

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 2013
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.38pm.

Present:

- Ms C Ruane (Acting Chairperson)**
- Mr S Dickson**
- Mr G Kelly**
- Lord Morrow**
- Mrs S Overend**
- Mr P Ramsey**
- Mr P Weir**

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

- Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin**
- Deputy Speaker Beggs**
- Deputy Speaker Dallat**
- Mr A Rogers** **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were noted from Mr Swann and Mrs McKeivitt. The Acting Chairperson expressed her best wishes to Mr Swann on behalf of the Committee.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 September were **agreed** and signed by the Acting Chairperson.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Members **noted** that a letter had been issued to the Committee on Procedures regarding speaking arrangements.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 7 October**

Public Petition

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a public petition by Mr Phil Flanagan, on the 'Establishment of a Cross-Border Area Learning Community to Provide Post-Primary Education in North and West Fermanagh', for Tuesday 8 October.

Assembly Business

4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the SDLP on Committee Membership on Monday 7 October.

Executive Business

4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for both days.

Committee Business

4.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to extend the Committee Stage of the Health and Social Care (Amendment Bill) Bill on Monday 7 October.

4.5 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business scheduled for Tuesday 8 October.

Private Members' Business

4.6 Members **noted** that, after last week's meeting, the Alliance Party had selected a motion on 'Town Centre Strategy' to be scheduled on Monday 7 October.

4.7 Members **agreed** to replace the DUP motion on 'Bowel Cancer', previously scheduled for Monday 7 October, with a motion on 'Practices of Car Parking Companies'.

- 4.8 Members **noted** that, after last week's meeting, the SDLP had selected a motion on 'Privatisation of Royal Mail' to be scheduled on Tuesday 8 October.
- 4.9 Mr Alan Rogers, on behalf of the Executive, advised that all relevant Ministers were available to respond to the selected plenary business.
- 4.10 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 14 October 2013**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive business was scheduled for Monday 14 October:
- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of the Environment;
 - Statement on the Public Consultation on the Future Delivery of Consumer Representation in Northern Ireland;
 - Legislative Consent Motion on the Intellectual Property Bill; and
 - Motion to approve the draft Pharmacy (1996 Order) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that only Question Time to the Minister of Finance and Personnel and to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment was scheduled for Tuesday 15 October.

Committee Business

- 5.3 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee business.

Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 14 October and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 15 October.
- 5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the UUP, DUP, Sinn Féin and DUP. Mrs Overend undertook to inform the Business Office of her party's selection for Monday 14 October as soon as possible. The following motion was selected by the DUP for Monday 14 October:
- 'Bowel Cancer' (Mr J Spratt, Mr J Wells, Mr G Dunne, Ms P Brown).

- 5.6 The following motion was selected by Sinn Féin for Tuesday 15 October:
- ‘Prison Review Reports’ (Mr R McCartney, Ms R McCorley, Mr S Lynch).
- 5.7 Mr Weir undertook to inform the Business Office of his party’s selection for Tuesday 15 October as soon as possible.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.9 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 15 October. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the UUP and the following topic was selected:
- ‘Future of post primary education in Ballymena’ (Mr R Swann).
- 5.10 Mr Alan Rogers, on behalf of the Executive, advised that all Ministers were available.
- 5.11 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Any other business**

- 6.1 Members **noted** that, from the next meeting onwards, the Committee will begin the implementation phase of the electronic committee packs and that the Information Systems Office would provide technical assistance to Members at the next two meetings.
- 6.2 Mr Dickson expressed concerns about the size of the screens when using the tablets in committee. Mr Kelly indicated that it was his understanding that paper packs would be available for as long as committee members required them. The Acting Chairperson confirmed that, following the implementation of the electronic pack system, Members could still request a paper pack for use during Business Committee meetings. In relation to Mr Ramsey’s query about when electronic Business Committee packs would issue, members noted that, because of the way in which last minute changes can be made to proposed business, packs would still only be issued around noon on Tuesdays.
- 6.3 Although not an issue for the Business Committee, Whips **agreed** to stay behind in room 106 after next week’s meeting to discuss issues that had arisen to do with the membership of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe with staff from Assembly Outreach.

7. **Date and Time of next meeting**

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 8 October 2013 in Room 106.

The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 12.47pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**