

**COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 15 MARCH 2016  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Seán Rogers MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mrs Joanne Dobson MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA  
Mr Robin Swann MLA

Apologies: Mr Declan McAleer 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

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

**1. Apologies**

The apologies are recorded above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chair and Deputy Chair sign off the minutes for the meeting of Tuesday, 15 March 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chair and Deputy Chair to consider any non-routine or contentious Freedom

of Information requests received before dissolution on 29 March 2016.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that a standard response will be issued to all correspondence received before dissolution on 29 March 2016 advising that the Committee has no further meetings but that the correspondence has been forwarded to its Members

The Chairperson informed Members that he and the Committee Clerk addressed the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action ARD Departmental Monitoring Group on Friday, 11 March 2016.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 08 March 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 08 March 2016.

### **4. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted an invitation to the formal launch of the new Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework on Wednesday, 23 March 2016.

*1.41 p.m. Mr Swann joined the meeting.*

*Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 07 March 2016, informing Members of the Minister's decision to withdraw proposals for Conservation of Sea Bass Regulations.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 09 March 2016, providing statistics for the proportion of all eligible applications in Northern Ireland that are subject to appeal via the Review of Decisions process, as compared with Scotland, England and Wales and agreed to forward them to the Research Officer for information.

*Noted:* The Committee noted correspondence from the Department, dated 09 March 2016, providing details of agricultural incomes for lowland farms and LFA farms for 2015.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the response from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, dated 07 March 2016, on the issue of the closure of the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

## **5. Correspondence**

- Noted:* The Committee noted European Union Explanatory Memoranda EM 37498, EM 37511, EM 37588 and EM 37544.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the latest issue of EU Matters.
- Noted:* The Committee noted an invitation to the Institute for Global Food Security's annual lecture on Thursday, 28 April 2016.

## **6. S.R. 2016/75: The Zoonoses (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

- Agreed:* The Committee considered S.R. 2016/75 The Zoonoses (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to comment from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objections to the rule.

## **7. S.R. 2016/118: The Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (Fees) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016**

- Agreed:* The Committee considered S.R. 2016/118: The Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (Fees) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to comment from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objections to the rule.

## **8. S.R. 2016/120: The Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers and Designation of Fish Auction Sites (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

- Agreed:* The Committee considered S.R. 2016/120 The Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers and Designation of Fish Auction Sites (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to comment from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objections to the rule.

## **9. S.R. 2016/137: The Scrapie (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered S.R. 2016/137 The Scrapie (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and, subject to comment from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objections to the rule

## **10. Oral Briefing DARD: Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter (SUPL) Project**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 1.49 p.m.

Brian Ervine, Head of Environmental Farming  
Alan McVicker, Strategic Adviser, Strategic Investment Board

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

*1.50 p.m. Mr Anderson joined the meeting.*  
*1.59 p.m. Mr Swann left the meeting.*  
*2.14 p.m. Mr Poots joined the meeting.*  
*2.17 p.m. M Swann rejoined the meeting.*  
*2.17 p.m. Mr McCarthy left the meeting.*  
*2.41 p.m. Mr Swann left the meeting.*

*2.41 p.m. The officials left the meeting.*

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

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

Colette McMaster, Central Policy  
Martin McKendry, Director, CAFRE  
Lorraine Lynas, Rural Development Programme Management  
Gareth Evans, Rural Development North

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

*2.47 p.m. Mr McCarthy rejoined the meeting.*  
*2.50 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.*

*Mr Irwin declared an interest that he is a farmer.*

*2.58 p.m. Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*  
*3.01 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

3.17 p.m. *The officials left the meeting.*

**12. Written Briefing DARD: Consultation on BSE Negative Risk Status for Northern Ireland**

The Committee noted the written briefing.

**13. Written Briefing DARD: AFBI 2020 Strategy Update**

The Committee noted the written briefing.

**14. Written Briefing DARD: HQ Relocation Programme Update**

The Committee noted the written briefing.

**15. AOB**

There was no other business.

3.20 p.m. *The meeting adjourned.*

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

**15/03/2016**

-----  
Date