

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2013
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.38pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Mr K McCarthy
Mr R McCartney
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
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the 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 Mr Stewart Dickson and Mr Gerry Kelly.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 October 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 04 November**

Public Petition

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a public petition by Mr Kieran McCarthy, on 'Save Exploris, the Northern Ireland Aquarium, Portaferry' for Tuesday 05 November.

Executive Business

- 4.2 Members **noted** that a motion to approve the Child Support and Claims and Payments (Miscellaneous Amendments and Change to the Minimum Amount of Liability) Regulations was scheduled for Monday 04 November.
- 4.3 Members **noted** that the draft Pharmacy (1976 Order) (Amendment) Order, which was not moved on Monday 14 October, was rescheduled for Tuesday 05 November.

Committee Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was no additional Committee Business scheduled for Monday 04 November.
- 4.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion to extend the Committee Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill on Tuesday 05 November.
- 4.6 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee Review Group on its report on the 'Review of Committees' on Tuesday 05 November, with one hour for the debate, 10 minutes to move, 10 minutes to wind, and 5 minutes for all other speakers.

Private Members' Business

- 4.7 Members **noted** that, although a motion on the 'Security of Electricity Supply' had been scheduled for Monday 04 November at the last meeting, the UUP wished to replace it, as the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment was undertaking an inquiry on a Review of Electricity Policy and would soon be bringing a similar motion. The Speaker reminded members that Private Members' Motions should not pre-empt a proposed committee motion. The UUP's replacement motion was on an 'International Mental Health Centre'.

- 4.8 Members **noted** that, after last week's meeting, the Alliance Party had selected a motion on 'Exploris - Northern Ireland Aquarium' to be scheduled on Tuesday 05 November. Mr McCarthy inquired about whether there would be a Ministerial response to this debate and junior Minister Bell advised that the decision would lie with the Executive.
- 4.9 Junior Minister Bell advised that no further business was expected.
- 4.10 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 11 November 2013**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive business was scheduled for Monday 11 November:
- Legislative Consent Motion on the Care Bill (Continuity of care Provision)
 - Question Time to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and to the Minister of the Environment.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive business was scheduled for Tuesday 12 November:
- Question Time to the Minister of Finance and Personnel and to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Committee Business

- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure on its Report on Gaps in Child Protection and Safeguarding across the Culture, Arts and Leisure Remit on Monday 11 November, with the usual timings.
- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee on Procedures to 'Amend Standing Order 20A(1) on Tuesday 12 November.
- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a take note motion from the Public Accounts Committee dealing with a number of reports and related Memoranda of Reply on Tuesday 12 November. It was **agreed** to allow up to 2 hours for the debate, with 15 minutes to move, 15 minutes to wind and 7 minutes for all other speakers.

Private Members' Business

- 5.6 Mr Ramsey drew attention to the cross-party motion on the 'Effective Delivery of Major Infrastructure Work' that had been referred to at the last meeting and enquired about the possibility of scheduling it during the week commencing 11 November. Mr Weir and Ms Ruane, whose parties had selections, indicated that the Committee might discuss the motion again at the next meeting.
- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion on Monday 11 November and one Private Members' Motion on Tuesday 12 November.
- 5.8 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the DUP and Sinn Féin. The following motion was selected for Monday 11 November:
- 'Insulation in Housing Executive Properties' (Mr A Easton, Mr G Campbell, Mr P Weir and Ms P Bradley).
- 5.9 The following motion was selected for Tuesday 12 November:
- 'Public Awareness Campaign on Prostate Cancer' (Mr O McMullan, Ms M McLaughlin and Mr M Brady).
- 5.10 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 12 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin and the following topic was selected:
- 'Public sector jobs in the North West' (Ms M McLaughlin).
- 5.12 Junior Minister Bell advised that all Ministers were available.
- 5.13 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. Any other business

- 6.1 Mr Weir and Mr McCartney both highlighted aspects of the on-going issue of topical questions pre-empting questions listed for oral answer. The Speaker expressed the hope that the amendment to Standing Orders to allow topical questions to come at the end of each Question Time slot should help to alleviate the problem. He also drew attention to the difficulty for the Chair in

judging whether or not a topical question was actually the same as a listed question.

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

7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 05 November 2013 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.54pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**