

## COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 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  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

Apologies: Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Tom Elliott MLA

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

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

#### **1. Apologies**

The apologies are noted above.

#### **2. Chairperson's Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the current position in respect of the Consideration Stage of the Reservoir's Bill scheduled for 28 April 2015. Members were advised to advise the clerk by Monday 27 April 2015 which group of amendments they wish to speak to.

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

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meetings held on 14 April 2015.

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

### **4. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 9 April 2015 from the Department in respect of issues raised at the meeting on 24 March 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 26 February 2015 from the UFU on Cross Compliance; the Committee agreed to request a briefing from the UFU on this issue.

*Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence dated 23 March 2015 from Dunbia on the NI/GB Growing Pig Price Differential.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the update from the Department in respect of Chalara Ash dieback; the Committee agreed to request a further current update.

### **5. Oral Briefing DARD: Fisheries Bill**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 1.56 p.m.

John Terrington, Principal Officer  
Kenny Parker, Deputy Principal  
Paddy Campbell, Deputy Principal  
Mark McCaughan, Chief Fisheries Officer

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

*1.58 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*

*2.00 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.*

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

*2.10 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.*

*2.18 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*

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

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

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would meet with the Chairperson of the CAL Committee to discuss the overlap of business which the Fisheries Bill will bring.

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

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.42 p.m.

Colette McMaster, Assistant Secretary  
Lorraine Lynas, Principal Officer  
Brian Ervine, Principal Officer  
Gareth Evans, Principal Officer

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

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

## **7. Correspondence**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the copied correspondence dated 8 April 2015 from the UFU to the Minister on the definition of rural areas; the Committee agreed to request that it is copied into the response from the Minister to the UFU.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the report forwarded by the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine on Managing Market Volatility in the Dairy Industry.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the copied correspondence from Departmental Solicitor's Office to An Creagan and its response in respect of an ongoing issue of funding.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the preliminary details of a visit to Brussels to meet with the EU Commissioner and agreed to give further consideration to this once a date and programme have been agreed.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the date of the joint meeting with the ETI Committee to receive a briefing on Going for Growth as 9 June 2015.

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

*3.05 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*

### **9. Any other business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Secretary of State to express concern and ask for an explanation for a recent incident involving a fishing trawler and a submarine off the coast of the Isle of Man.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister regarding the issue of country of origin labelling and the impact this is having on the lamb industry. The Committee also agreed to seek a briefing from the Sheep Association in respect of this.

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

*3.16 p.m. Mr Byrne rejoined the meeting.*

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

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Minister to raise concerns regarding a number of issues which were recently highlighted in a BBC programme in respect of puppy farms.

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

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*3.20 p.m. The meeting adjourned.*

-----  
William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

-----  
Date

