

DRAFT
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 07 JUNE 2016
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.01pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)

Mr A Attwood

Mr D Beattie

Mr T Clarke

Mr S Dickson

Mr G Lyons

Mr D McAleer

Mr C McGrath

Ms C Ní Chuilín

Mr R Swann

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel

Mr D Martin

Mr P Gill

Mrs A McKelvey

Mr R Ramsey

Ms F Leneghan

Mr G Ervine

Clerk of Business

Clerk Assistant

Clerk Assistant

**Legal Services and
Governance**

Adviser to the Speaker

PS/Speaker

Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Junior Minister Fearon

Junior Minister Ross

Mrs C Kerr

The Executive Office

1. Apologies

1.1 There was an apology from Mrs S Overend.

1.2 The Speaker welcomed UUP substitute, Mr D Beattie, to the Business Committee.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held at 9:30am on Tuesday 31 May were **agreed**.

2.2 The minutes of the meeting held at 1:00pm on Tuesday 31 May were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

4. **Rota for Private Members' Business**

4.1 Members were referred to the advice paper regarding the rota for Private Members' Business.

4.2 Ms Ní Chuilín stated that she supported option 1, which would afford the Opposition a set number of days.

4.3 Mr Swann stated that he supported the current approach, option 3, which would help build in security to avoid late sittings.

4.4 Mr Clarke stated that he supported option 1.

4.5 Mr Attwood stated that he supported option 3, as agreed by the previous Business Committee.

4.6 Mr Dickson stated that he supported option 3, and urged the Executive to spread out their work programme instead of having a heavy legislative workload at the end of the mandate.

4.7 Mr Swann **proposed** that option 3 be retained.

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

For - 36 votes

Against - 65 votes

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

4.10 Mr Clarke **proposed** that option 1 is adopted, from September 2016, with a minimum of 10 Opposition Days.

4.11 Mr Attwood **proposed** an amendment that option 1 is adopted, from September 2016, with a minimum of 20 Opposition Days.

4.12 Members **voted** on the amendment as follows:

For - 36 votes

Against - 65 votes

4.13 The amendment was, therefore, **negatived**.

4.14 Members **voted** on Mr Clarke's proposal as follows:

For - 65 votes

Against - 36 votes

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

4.16 Members agreed that the Secretariat should provide an advice paper for the next meeting that outlines the further decisions that are required in relation to allocating a minimum of 10 sittings days to the Opposition.

5. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 13 June 2016**

Public Petition

5.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Ms Michaela Boyle, on 'Save Bellgray Nursing Home, Newtownstewart', for Monday 13 June.

5.2 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Mr Chris Lyttle, on 'Special Educational Needs Nursery Provision', for Tuesday 14 June.

Assembly Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the DUP to change Committee Membership for Monday 13 June.

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a Business motion to appoint Dr Stephen Farry as a member of the Business Committee for Monday 13 June.

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule a Business motion to appoint Mr Stewart Dickson to the Regional Chamber of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe for Monday 13 June.

5.6 Members **noted** that there was no change to Assembly Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 14 June.

Executive Business

5.7 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 13 June.

5.8 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 14 June.

Private Members' Business

5.9 Members **noted** that there was still no Private Members' Business scheduled for Monday 13 June.

5.10 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 14 June.

5.11 Junior Minister Ross advised that no further Executive business was expected at this stage.

5.12 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 20 June 2016**

Executive Business

6.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 20 June:

- Consideration Stage of the Budget Bill.
- Question Time to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Minister of Finance.

6.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 21 June:

- Further Consideration Stage of the Budget Bill.
- Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- Question Time to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Justice.

6.3 Members **noted** that the Justice Question Time resulted from a swap with Infrastructure that had been agreed by email by the Business Committee the previous day

6.4 The Speaker informed Members that he had written to the Executive to express his concern at the number of changes that the Business Committee has been asked to make to the Question Time rota already this mandate.

Private Members' Business

- 6.5 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 20 June. Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with Sinn Féin and DUP. The following motions were selected:
- 'Landlord Regulation Scheme' (Mr A Maskey and Mr F McCann)
 - 'Closure of Regional Electoral Offices' (Mr P Frew, Mr S Anderson, Mr T Buchanan and Mrs P Cameron)
- 6.5 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 21 June. Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with SDLP and DUP. The following motions were selected:
- 'Broadband and Mobile Phone Coverage' (Mrs S Bradley, Mr C McGrath and Mr G Mullan)
 - 'Animal Cruelty' (Mrs E Little Pengelly and Mr T Clarke)
- 6.6 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 21 June. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP and the following adjournment debate was selected:
- 'Road Infrastructure in Mid Ulster' (Mr K Buchanan)
- 6.7 Junior Minister Fearon advised that the Minister for Infrastructure would not be available and Mr Clarke undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection following the meeting.
- 6.8 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

7. **Any Other Business**

- 7.1 Members **noted** that, in accordance with Standing Order 55(4), the Speaker has nominated Mr Trevor Clarke and Ms Carál Ní Chuilín to act as Chairpersons in his absence.

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

- 8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 14 June 2016 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.26pm

The Speaker

Chairperson