

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 04 MARCH 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.36pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Mr S Dickson
Mr G Kelly
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin
Junior Minister Bell
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. **Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were noted from Mrs Karen McKeivitt and Lord Morrow.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 25 and Friday 28 February were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 10 March 2014**

Public Petition

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Mr Danny Kinahan relating to 'Crumlin Supports Shared Education' on Monday 10 March.

Executive Business

- 4.2 Members **noted** that the Final Stage of the Carrier Bags Bill was scheduled for Monday 10 March.
- 4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 11 March

Committee Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Monday 10 March or Tuesday 11 March.

Private Members' Business

- 4.5 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 10 March.
- 4.6 Members **noted** that the Consideration Stage of the Local Government Bill had not come forward for scheduling on Tuesday 11 March. Therefore there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for that day.
- 4.7 Junior Minister Bell advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.8 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meeting on Tuesday 18 March 2014**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister for Regional Development, the Minister for Social Development and to the Assembly Commission was scheduled for Tuesday 18 March.
- 5.2 In addition, Members **noted** that, subject to Executive agreement, it was possible that the Consideration Stage of the Local Government Bill could be scheduled for Tuesday 18 March.

Committee Business

- 5.3 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Tuesday 18 March.

Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 18 March.
- 5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the DUP and the SDLP and the following motions were selected:
- 'Fostering Services' (Miss M McIlveen, Mr J Wells);
 - 'Housing Crisis' (Mrs D Kelly, Mr A Maginness).
- 5.6 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.7 Members **noted** that, on Tuesday 25 February, the Minister of Education had been unable to respond to Mr Trevor Clarke's Adjournment Debate on 'Creavery Primary School' due to the lateness of the sitting and, as a consequence, the Adjournment Debate was not moved. Members therefore **agreed** to reschedule this Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 18 March.
- 5.8 Junior Minister Bell advised that all Ministers were available to respond to the motions.
- 5.9 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

- 5.10 Having agreed the provisional Order Papers, members returned to the issue of the Consideration Stage of the Local Government Bill and **noted** that, subject to Executive clearance, the Bill might come forward for scheduling on 18 March at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee **further noted** that, in practical terms for such a major Bill, this would give Members only two days' notice to table amendments, and **noted** that the Bill would be likely to constitute the whole day's business.
- 5.11 It was, therefore, **agreed** that, should the Executive agree at its meeting on 6 March to schedule the Consideration Stage of the Local Government Bill on Tuesday 18 March, a revised provisional Order Paper should be issued on 6 March with only the following business scheduled:
- Question Time to the Minister for Regional Development, the Minister for Social Development and to the Assembly Commission;
 - Consideration Stage of the Local Government Bill.
- 5.12 Members **agreed** that, should a revised provisional Order Paper be required, the Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 18 March would be rescheduled at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 5.13 Mr Dickson asked whether a two day Order Paper would be required if the Bill was scheduled, and Members **agreed** that this would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. **Any other business**

- 6.1 There was no other business

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

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 11 March 2014 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.41pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**