

**DRAFT**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2013**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 12.34pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker**  
**Mr G Kelly**  
**Mr D Kinahan**  
**Mr K McCarthy**  
**Mrs K McKeivitt**  
**Lord Morrow**  
**Mr P Ramsey**  
**Ms C Ruane**  
**Mr P Weir**

**In attendance:**

<b>Ms L Gordon</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b>
<b>Mr J McMillen</b>	<b>Legal Adviser</b>
<b>Ms F Leneghan</b>	<b>PS/Speaker</b>
<b>Mr C McNickle</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>

**Observers:**

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

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were noted from Robin Swann, Sandra Overend and Stewart Dickson.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 01 October were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker. The Speaker thanked Ms Ruane for chairing the meeting in his absence.

### 3. **Matters arising**

- 3.1 Members **noted** that, following last week's meeting, the SDLP had withdrawn their adjournment debate topic on 'Armagh Gaol' scheduled for 08 October, due to no relevant Ministers being available. Members **agreed** that the party could reuse the adjournment debate slot when selecting Private Members' Business for the week beginning 21 October.

### 4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 14 October**

#### Executive Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for Monday 14 October.
- 4.2 Members **noted** that the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety proposed to make a statement on Fraud Awareness on Tuesday 15 October.

#### Committee Business

- 4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for the Environment to extend the Committee Stage of the Local Government Bill on Monday 14 October.
- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business scheduled for Tuesday 15 October.

#### Private Members' Business

- 4.5 Members **noted** that, after last week's meeting, the UUP had selected a motion on 'Public Consultation' to be scheduled on Monday 14 October; and that the DUP had selected a motion on 'National Crime Agency' to be scheduled on Tuesday 15 October.
- 4.6 Junior Minister Bell advised that all relevant Ministers were available to respond to the selected plenary business and that no further business was expected.
- 4.7 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 21 October 2013**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive business was scheduled for Monday 21 October:
- Statement on the Second Anniversary of the Owers Report on Prison Reform;
  - Motion to approve the Sea Fish Industry (Harbour and Landing Dues) Scheme;
  - Question Time to the Minister of Justice and to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure.
- 5.2 Members also **noted** that there was the possibility of a statement on October monitoring on Monday 21 October, subject to Executive approval.
- 5.3 Members **noted** that the following Executive business was scheduled for Tuesday 22 October:
- Legislative Consent Motion on the Energy Bill (Decarbonisation Provisions);
  - Question Time to the Minister for Social Development and to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Committee Business

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

Private Members' Business

- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion on Monday 21 October and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 22 October.
- 5.6 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with Sinn Féin, DUP and the SDLP. The following motion was selected by Sinn Féin for Monday 21 October:
- 'Job Creation' (Mr P Flanagan and Ms M McLaughlin).
- 5.7 The following motion was selected by the DUP for Tuesday 22 October:
- 'The Use of the Social Investment Model in Tackling Social Issues' (Mr R Newton, Mr S Moutray, Mr P Frew and Mr G Dunne).

- 5.8 As the Minister for Employment and Learning was not available to respond to Mr Ramsey's first choice of motion ('Zero-Hours Contracts'), he undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection for Tuesday 22 October as soon as possible.
- 5.9 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.10 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 22 October. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the SDLP and the following topic was selected:
- 'Future of Armagh Gaol' (Mr D Bradley).
- 5.11 Junior Minister Bell advised that the Minister for Employment and Learning, the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and the Minister for Regional Development were unavailable, but that all other Ministers were available.
- 5.12 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

## 6. **Any other business**

- 6.1 The Speaker expressed his concern about a number of recent instances in which parties had not notified their selection of private Members' business promptly. He reminded parties that if, in very exceptional circumstances, they are not in a position to select business for the provisional Order Papers at the relevant Business Committee meeting, they should commit to notifying the Business Office of their choice by the following day at the latest. This would ensure that Members and Ministers are always given proper notice of business, as envisaged by the introduction of the two-weekly arrangements in 2007.
- 6.2 Members reaffirmed their good wishes to Mr Swann and his family in his absence.

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

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 15 October 2013 in Room 106.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.43pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**