

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2013
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.39pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Mr G Kelly
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk
Ms K Jardine	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin
Deputy Speaker Dallat
Junior Minister Bell
Junior Minister McCann
Mr K Kerr **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 September 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 16 September**

Assembly Business

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion to change Committee Membership from the DUP on Monday 16th September.

Executive Business

4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to the Executive Business previously agreed for Monday 16 September.

4.3 Members **noted** that a statement from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on the recent NSMC meeting in plenary format was scheduled for Tuesday 17 September; and it was anticipated that further statements may be scheduled.

Committee Business

4.4 Members **noted** that there was no change to the Committee business previously scheduled for Monday 16 September and Tuesday 17 September.

Private Members' Business

4.5 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a public petition by Mr Alban Maginness on Hazelwood Integrated College on Monday 16 September.

4.6 Members **noted** that the SDLP had notified the Clerk, following the last meeting, of their selection of a motion for Tuesday 17 September on a 'Day of Recognition for the Emergency Services'. Members **agreed** to schedule the motion, with the usual timings.

4.7 Junior Minister McCann advised that all relevant Ministers were available to respond to the selected plenary business.

4.8 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 23 September 2013**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, and the Minister of the Environment was scheduled for Monday 23 September. Members **noted** that there may be other Executive Business forthcoming on that day.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, and the Minister of Justice was scheduled for Tuesday 24 September. Members also noted that Second Stage of the Health and Social Care (Amendment) Bill was scheduled for Tuesday 24 September, subject to introduction on Monday 16 September.

Committee Business

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

Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule the Second Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill, on Monday 23 September; and **noted** that three hours was shown on the indicative timings.
- 5.5 Members agreed to select no Private Members' Motions on Monday 23 September, but did agree to select two on Tuesday 24 September. Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the UUP and the DUP. The following motions were selected for Tuesday 24 September:
- 'Access to Public Procurement Opportunities' (Mrs S Overend, Mr R Swann);
 - 'Common Funding Formula' (Mr M Storey, Miss M McIlveen, Mr J Craig, Mrs B Hale).
- 5.6 Members discussed the possibility of scheduling a cross party motion on the proposed closure of the DVANI offices in Coleraine on Tuesday 24 September, but noted that the motion text still required agreement from whips. The DUP indicated that they would be content to defer their motion on the Common Funding Formula to the week commencing 30 September should the text of the cross party motion be agreed. Members **agreed** to revisit the issue at the next meeting.

5.7 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.

5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 24 September. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the DUP. The following topic was selected:

- 'Historical Enquiries Team Report into the Death of Kirk Watters' (Mr S Douglas).

5.9 Junior Minister McCann advised that all relevant Ministers were available to respond to the selected plenary business.

5.10 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Updated Statistics on Late Answers to Questions**

6.1 Members **noted** the most recent figures on late answers to written questions. Further statistics would be provided for the period up to the Christmas recess in due course.

7. **Any other business**

7.1 The Speaker **referred** members to an updated version of the Guidance for Whips and Tellers on their roles during divisions and asked the whips to bring it to the attention of all colleagues.

7.2 Members **noted** that the Business Office would be able to arrange short refresher sessions for Members who act as Tellers, if required.

7.3 The Speaker **advised** Members that the latest version of 'Speaker's Rulings and Conventions' was now available.

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

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 17 September 2013 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.49pm.

Speaker
Chairperson