

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Seán Rogers MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Ian Milne 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
Mr Colin Pidgeon, Research Officer (for Agenda Item 6)

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

1. Apologies

There are no apologies.

2. Chairperson's Business

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016.

4. Matters Arising

Noted: The Committee noted a written briefing provided by the Department on the outcome of the November Monitoring Round and the adjustments proposed as part of the January Monitoring Round.

1.51 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.

Noted: The Committee noted correspondence from David Simpson MP calling for an inquiry to be conducted by the Department into river management and the management of flood defences surrounding Lough Neagh.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Minister supporting the call for an inquiry into these and related issues.

2.00 p.m. The meeting suspended.

2.08 p.m. The meeting resumed with the following Members in attendance: Mr Irwin, Mr McAleer, Mr McMullan, Mr Milne and Mr Poots.

5. Rural Needs Bill – Consideration of the Draft Report

The Committee gave consideration to the draft report on the Rural Needs Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Introduction to the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 18-19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 20-31.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 32-43.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 44-51.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 52-58.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 59-66.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 67-73.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the clause by clause consideration.

Agreed: The Committee agreed Appendix 1-7 of the report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed paragraphs 1-6.

2.24 p.m. Mr Rogers joined the meeting.

6. Oral Briefing RaiSe: DARD Budget 2016/17

The Committee received a briefing from the Assembly Research Officer on the 2016/17 Budget for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

2.26 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

2.34 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.

2.41 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.

2.42 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.

2.46 p.m. Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.

2.53 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward paper NIAR 030/2016 'Executive Budget 2016-2017: DARD' to the Department requesting that they provide a response to the points raised in 'Issues for consideration'.

7. Written Briefing SL1: Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (NI) 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the SL1 moves to the next legislative stage.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to inform the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety of its decision that the SL1 move to the next legislative stage.

8. Correspondence

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from DARD, dated 13 January 2016, advising Members of a recent outbreak of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Fife, Scotland and agreed to request that the Committee is kept informed about developments in this case.

Agreed: The Committee noted correspondence from the EU Affairs Manager regarding the appointment of David Dobbin to the EU

Commission's Agricultural Markets Task Force and agreed to issue a letter of congratulations to Mr Dobbin.

Noted: The Committee noted the Investment Strategy Implementation Report for April to October 2015.

Noted: The Committee noted correspondence from the EU Affairs Manager regarding the announcement of €200million in loans from the European Investment Bank to the Republic of Ireland for 30 flood prevention and protection projects over the next five years.

Agreed: The Committee noted European Union Explanatory Memoranda EM 37343, EM 37273, EM 37148 and EM 37151 and agreed to forward EM 37073 to the Department for comment.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The meeting moved into Closed Session.

11. Forward Work Programme

The Clerk briefed the Committee on the Forward Work Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

3.05 p.m. Mr Swann joined the meeting.

3.06 p.m. Mr McCarthy, Mrs Dobson and Mr Milne left the meeting.

3.07 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

26/01/2016

Date