

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 09.34pm.

Present:

- Mr P Weir (Acting Chairperson)**
- Mr S Dickson**
- Mr G Kelly**
- Mr R McCartney**
- Lord Morrow**
- Mrs S Overend**
- Mr P Ramsey**
- Mr R Swann**

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Mr T Reaney	Clerk/Chief Executive
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Ms Tara Caul	Head of Legal Services
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
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 the Speaker and Ms Caitriona Ruane.

2. **Consideration of the draft Revised Order Papers for the plenary meetings on Monday 15 September and Tuesday 16 September**

The Acting Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting and, on behalf of the Speaker, suggested that it would be appropriate for the Assembly to mark the death of Lord Bannside, a former First Minister, by inviting representatives from all parties to pay their respects in the Chamber. It was also suggested that following these tributes it would be appropriate for the Assembly to postpone all other business which was previously scheduled for Monday 15 September.

Public Petition

- 2.1 Members **agreed** to reschedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Mr Mervyn Storey, on 'Elective Home Education', to Tuesday 16 September.

Assembly Business

- 2.2 Members **agreed** to reschedule a motion on 'Membership for the Committee of the Regions' to Tuesday 16 September.

Executive Business

- 2.3 Members **agreed** that Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education would be rescheduled to Tuesday 16 September at 3.30pm and 4.15 pm respectively. Members **further agreed** that a business motion would be scheduled on Monday 15 September to suspend Standing Order 20(1) to provide for this change.
- 2.4 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister for Employment and Learning and to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment remained scheduled, on Tuesday 16 September, for 2pm and 2.45pm respectively.
- 2.5 Members **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was content to reschedule a Statement on the North South Ministerial Council Meeting in Aquaculture and Marine sectoral to Monday 22 September.
- 2.6 Members **noted** that the Minister of Justice would make an oral statement on Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation on Criminal Justice Matters, on Tuesday 16 September, as previously scheduled.
- 2.7 Members **noted** that the Minister of Justice would move the Consideration Stage of the Coroners' Courts Bill, on Tuesday 16 September, as previously scheduled.

Committee Business

- 2.8 Members **noted** that there was still no Committee Business scheduled for either day.

Private Members' Business

- 2.9 The Acting Chairperson suggested that the two Private Members' Motions, scheduled for Monday 15 September, could be rescheduled to the week commencing Monday 29 September and Mr Kelly indicated that it would be preferable to move the motion on 'Welfare Cuts' during the week commencing Monday 22 September.
- 2.10 Members **noted** that Sinn Féin had a motion on 'Funding for Students Facing Financial Hardship' scheduled for Tuesday 23 September and it was suggested that this motion could be postponed until the week commencing Monday 29 September to allow for the motion on 'Welfare Cuts' to be moved on Tuesday 23rd September.
- 2.11 Mr Kelly undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's preference as soon as possible.
- 2.12 Members **noted** that the motion on 'Altnagelvin Hospital' and the Adjournment debate were still scheduled for Tuesday 16 September
- 2.12 The draft Revised Order Papers were **agreed**.

3. Any other business

- 3.1 Mr Swann enquired about the timings for Members who wished to pay tribute to Lord Bannside and the Acting Chairperson confirmed that party leaders would have up to five minutes and that all other Members would have up to three minutes to speak.
- 3.2 The Acting Chairperson also confirmed that Members would be required to rise in their place to indicate that they wished to speak.
- 3.3 Mr Swann enquired about the provision of a book of condolences and the Adviser to the Speaker confirmed that following tributes in the Chamber the

Principal Deputy Speaker would lead the party leaders from the Chamber to sign the book.

- 3.4 Following an enquiry from Mr Kelly the Acting Chairperson confirmed that the Speaker's Office would finalise arrangements for Assembly staff and members of the public to sign the book of condolences.
- 3.5 Following a suggestion from Mr Ramsey Members **agreed** to write to the Speaker to wish him a full recovery from his recent illness.

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

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 16 September 2014 in Room 106.

The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 9.46am

**The Acting Chairperson
Ms C Ruane**