

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.36pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Mr K McCarthy
Mr R McCartney
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 A McGarel	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 H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Deputy Speaker Dallat
Junior Minister Bell
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Mr Stewart Dickson and Mr Gerry Kelly.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 03 June were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker.

3. **Matters arising**

- 3.1 In relation to paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2 of the minutes, Ms Ruane asked for her concerns to be recorded about the appropriateness of discussing a Determination of the Independent Financial Review Panel at the Business Committee. As she had been Acting Chairperson at the time, she had not felt that she had been in a position to refer to her party's supportive position with regard to the Panel. She also confirmed that she had not attended the meeting referred to in the minutes. The Speaker agreed that the work of the Panel was not an issue for the Business Committee, and indicated that he had made it clear to Whips at the meeting that it was a matter for them to take forward.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 16 June 2014**

Executive Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that the First Stage of the Justice Bill was scheduled for Monday 16 June, subject to the Speaker's clearance.
- 4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 17 June.

Committee Business

- 4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion, on Monday 16 June, from the Committee on Standards and Privileges in relation to imposing a sanction of exclusion from Assembly proceedings for five days on Mr Gerry Kelly, with the period of exclusion to begin on Monday 23 June. Members **agreed** to allow one hour and 30 minutes for the debate, with 10 minutes to move and 10 minutes to wind, and 5 minutes for all other speakers. Members further **agreed** to allow Mr Kelly 10 minutes to make his contribution, and to offer him the choice of speaking either second or immediately before the wind.

Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 17 June.

Private Members' Business

- 4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 16 June and Tuesday 17 June.

4.4 Mr Alan Rogers advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 23 June 2014**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 23 June:

- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of Education;
- Motion to approve the draft Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Notification Requirements) Regulations (NI) 2014.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 24 June:

- Question Time to the Minister for Employment and Learning and to the Minister for Social Development;
- Ministerial Statement from the Minister for Employment and Learning on the Review of Apprenticeships Policy and Update on the Review of Youth Training;
- Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Education on Major Capital Works;
- Second Stage of the Justice Bill, subject to being introduced on Monday 16th June.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Social Development, on Monday 23 June, to annul The Jobseeker's Allowance (Schemes for Assisting Persons to Obtain Employment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

5.4 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Tuesday 24 June.

Private Members' Business

- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 23 June.
- 5.6 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with Sinn Féin and the DUP and the following motions were selected:
- 'Living Wage' (Mr P Flanagan, Ms M Fearon and Mr D McKay);
 - 'End of Key Stage Assessments' (Mr M Storey, Mr C Craig, Mr R Newton and Mr S Moutray).
- 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 June. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the UUP and the following topic was selected:
- 'Post Primary Education in County Fermanagh' (Mr T Elliott).
- 5.9 Junior Minister Bell advised that the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Minister of Finance and Personnel were not available to respond to Private Members' Business on Monday 23 June and that all other Ministers were available.
- 5.10 Members **noted** that the motion on 'Living Wage' called on the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Ms Ruane asked the Executive side to confirm whether another Minister might be able to respond on behalf of the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.
- 5.11 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Letter from the Committee on Procedures**

- 6.1 The Speaker **referred** members to a letter from the Committee on Procedures regarding a Statutory Rule which is expected to be laid by the Attorney General before the Summer Recess. Members **noted** that there are currently no provisions in Standing Orders to allow the Attorney General to table and/or move a motion.
- 6.2 Members **agreed** a draft letter to the Committee on Procedures to confirm that the Business Committee did not see itself as having any role under Standing Orders in relation to either tabling or moving a motion on behalf of the Attorney General.

7. **Letter from the Minister of Enterprise Trade and Investment**

- 7.1 The Speaker **referred** members to a letter from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Members **noted** that, in the event that she is delayed on official business outside Belfast, the Minister of Finance and Personnel will respond to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's questions on Monday 16th June.
- 7.2 Ms Ruane expressed concern about the matter of Ministerial availability.

8. **Any other business**

- 8.1 There was no other business

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

- 9.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 17 June 2014 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.50pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**