

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.32pm.

Present:

- Mr M McLaughlin (Acting Chairperson)**
- Mr S Dickson**
- Mr G Kelly**
- Mrs K McKeivitt**
- Lord Morrow**
- Mrs S Overend**
- Mr P Ramsey**
- Ms C Ruane**
- Mr R Swann**
- Mr P Weir**

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
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 McCann**
- Mr A Rogers** **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 04 November 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 17 November**

Assembly Business

4.1 The Acting Chairperson reminded Members that, following the unsuccessful Election of Speaker on Monday 13 October, the Office of Speaker remained vacant and that Standing Order 6 requires the Assembly to proceed to elect a Speaker as soon as may be.

4.2 Mr Ramsey supported the option of scheduling the Election of Speaker on Monday 17 November. However, the majority of Members were of the view that as party positions had not changed since the last meeting of the Committee a formal proposal to schedule the Election of a Speaker was not necessary on this occasion. Mr Kelly expressed his party's opposition to the view that the Election of Speaker should not take place on Monday 17 November.

4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the SDLP to change Committee Membership on Monday 17 November.

4.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the DUP to change Committee Membership on Monday 17 November with the wording to be confirmed.

Executive Business

4.5 Members **noted** that the First Stage of the Regeneration Bill was scheduled for Monday 17 November and that a motion to approve the Pensions (2012 Act) (Consequential and Supplementary Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 was now scheduled before the Final Stage of the Education Bill.

4.6 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 18 November.

Committee Business

- 4.7 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business scheduled for Monday 17 November and Tuesday 18 November.

Private Members' Business

- 4.8 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 17 November and Tuesday 18 November.
- 4.9 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.10 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 24 November 2014

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** the following business was scheduled for Monday 24 November:
- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development;
 - Further Consideration Stage: Work and Families Bill;
 - Motion to approve the Child Support Fees Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014;
 - Motion to approve the Child Support (Ending Liability in Existing Cases and Transition to New Calculation Rules) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.
- 5.2 Members **noted** the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 25 November:
- Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education;
 - Motion to approve the draft Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (Amendment of section 46(1)) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.

- 5.3 In addition, Members **noted** that, subject to Departmental consideration, it was possible that the Consideration Stage of the Reservoirs Bill could be scheduled for Tuesday 25 November. Mr Swann expressed concern regarding the possible late notification of scheduling such a major Bill and Members **further noted** that the Executive Committee shall have the right of placing its business in any order that it pleases prior to the issue of the Order Paper. It was **agreed** that a letter should be sent to OFMDFM reminding them of the importance of tabling major items of Assembly business sufficiently far in advance to allow for amendments.
- 5.4 Following discussion it was **noted** that if the Bill is scheduled at the next meeting of the Committee, in practical terms for such a major Bill, this would give Members only two days' notice to table amendments, and **further noted** that the Bill would be likely to constitute the whole day's business.
- 5.5 It was, therefore, **agreed** that, should notification be received that the Reservoirs Bill be scheduled for Tuesday 25 November, a revised provisional Order Paper should be issued, at the earliest opportunity, with only the following business scheduled:
- Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education;
 - Motion to approve the draft Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (Amendment of section 46(1)) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014.
 - Consideration Stage: Reservoirs Bill.

Committee Business

- 5.6 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 Monday 24 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.
- 5.7 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Tuesday 25 November.

Private Members' Business

- 5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion on Monday 24 November, and two on Tuesday 25 November.

- 5.9 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the SDLP, the UUP and the DUP.
- 5.10 The following motion was selected for Monday 24 November:
- ‘Anniversary of the Murder of Paul Quinn’ (Mr D Bradley, Mrs D Kelly and Mr A Maginness);
- 5.11 The following motions were selected for Tuesday 25 November:
- ‘Closure of MS Respite Centre at Dalriada Hospital’ (Mr R Swann, Mrs J Dobson and Mr M McGimpsey);
 - ‘Prison Service Staff Safety’ (Mr P Givan, Mr S Douglas, Mr P Frew and Mr E Poots).
- 5.12 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.13 In addition Members **agreed** to schedule one All-Party Motion on Monday 24 November on the ‘Contribution made by the Post Office Network’ (Mr C Lyttle, Mr D Bradley, Mrs P Cameron, Mr S Agnew, Mr D Kinahan and Mr C Boylan).
- 5.14 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.15 Ms Ruane expressed the view that, given the number of existing All-Party Groups, further consideration should be given to the scheduling of All-Party Motions. It was **agreed** that Members would be provided with a current list of all All-Party Groups at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 5.16 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 25 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the Alliance Party and the following topic was selected:
- ‘Cherry Tree Nursing Home, Carrickfergus’ (Mr S Dickson).
- 5.17 Members **agreed** that, should a revised provisional Order Paper be required, the Private Members’ Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 25 November would be rescheduled at the next meeting of the Committee.
- 5.18 Junior Minister McCann advised that all Ministers were available to respond to business.
- 5.19 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 18 November 2014 in Room 106.

The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 12.50pm

**Mr John Dallat MLA
Deputy Speaker
The Acting Chairperson**