

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

- Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Seán Rogers MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
- Apologies: Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Edwin Poots MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA
- In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk
Ms Lynda Conlon, Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor
Ms Marion Johnson, Clerical Officer

1.33 p.m. *The meeting commenced in Closed Session*

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

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

1.40 p.m. *Mr McCrea joined the meeting.*

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

1.46 p.m. *The meeting moved into Open Session.*

1. Apologies

The apologies are recorded above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee that a visit to view the sluice gates in Toome will be organised for the afternoon of Thursday 18 February 2016.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2016.

4. Matters Arising

Agreed: The Committee noted the Ninth Report of the Examiner of Statutory Rules and agreed to forward his comments on S.R. 2015/408 The Common Agricultural Policy (Review of SCMO Decisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to the Department for a written response.

5. Fisheries Bill – Consideration of the Draft Report and Order to Print

The Committee gave consideration to the draft report on the Fisheries Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Introduction to the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 18-20.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 21-41.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 42-50.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the clause by clause consideration.

Agreed: The Committee agreed Appendix 1-6 of the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Executive Summary of the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that, in relation to the meeting of 02 February 2016, an unapproved version of the Minutes of Proceedings will be included in the appendices of the Report.

Question put and agreed: That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development orders the Fisheries Bill Report (NIA 285/11-16) to be printed.

6. Oral Briefing Institute for Global Food Security: Food Information Systems

The following representative joined the meeting at 1.58 p.m.

Professor Chris Elliot, Director, Institute for Global Food Security

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

2.03 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.

2.03 p.m. Mr Anderson left the meeting.

2.24 p.m. The representative left the meeting.

7. Oral Briefing DARD: Northern Ireland Food Animal Information System (NIFAIS)

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.25 p.m.

David Torrens, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer
Gary Corscadden, Veterinary Service

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

2.31 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

2.34 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

2.37 p.m. Mr Anderson rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: That an update on the revised resource and capital budget would be provided to the Committee in due course.

2.47 p.m. The officials left the meeting.

2.47 p.m. The meeting suspended.

3.38 p.m. The meeting recommenced with the following Members in attendance: Mr Irwin; Mr Anderson; Mr McCarthy; Mr McCrea; and Mr McMullan.

8. Oral Briefing DARD: Flooding

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from members of the public offering to provide evidence on their personal experience of recent flooding incidents and agreed to forward them to the Minister requesting that she respond to them directly.

Agreed: The Committee noted that the extension of the emergency payment scheme to businesses will require Executive approval and agreed that it is content to wait until after the next Executive meeting on 10 February 2016 for a further update on this issue.

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 3.41 p.m.

David Porter, Chief Executive, Rivers Agency
Jonathan McKee, Rivers Agency

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

3.45 p.m. Mr Rogers rejoined the meeting.

4.11 p.m. Mr Rogers left the meeting.

4.12 p.m. The officials left the meeting.

9. Correspondence

Agreed: The Committee noted a request for comment on the draft Transfer of Functions Order from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and agreed to respond that it had no issues with the Order.

Noted: The Committee noted the most recent issue of 'EU Matters'.

Noted: The Committee noted correspondence from Tesco, dated 26 January 2016, responding to the Grocery Code Adjudicator's report into the practice of deferring payments to suppliers.

Noted: The Committee noted correspondence from the UFU, dated 26 January 2016, to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Industry, regarding the onshore wind NIRO closure consultation.

Noted: The Committee noted the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority Annual Report and Accounts for 2014-2015.

10. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Committee for Regional Development to invite Members to attend the visit to Toome to view the sluice gates.

11. AOB

There was no other business.

12. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 09 February 2016 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

4.13 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

09/02/2016

Date