

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.38pm.

Present:

Mr R Beggs (Acting Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Mr R McCartney
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Mr T Reaney	Clerk/Director General
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
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:

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

1. **Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were noted from Mr Gerry Kelly and Mr Robin Swann.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 November were **agreed** as amended.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 01 December**

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 Ms Ruane indicated her party's support for an Election of a Speaker to be scheduled for Monday 01 December and Mr Ramsey indicated that his party was in agreement with this position. Mr Weir expressed the view that his party's position on the matter remained unchanged and that it would not be in a position to elect a Speaker during the week commencing Monday 01 December.

4.3 Following discussion, Ms Ruane formally **proposed** that the Election of Speaker should be scheduled for Monday 01 December.

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

For - 43 votes

Against - 58 votes

4.5 The proposal was, therefore, **negatived**.

4.6 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the DUP to change Committee Membership on Monday 01 December.

Executive Business

- 4.7 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 01 December.
- 4.8 Members **noted** that the motion regarding the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, previously scheduled for Tuesday 02 December, had been postponed to Tuesday 09 December.

Committee Business

- 4.9 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Social Development to extend the Committee Stage of the Pensions Bill (NIA Bill 42/11-16) on Monday 01 December.
- 4.10 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Regional Development to extend the Committee Stage of the Off-street Parking (Functions of District Councils) Bill (NIA Bill 40/11-16) on Monday 01 December.
- 4.11 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business scheduled for Tuesday 02 December.

Private Members' Business

- 4.12 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 01 December.
- 4.13 Members **noted** that the Minister for Regional Development was not available to respond to Sinn Féin's motion on the A6 on Tuesday 02 December. Mr McCartney queried whether another Minister would be available to respond on behalf of the Minister for Regional Development and Ms McCann indicated that this would be a matter for the Executive Committee. Ms Ruane indicated her party's desire to proceed with the motion as originally scheduled without a response from the Minister for Regional Development.
- 4.14 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.15 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 08 December 2014**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** the following business was scheduled for Monday 08 December:

- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety;
- First Stage of the Regeneration Bill;
- Legislative Consent Motion regarding the Serious Crime Bill;
- Legislative Consent Motion regarding the Modern Slavery Bill;
- Motion from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment regarding the Draft Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

5.2 Members **noted** the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 09 December:

- Question Time to the Minister of Justice and to the Minister for Regional Development;
- Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Justice regarding the Inter-governmental Agreement on Cooperation on Criminal Justice Matters;
- Motion from the Minister of the Environment regarding the draft Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (DOE);
- Legislative Consent Motion regarding the Pension Scheme Bill.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on the draft Budget 2015-16 on Monday 08 December.

5.4 Members **agreed** that up to 3 hours should be allocated for the motion, with 15 minutes to move, 15 minutes to wind and 7 minutes for all other speakers.

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee on Procedures on its Review of Topical Questions on Tuesday 09 December.

5.6 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

Private Members' Business

- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule the Final Stage of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provisions and Support for Victims) Bill (NIA Bill 26/11-15) on Tuesday 09 December subject to the necessary consents.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule no Private Members' Motions on either day.
- 5.9 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 09 December. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin and the following topic was selected:
- 'Cuts Proposed by the Western Health and Social Care Trust; Impact on Service Provision in the Omagh Area' (Mr B McElduff).
- 5.10 Junior Minister McCann advised that the Minister of Finance and Personnel was not available to respond to the Committee for Finance and Personnel's motion on the draft Budget 2015-16 scheduled for Monday 08 December.
- 5.11 In light of the Minister's lack of availability, Members acknowledged that the decision to proceed with the motion lay with the Committee for Finance and Personnel and it was **agreed** that, should the Committee decide not to proceed with its motion, a Private Members' Motion would be scheduled for Monday 08 December at the next meeting of the Committee **noting** that under the system of allocation, the selection would lie with the Alliance party.
- 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 02 December 2014 in Room 106.

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

**Mr Mitchel McLaughlin
Principal Deputy Speaker
The Acting Chairperson**