

DRAFT
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2016
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.01pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Dr S Farry
Mr G Lyons
Mr D McAleer
Mr C McGrath
Ms C Ní Chuilín
Mrs S Overend
Mr R Swann

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Parliamentary Services
Mr P Gill	Clerk Assistant
Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
Ms T Caul	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:

Ms C Ruane	Principal Deputy Speaker
Junior Minister Fearon	
Junior Minister Ross	
Mr A Rogers	The Executive Office

1. Apologies

1.1 There were apologies from Mr A Attwood and Mr T Clarke.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 04 October were **agreed**.

3. Matters arising

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 17 October 2016**

Executive Committee Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 17 October.
- 4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 18 October.

Private Members' Business

- 4.3 Members **noted** revised wording for the motion on 'EU Special Status for Northern Ireland', scheduled for Monday 17 October.
- 4.4 Members **noted** that, following last week's meeting, Sinn Féin confirmed that their Private Members' Motion scheduled for Monday 17 October was on 'Domestic Abuse, Rape and Sexual Crime'.
- 4.5 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 17 October.
- 4.6 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business scheduled for Tuesday 18 October.

Opposition Business

- 4.7 Members **noted** that there was no change to Opposition Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 18 October.
- 4.8 Junior Minister Ross advised that no further Executive business was expected at this stage.
- 4.9 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 24 October 2016**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 24 October:

- Question Time for the Minister of Justice and the Minister for Communities.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 25 October:

- Motion on Rates (Increased Reduction for Recreational Hereditaments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- Question Time to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Minister for the Economy.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a Business Motion from the Assembly Commission to appoint Trustees of the Assembly Members' Pension Scheme for Monday 24 October.

5.4 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Tuesday 25 October.

Private Members' Business

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 24 October and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 25 October.

5.6 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 24 October lay with DUP and UUP and the selections for Tuesday 25 October lay with DUP and Sinn Féin. The following motions were selected:

- 'Addressing Nursing Shortages' (Mr S Anderson, Ms P Bradley, Mr G Middleton and Mr T Clarke).
- 'Ending the Separation of Paramilitary Prisoners' (Mr D Beattie and Mr R Beggs).
- 'Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (Mr M Storey, Mr G Dunne, Mr T Buchanan and Mr G Lyons).
- 'Partnership Working in Education Services' (Ms J McCann, Ms M Gildernew and Mr F McCann).

5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 25 October. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with UUP and the following adjournment debate was selected:

- 'The Future of Movilla High School' (Mr M Nesbitt).

5.8 Junior Minister Ross advised that the Minister of Justice would not be available after 4:45pm on Monday 24 October. This impacted on the motion on 'Ending the Separation of Paramilitary Prisoners' and it was proposed that the two motions scheduled for that day were swapped on the Order Paper. Members **agreed** to this change.

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

6. Impact of Extending Business Committee Membership to Parties with Two MLAs

6.1 Members were referred to the advice paper regarding extending Business Committee membership to parties with two MLAs.

6.2 Ms Ní Chuilín stated that she supported maintaining the current membership of the Business Committee.

6.3 Mr Swann stated that he supported offering the Green Party and the People before Profit Alliance one place each on the Business Committee.

6.4 Mr Lyons stated that he supported maintaining the current membership of the Business Committee.

6.5 Mr McGrath stated that he supported offering the Green Party and the People before Profit Alliance one place each on the Business Committee.

6.6 Mr Dickson stated that he supported offering the Green Party and the People before Profit Alliance one place each on the Business Committee.

6.7 It was **proposed** that the current membership of the Business Committee is maintained.

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

For - 65 votes

Against - 36 votes

6.9 The proposal was, therefore, **agreed**.

6.10 Mr Swann noted his disappointment about the decision and expressed concern about the resulting public perception of the Committee.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs regarding her previous request for Mr Simon Hamilton MLA to answer Oral Questions on her behalf on 7 November 2016.

8. **Any Other Business**

8.1 Ms Ní Chuilín referred to a point of order raised during Plenary on Tuesday 4 October 2016, in relation to a Business Committee vote on speaking rights. The Speaker indicated that he would be responding to the point of order after reviewing the issue and Members **agreed** to revisit this matter after the Speaker had made his response.

8.2 Mr McGrath requested that the Business Committee re-visit the May 2016 decision on speaking rights. Members **agreed** that the advice paper issued previously on speaking rights is recirculated and that this matter is included on the agenda for next week's meeting.

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

9.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 18 October 2016 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.14pm

The Speaker
Chairperson