

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

**TUESDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2014**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 12.32pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker**  
**Ms A Lo**  
**Mr R McCartney**  
**Lord Morrow**  
**Mrs S Overend**  
**Mr P Ramsey**  
**Mr R Swann**  
**Mr P Weir**

**In attendance:**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Dr A McGarel</b>  | <b>Clerk of Business</b>                  |
| <b>Mr T Reaney</b>   | <b>Clerk/Director General</b>             |
| <b>Dr G McGrath</b>  | <b>Director of Clerking and Reporting</b> |
| <b>Mr R Ramsey</b>   | <b>Adviser to the Speaker</b>             |
| <b>Ms F Leneghan</b> | <b>PS/Speaker</b>                         |
| <b>Mr H Widdis</b>   | <b>Director of Legal Services</b>         |
| <b>Mr C McNickle</b> | <b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>           |

**Observers:**

**Junior Minister Bell**  
**Junior Minister McCann**  
**Mr A Rogers**                      **OFMDFM**

1.    **Apologies**

1.1    Apologies were received from Mr Stewart Dickson and Ms Caitriona Ruane.

2.    **Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1    The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 June 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 08 September 2014**

Speaker's Business

4.1 Members **noted** that, on Monday 08 September, the Speaker would lead tributes to the late Mr Sam Foster before calling representatives from other parties to pay their respects also.

Executive Business

4.2 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Monday 08 September:

- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister for Regional Development;
- Ministerial Statement on the British Irish Council meeting on the Misuse of Substances;
- Ministerial Statement on the North South Ministerial Council meeting in Aquaculture and Marine Sectoral format.

4.3 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister for Social Development and to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was scheduled for Tuesday 09 September.

Committee Business

4.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Social Development on its Report on the Inquiry into allegations, arising from a BBC NI Spotlight programme aired on 3 July 2013, of impropriety or irregularity relating to NIHE managed contracts and consideration of any resulting actions. (NIA 157/11-15) on Monday 08 September.

4.5 Mr Ramsey queried whether the motion was a take-note debate and the Speaker informed Members that there would be a full debate on the motion.

4.6 Members **agreed** that up to 2 hours should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

- 4.7 Members agreed to schedule a motion from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on its Report on the Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce (NIA 179/11-15) on Tuesday 09 September.
- 4.8 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

#### Private Members' Business

- 4.9 Members **agreed** to schedule no Private Members' Motions on Monday 08 September and one on Tuesday 09 September.
- 4.10 Under the system of allocation, the selection for Tuesday 09 September lay with the DUP. Mr Weir initially selected a motion on the 'Development Proposals from the Western Education and Library Board' and Junior Minister Bell advised that due to a meeting of the Executive Committee at 10.30am on Tuesday 09 September no Ministers were available to respond to Private Members' Business before Question Time on that day.
- 4.11 Mr Weir indicated that he was willing to select a motion which did not call on a ministerial response and suggested that this motion should be debated before the Committee Business which calls on a response from OFMDFM.
- 4.12 The Speaker indicated his concern that Ministers were not available to respond to Committee and Private Members' Business at the appropriate time and confirmed that the Speaker's Office had not been consulted on the implications of arranging an Executive Committee meeting during a Plenary meeting of the Assembly.
- 4.13 Following consideration it was **agreed** that, on Tuesday 09 September, Private Members' Business would be debated before Committee Business and in the event of Private Members' Business concluding before 12.30pm the Assembly will suspend until Question Time at 2pm.
- 4.14 The following motion was selected for Tuesday 09 September:
- 'Ardoyne Fleadh' (Mr W Humphrey, Mr N McCausland, Mr A Easton and Mr J Wells).
- 4.15 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

4.16 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 09 September. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the DUP and the following topic was selected:

- 'Road Infrastructure Improvements required on Knockmore/Prince William Road in Lisburn known as the Lisburn and Dunmurry 1 Development Area' (Mr P Givan).

4.17 Further to Junior Minister Bell's advice that Ministers were unavailable to respond to business before Question Time on Tuesday 09 September Minister Bell also advised that all Ministers were available to respond to business on Monday 08 September.

4.18 Junior Minister Bell advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 15 September**

Executive Business

5.1 Members noted that Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education was scheduled for Monday 15 September.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 16 September:

- Question Time to the Minister for Employment and Learning and to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment;
- Ministerial Statement on Inter-governmental Agreement on Cooperation on Criminal Justice Matters;
- Consideration Stage of the Legal Aid and Coroners' Courts Bill.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business on either day.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 15 September and one on Tuesday 16 September.
- 5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 15 September lay with Sinn Féin and the DUP. Following a request from Mr Weir it was **agreed** that the DUP selection would be postponed until the week commencing Monday 22 September.
- 5.6 It was **further agreed** that Sinn Féin would select both motions for Monday 15 September and that the SDLP would select the motion for Tuesday 16 September.
- 5.7 The following motions were selected for Monday 15 September:
- 'Welfare Cuts' (Mr A Maskey, Mr M Brady, Mr F McCann);
  - 'Postal Charges' (Mr P Flanagan, Ms M Fearon and Mr M McLaughlin).
- 5.8 Mr Ramsey undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection for Tuesday 16 September 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 16 September. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin and the following topic was selected:
- 'University of Ulster Expansion at Magee Campus' (Ms M McLaughlin).
- 5.11 Junior Minister Bell advised that the Minister of Enterprise Trade and Investment was unavailable to respond to Private Members' Business on either day.
- 5.12 Junior Minister Bell advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 5.13 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Changes to the Speaking List**

- 6.1 Members **noted** that following the departure of Mr John McCallister MLA from NI21 the plenary Speaking List had been re-calculated. Members **further noted** that as per the normal arrangements parties with five or more members will be called, in order of size, in the first speaking round and that the remainder of the speaking list had been calculated using the d'Hondt formula.
- 6.2 The draft speaking list was **agreed**.

7. **Letter from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Question Time on 16 September 2014**

- 7.1 The Speaker **referred** members to a letter from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. Members **noted** that, on Tuesday 16 September the Minister was on official business outside of Belfast and therefore the Minister of Finance and Personnel will respond to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's questions on Tuesday 16 September.

8. **Request to Change Question Time dates**

- 8.1 The Speaker **referred** Members to a letter from the Minister for Employment and Learning asking to change his Question Time slot from 07 October 2014 to 29 September 2014.
- 8.2 Members **noted** that the Minister for Regional Development was content to accommodate the proposed change.
- 8.3 Members **agreed** to the request.

9. **Any other business**

- 9.1 Members **noted** that a letter was issued to Whips on 19 August requesting them to nominate a full and substitute Member to represent the Northern Ireland Assembly on the Committee of the Regions. The Speaker requested that Whips provide these names for the next meeting of the Business Committee.

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

10.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 12.30pm on Tuesday 09 September 2014 in Room 106.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.56pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**