

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2015
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.03pm.

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 T Reaney	Clerk/Chief Executive
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
Mrs T Caul	Acting 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
Junior Minister Pengelly
Mr A Rogers **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 20 October were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

- 3.1 The Speaker **referred** Members to an advice paper regarding revised guidance for Members on Motions.
- 3.2 Ms Ruane proposed that the guidance should continue to prevent duplicate motions going on to the No Day Named list but that the No Day Named list should remain in place for the full mandate.
- 3.3 Mr Swann stated that the UUP would support this proposal.
- 3.4 Mr Weir stated that the DUP is content with the recommendations set out in the advice paper.
- 3.5 Mr Ramsey stated that the SDLP is content with the recommendations set out in the advice paper, but would consider Ms Ruane's proposal.
- 3.6 Mr Dickson stated that Alliance is content with the recommendations set out in the advice paper, but would consider Ms Ruane's proposal, as long as it deals with the tabling of similar Motions.
- 3.7 Following discussion, Ms Ruane **agreed** to meet with the Business Office to discuss her proposal further and Members **agreed** that a new advice note should be prepared and brought back to a future meeting.
- 3.8 The Speaker **referred** Members to an advice paper regarding the process for tabling questions to Ministers.
- 3.9 Members **agreed** with the recommendations set out in the advice paper.
- 3.10 The Speaker **referred** Members to the issue of rescheduling fallen questions for oral answer, which was raised during Plenary on Tuesday 20th October.
- 3.11 Members **noted** that questions fell in accordance with convention when there was no Minister in post and **agreed** not to reschedule the fallen questions, with Members able to submit these questions for written answer if necessary.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 09 November 2015**

Public Petition

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Mr Fearghal McKinney on 'Autism Services', for Monday 09 November.

Assembly Business

- 4.2 Members **agreed** to remove the item of business to appoint Ministers of Health, Social Services and Public Safety; Enterprise, Trade and Investment; and for Social Development and Regional Development, as it was no longer applicable.
- 4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the DUP to change Committee Membership for Monday 09 November.

Executive Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** a request to schedule a Ministerial Statement from the Minister of Justice for Monday 09 November.
- 4.5 Members **noted** that the First Stage of the Rural Needs Bill was scheduled for Monday 09 November; this has been cleared by the Speaker for legislative competence.
- 4.6 Members **noted** that the Second Stage of the Housing (Amendment) Bill was scheduled for Monday 09 November.
- 4.7 Members **noted** that the Second Stage of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Bill was scheduled for Monday 09 November.
- 4.8 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 09 November.
- 4.9 Members **noted** that the Second Stage of the Shared Education Bill was scheduled for Tuesday 10 November. Members also **noted** the possibility of a lengthy debate on this Bill and **agreed** this should be reflected in the indicative timings.
- 4.10 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 10 November.

Committee Business

- 4.11 Members **noted** that there were still no requests for Committee Business for Monday 09 November.
- 4.12 Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 10 November.

Private Members' Business

- 4.13 Members **noted** that following last week's meeting Alliance selected the following motion:
- 'Reduction in the Number of MLAs' (Mr S Dickson, Mr C Lyttle and Mr K McCarthy)
- 4.14 Members **agreed** to defer one of the Private Members' Motions from Monday 09 November due to an increase in Executive Business.
- 4.15 In light of this, Members **agreed** that the Motion on 'Ballymurphy 1971' is scheduled for Monday 09 November and the Motions on 'Regional Economic Imbalance' and 'Funding for Transport Infrastructure' are scheduled for Tuesday 10 November. Members also **agreed** that the Motion on 'Reduction in the Number of MLAs' will be re-scheduled for the next available Private Members' Motion timeslot.
- 4.16 Junior Minister Pengelly advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.17 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.
5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 16 November 2015**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 16 November:
- Consideration Stage of the Pension Schemes Bill.
 - Question Time to the Minister of Finance and Personnel and the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 17 November:
- Second Stage of the Rural Needs Bill.
 - Question Time to the Minister of Justice and the Minister for Regional Development.

Committee Business

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

Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule the Second Stage of Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson's Human Transplantation Bill for Monday 16 November.
- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule the Second Stage of Mr Roy Beggs' Scrap Metal Dealers Bill for Monday 16 November.
- 5.6 Members **agreed** to schedule the Second Stage of Mr Phil Flanagan's Local Government (Numbers and Addresses of Buildings in Townlands) Bill for Tuesday 17 November.
- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 17 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP. The following motion was selected:

- 'Use of the Stormont Estate' (Mr R Newton).

- 5.8 Junior Minister Pengelly indicated that Ministers were available to respond to the motions.
- 5.9 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1 The Speaker **referred** Members to an advice paper regarding an invitation from the Assembly and Executive Review Committee to make a submission on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Bill.
- 6.2 Members **agreed** that a draft response is prepared for consideration at next week's meeting.

7. Any other business

- 7.1 The Speaker informed Members that a document relating to managing pressures on Plenary time towards the end of the mandate will be provided in the papers for next week's meeting.

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

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1.00pm on Tuesday 10 November 2015 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.31pm

The Speaker
Chairperson