

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2015
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.00pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
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
Mr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Mr T Reaney	Clerk/Chief Executive
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services and Governance
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr G Ervine	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Junior Minister McCann
Mr K Kerr **OFMDFM**

1. **Apologies**

1.1 There was an apology from Mrs Karen McKeivitt.

2. **Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 September were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 28 September 2015**

- 4.1 Mr Weir proposed the same motion as that proposed at the meeting on 10 September; that the Assembly stands in recess until 05 October 2015 subject to further decision of the Business Committee.
- 4.2 All parties' views on the proposal remained the same so the proposal was **negatived**.

Public Petition

- 4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Mrs Sandra Overend to the Minister of Justice for Monday 28 September subject to it being within the legislative competence of the Assembly. Mrs Overend undertook to inform the Business Office of the exact wording of the petition following the meeting.

Assembly Business

- 4.4 Members **agreed** to defer the appointment of Ministers of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Health, Social Services and Public Safety; and for Social Development from Monday 28 September to Monday 05 October.
- 4.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the UUP to change Committee Membership on Monday 28 September.

Executive Business

- 4.6 Members **noted** notification from the Minister of Justice to schedule a Ministerial Statement for Monday 28 September.
- 4.7 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 28 September.
- 4.8 Members **noted** notification from the Minister for Employment and Learning to schedule a Ministerial Statement for Tuesday 29 September.
- 4.9 Members **noted** that the Final Stage of the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill, previously scheduled for Tuesday 29 September, was removed from business. This is due to the Further Consideration Stage of the Bill not being moved on 15 September.
- 4.10 Members **noted** that if a ministerial office is vacant, an item of business listed in that name cannot be moved.

- 4.11 Members **agreed** to include a motion to suspend Standing Order 20(1) on Monday 28 September and Tuesday 29 September to allow ordinary business to continue at 2pm should it be necessary.

Committee Business

- 4.12 Members **noted** the wording of the motion from the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure on the 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games for Monday 28 September.
- 4.13 Members **noted** that there were no further changes to Committee Business for Monday 28 September.
- 4.14 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Tuesday 29 September.

Private Members' Business

- 4.15 Members **noted** that there were requests for Private Members' Business for Monday 28 September.
- 4.16 Members **noted** that there were no changes to Private Members' Business for Tuesday 29 September.
- 4.17 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.18 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 05 October 2015**

Assembly Business

- 5.1 Members **agreed** that the Appointment of Ministers of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Health, Social Services and Public Safety; and for Social Development and Regional Development is listed on the provisional Order Paper for Monday 05 October.

Executive Business

- 5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 05 October:

- Final Stage of the Pension Schemes Bill (NIA Bill 54/11-16)

- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

5.3 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 06 October:

- Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and Minister of Education.

Committee Business

5.4 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for either day.

Private Members' Business

5.5 The Chairperson informed Members that Mr John McCallister requested that the Second Stage of his Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill is listed for Monday 05 October.

5.6 The Chairperson detailed the guidance for Private Members' Bills, informing Members that the convention was for at least four weeks to elapse between first and second readings of bills.

5.7 Members **agreed** to defer this request and consider it further at next week's meeting.

5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 05 October and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 06 October.

5.9 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 05 October lay with UUP and DUP and the selection for Tuesday 06 October lay with Sinn Féin and DUP.

5.10 The DUP indicated that they would not be selecting motions for debate. Therefore the selections for Monday 05 October lay with UUP and Sinn Féin and the selection for Tuesday 06 October lay with Sinn Féin and SDLP. The following motions were selected:

- 'Cancer Services' (Mrs J Dobson and Mr M McGimpsey)
- 'Coroner's Service' (Mr R McCartney and Mr S Lynch)

5.11 Ms Ruane undertook to inform the Business Office of her party's other selection following the meeting.

- 5.12 Mr Ramsey undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection following the meeting.
- 5.13 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.14 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 06 October. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP. The DUP indicated that they would not be selecting a motion for debate; therefore the next selection fell to Sinn Féin. The following motion was selected:
- 'Spatial Planning to Meet Demand for Housing in Carrickmore' (Mr B McElduff)
- 5.15 Junior Minister McCann advised that the Minister of Justice would be unavailable from 2.30pm on Monday 05 October, therefore Sinn Féin and UUP agreed to swap the order in which their Private Members' Motions would be taken.
- 5.16 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Any other business**

- 6.1 Mr Swann raised an issue which arose during Question Time on Monday 21 September, when the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister refused to answer a question due to it being outside the remit of the Department, yet the Acting First Minister answered a topical question on the same subject.
- 6.2 Members **agreed** to request information on how Standing Order 19(1) is currently interpreted and implemented by the Business Office and to consider any future action necessary.

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

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1.00pm on Tuesday 29 September 2015 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.21pm

The Speaker
Chairperson