

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 07 OCTOBER 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.34pm.

Present:

Mr P Weir (Acting Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Mr G Kelly
Lord Morrow
Mrs K McKeivitt
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
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
Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

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

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were noted from The Speaker.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 September were **agreed** and signed by the Acting Chairperson.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 13 October**

4.1 Following a query from Ms Ruane the Acting Chairperson confirmed that the 'Election of Speaker' would be formally considered as part of the finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing Monday 13 October.

Assembly Business

4.2 Members **noted** a copy of a letter from the Speaker indicating his intention to resign at noon on Monday 13 October and Members **agreed** to schedule an all-party motion of thanks to the Speaker, in the name of party leaders, on Monday 13 October.

4.3 Following discussion, Members **agreed** that up to one hour should be scheduled for the motion, which would not include a wind, and that each Member would be allocated up to three minutes to speak.

4.4 The Acting Chairperson reminded Members that when the Office of the Speaker becomes vacant, Standing Order 6 requires the Assembly to proceed to elect a Speaker as soon as may be.

4.5 Following discussion, Ms Ruane formally **proposed** that the election of the Speaker should be scheduled on Monday 13 October.

4.6 Members **voted** on the proposal as follows:

For - 64 votes

Against - 37 votes.

4.7 The proposal was, therefore, **carried**.

4.8 Members **agreed** that, during the election of the Speaker, each Member would be allocated up to three minutes to speak.

- 4.9 Members considered whether the election of the Speaker should precede the all-party motion of thanks to the Speaker and, following discussion, Ms Ruane formally **proposed** that the all-party motion of thanks to the Speaker should be scheduled after the election of the Speaker.
- 4.10 Members **voted** on the proposal as follows:
- For - 29 votes
Against - 72 votes.
- 4.11 The proposal was, therefore, **negatived**.
- 4.12 Members considered procedural issues regarding the election of a Speaker and it was **agreed** that the Clerk would provide Members with an advice paper outlining the main procedural issues based on precedents.
- 4.13 Mr Swann sought confirmation on procedure, should a Speaker not be elected, and Ms Dunwoody confirmed that in accordance with Standing Order 4(7), where the Assembly is unable to elect a Speaker the deputy Speakers shall act in turn as Speaker until a Speaker is elected.
- 4.14 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the UUP to change Committee Membership on Monday 13 October.

Executive Business

- 4.15 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 13 October.
- 4.16 Members **noted** that the motion to approve the draft Lands Tribunal (Salaries) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014 was now scheduled as the first item of Executive Committee Business on Tuesday 14 October.

Committee Business

- 4.17 Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 13 October.
- 4.18 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business scheduled for Tuesday 14 October.

Private Members' Business

- 4.19 Members **noted** that there was no Private Members' Business scheduled for Monday 13 October.
- 4.20 Members **noted** that there was no Private Members' Motions scheduled for Tuesday 14 October and that the UUP had selected an Adjournment debate with the option of postponing the debate in the event of a late sitting.
- 4.21 Junior Minister Bell advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.22 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 20 October 2014**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** the following business was scheduled for Monday 20 October:
- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of Justice.
- 5.2 Members **noted** the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 21 October:
- Question Time to the Minister for Regional Development and to the Minister for Social Development;
 - Motion from the Minister of the Environment to approve the draft Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014;
 - Second Stage: Off-street Parking (Functions of District Councils) Bill;
 - Consideration Stage: Education Bill.

Committee Business

- 5.3 Members **noted** that the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety had requested to schedule a motion on its Review of Waiting Times for Elective Care on Monday 20 October. Members **further noted** that the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety was unavailable to respond to Committee Business on Monday 20 October and, therefore, it was **agreed** to defer this debate to a time where the Minister is available to respond.
- 5.4 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Tuesday 21 October.

Private Members' Business

- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule the Consideration Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill on Monday 20 October.
- 5.6 Members **noted** that it was likely that the debate would extend beyond 7pm and it was therefore **agreed** to schedule a motion to suspend Standing Orders 10(2) to 10(4), on Monday 20 October, to allow for an indefinite extension to the sitting time.
- 5.7 Ms Ruane considered the possibility that the Consideration Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill would not be concluded on Monday 20 October and queried whether this would have an impact on the business scheduled for Tuesday 21 October. The Clerk informed Members that in the event that the business on the Order Paper is not disposed of before the adjournment on Monday 20 October, then the remainder of the business would be scheduled at the next meeting of the Business Committee.
- 5.8 Members **noted** that the Marshalled List of Amendments for both the Consideration Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill and the Consideration Stage of the Education Bill were expected to be published on Friday 17 October.
- 5.9 Members **agreed** to schedule no Private Members Motions on Tuesday 21 October.
- 5.10 Members **agreed** not to schedule an Adjournment debate on Tuesday 21 October due to the expected late sitting.

5.11 Junior Minister Bell confirmed that all Ministers were available to respond to business.

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

6. **Any other business**

6.1 There was no other business.

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

7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 14 October 2014 in Room 106.

The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.10pm

**Principal Deputy Speaker
Mr M McLaughlin**