

John Blaney, NI Regional Chairman
Campbell Tweed, Vice Chairman
Brian Jamison

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

1.39 p.m. Mr Anderson joined the meeting.

1.47 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.

1.48 p.m. Mr Poots joined the meeting.

1.56 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.

Mr Poots proposed that the Committee write to Commissioner Hogan, the Minister, Minister Coveney, the Committee for Agriculture, Food and Marine and DEFRA to express concerns regarding the EU labelling rules.

Mr Anderson seconded the proposal.

Mr Anderson, Mr Buchanan, Mr Irwin and Mr Poots were in favour of the proposal.

Mr McMullan proposed that the Committee seek an urgent meeting with Minister Coveney on the EU labelling rules.

Mr Milne, Mr McCarthy and Mr McMullan were in favour of the proposal.

Mr Poots proposal was carried.

6. Oral Briefing DARD: Rural Proofing Bill

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.18 p.m.

Louise Warde Hunter – Grade 3, Deputy Secretary
Colette McMaster, Grade 5, Assistant Secretary
Astrid Stuart, Grade 7, Principal Officer

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

2.18 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

2.20 p.m. Mr Poots left the meeting.

2.22 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.

2.47 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.

3.06 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

3.07 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

7. Written Briefing DARD: Pre-Consultation The Seed Marketing Regulations

Agreed: The Committee noted the Pre-Consultation on the Seeds Marketing Regulations and agreed that the Department should return to the Committee with an analysis of the consultation responses.

8. Written Briefing DARD: SL1 The Brucellosis Control (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015

Agreed: The Committee noted the written briefing on SL1: The Brucellosis Control (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015 and agreed that it was content that the regulations should move to the next legislative stage.

9. Written Briefing DARD: SL1 The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 2015

Agreed: The Committee noted the written briefing on SL1 The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) Regulations (NI) 2015 and agreed that it was content that the regulations move to the next legislative stage.

10. The Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Ad Hoc Committee on its Bill.

11. Inquiry into Better Regulation: Terms of Reference and Survey

Assembly Researchers joined the meeting at 3.13 p.m. and briefed the Committee on the draft on-line survey in respect of the Committee Inquiry on Better Regulation.

3.23 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee discussed the draft on-line survey and agreed an amendment to question 8.

12. Forward Work Programme

The following Members confirmed their attendance at the Community Connect Breakfast Event in Cookstown followed by a Committee meeting; Mr Buchanan, Mr Byrne, Mr Irwin, Mr Milne and Mr McAleer.

Agreed: The Committee considered an invitation by Dunbia to visit their premises; the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the visit until the next session.

Agreed: The Committee considered an invitation from ANIFPO to visit the port at Kilkeel; the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the visit until the next session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to accept an invitation from AFBI Loughgall to visit its offices; the Committee agreed to schedule the visit for a Thursday in June 2015.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to defer a visit to Brussels until Autumn 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted the additional evidence sessions on Workforce Restructuring, Cattle ID and Ministerial briefing on 2015/16 targets.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft Forward Work programme.

13. AOB

There was no other business.

14. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 26 May 2015 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

3.36 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Date