



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2017**

**ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

- Present: Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA  
Mr David Ford MLA  
Mr William Irwin MLA  
Mr Patsy McGlone MLA  
Mr Harold McKee MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA  
Mr Robin Swann MLA
- In Attendance: Mrs Stella McArdle (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Christopher McNickle (Assistant Clerk)  
Mr Oliver Bellew (Clerical Supervisor)  
Ms Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)
- Apologies: Ms Caoimhe Archibald MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

The meeting opened in **public** session at **10.13 am**

In the absence of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, the Clerk took the Chair for the election of a temporary Chairperson.

Mr Edwin Poots MLA proposed that Mr David Ford MLA be the temporary chair of the Committee and this was seconded by Mr Robin Swann MLA. As no other nominations were made the Committee agreed that Mr David Ford MLA should take the chair for the duration of the meeting.

**10:13 a.m.** Mr David Ford MLA assumed the Chair.

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

There was no Chairperson's business.

**3. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were agreed. The Committee also agreed that, given that there would be no further meetings of the Committee, the temporary Chairperson would sign the minutes of today's meeting.

**4. Matters arising**

The Committee noted a research paper by Assembly Research and Information Services in relation to hazardous waste exports from Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted a research paper by Assembly Research and Information Services in relation to a recycling model adopted in Germany.

The Committee noted correspondence from NILGA in relation to the 'polluter pays' principle.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in relation to follow-up issues from the meeting held on 01 December 2016.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Minister in relation to issues raised at the meeting of 15 December 2016 regarding the Areas of Natural Constraint scheme.

**5. Oral briefing from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – Agricultural Liaison Group**

The temporary Chairperson informed members that the Agricultural Liaison Group had indicated that, in light of the pending Assembly election, its views on agricultural issues affecting the Council could be presented and discussed after the election.

**6. Oral evidence from DAERA and the Strategic Investment Board – Waste Infrastructure**

**10.18 a.m.** The following officials joined the meeting.

Mr John Mills – Environmental Policy Division, DAERA

Mr Owen Lyttle – Water Recycling and EU Funding Branch, DAERA

Ms Oonagh Warke – Waste Infrastructure, DAERA

Mr Alan McVicker – Strategic Investment Board

The witnesses briefed the Committee on Waste Infrastructure.

**10.24 a.m.** Mr Edwin Poots MLA left the meeting.

**10.26 a.m.** Mr Maurice Bradley MLA joined the meeting.

**10.28 a.m.** Mr William Irwin MLA joined the meeting.

**10.39 a.m.** Mr Edwin Poots MLA returned to the meeting.

The temporary Chairperson declared an interest as a MLA for South Antrim where the proposed arc21 residual waste project may be located.

**11.05 a.m.** The officials left the meeting.

**7. SR 2017/13 The Single Common Market Organisation (Exceptional Adjustment Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

**11.07 a.m.** The following officials joined the meeting.

Ms Collette McMaster – Director of Food and Farming Policy Division

Ms Elaine McCrory – Food and Farming Policy Division

Mr Colin Hart – Director of Enzootics Division

Mr Mark Hawes – College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

The officials briefed the Committee on the policy proposal contained in the Statutory Rule.

**11.09 a.m.** Mr Sydney Anderson MLA left the meeting.

The temporary Chairperson declared an interest as a potential beneficiary of the scheme.

**11.26 a.m.** Mr Sydney Anderson MLA returned to the meeting.

Mr Swann expressed concerns that no cap had been placed on expenditure under the schemes.

**11.40 a.m.** Mr Patsy McGlone MLA left the meeting.

**11.44 a.m.** The officials left the meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR2017/13 The Single Common Market Organisation (Exceptional Adjustment Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objection to the rule.

**8. SR 2017/2 The Air Quality Standards (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR2017/2 The Air Quality Standards (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2017 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objection to the rule.

**9. SR 2017/3 The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Amendment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR2017/3 The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Amendment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objection to the rule.

**10. SR 2017/8 The Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

The temporary Chairperson declared an interest as a beneficiary from the Areas of Natural Constraint scheme.

*Agreed:* The Committee considered SR2017/8 The Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and, subject to the Examiner of Statutory Rules' report, has no objection to the rule.

**11. Correspondence**

The Committee noted correspondence from the Department in relation to its public consultation on a draft Knowledge Framework.

The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for the Executive Office and an enclosed briefing paper from the Commissioner for Public Appointments on the representation of women and minorities on the on the boards of public bodies.

The Committee noted a Going for Growth update from the Department, collated for the period ending 30 September 2016.

## **12. Draft Forward Work Programme**

The Committee noted that, due to the dissolution of the Assembly, there would be no further meetings.

## **13. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **14. Date, time and place of next meeting**

Members noted that there would be no further meetings of the Committee.

The temporary Chairperson thanked Mr Anderson, who had indicated that he would not be standing for election, for his contribution to the Committee and in response Mr Anderson expressed his thanks to the Committee.

The temporary Chairperson and the Members thanked the Committee staff and Assembly Research for their support.

**11.51 a.m.** The temporary Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

**David Ford MLA**

Temporary Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

19<sup>th</sup> January 2017