

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2016
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.02pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr A Attwood
Mr D Beattie
Mr S Dickson
Dr S Farry
Mr G Lyons
Mr D McAleer
Ms C Ní Chuilín
Mrs S Overend

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Parliamentary Services
Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
Mrs A McKelvey	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 T Clarke, Mr C McGrath and Mr R Swann.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 November were **agreed**.

3. Matters arising

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 05 December 2016**

Assembly Business

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a Business motion to appoint Mr Steven Agnew as a member of the Business Committee for Monday 05 December.

Executive Committee Business

- 4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 05 December.
- 4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 06 December.

Private Members' Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business scheduled for Monday 05 December.
- 4.5 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business scheduled for Tuesday 06 December.
- 4.6 Junior Minister Fearon advised that no further Executive Business was expected at this stage.
- 4.7 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Speaking Rights**

- 5.1 Members were referred to correspondence from the Green Party, People Before Profit Alliance and Traditional Unionist Voice in relation to speaking rights.
- 5.2 Members were also referred to the advice paper previously tabled in relation to speaking rights.
- 5.3 Mr Attwood **proposed** that a slightly amended option 7 from the advice paper, as laid out in correspondence from the three smaller parties, be adopted.
- 5.4 Members **voted** on the proposal as follows:

For – 36 votes

Against – 65 votes

5.5 The proposal therefore **fell**.

5.6 Members **agreed** to write to the three smaller parties to outline the Committee's decision.

6. **Allocation of Private Members' Motions**

6.1 Members were referred to an advice paper in relation to the allocation of Private Members' Motions.

6.2 Members were also referred to a letter from Mr Jim Allister in relation to the allocation of Private Members' Motions.

6.3 Members **agreed** to return to this issue at a future meeting.

7. **Any Other Business**

7.1 The Speaker advised Members that statistics on late answers for written questions will be available in the New Year.

7.2 Mrs Overend raised the issue of a possible recall of the Assembly during Christmas Recess. The Speaker informed Members that he had not received any correspondence in relation to this.

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

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 10 January 2017 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.14pm

The Speaker
Chairperson