

**DRAFT**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2016**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.07pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Mr A Attwood**  
**Mr C Boylan**  
**Ms M Boyle**  
**Mr T Clarke**  
**Mr S Dickson**  
**Dr S Farry**  
**Mr C McGrath**  
**Mrs S Overend**  
**Mr R Swann**

**In attendance:**

<b>Dr A McGarel</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b>
<b>Mr P Gill</b>	<b>Clerk Assistant</b>
<b>Ms T Caul</b>	<b>Director of Legal Services and Governance</b>
<b>Mr R Ramsey</b>	<b>Adviser to the Speaker</b>
<b>Mr G Ervine</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>

**Observers:**

**Junior Minister Fearon**  
**Junior Minister Ross**  
**Mr A Rogers**      **The Executive Office**

**1. Apologies**

1.1 There were apologies from Mr G Lyons, Mr D McAleer and Ms C Ní Chuilín.

1.2 Ms Boyle requested that, as both Sinn Féin Business Committee Members were unavailable today, discussions on agenda items 6 and 7 were deferred until next week's meeting. Members **agreed** to this request.

**2. Minutes of previous meetings**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 October were **agreed**.

**3. Matters arising**

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 14 November 2016**

Executive Committee Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 14 November.
- 4.2 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 15 November.

Committee Business

- 4.3 Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 14 November.
- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was still no Committee Business scheduled for Tuesday 15 November.

Private Members' Business

- 4.5 Members **noted** that there was no change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 14 November.
- 4.6 Members **noted** revised wording for the motion on 'Nurture Provision', scheduled for Tuesday 15 November.
- 4.7 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Private Members' Business scheduled for Tuesday 15 November.
- 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 21 November 2016**

- 5.1 Members **agreed** that Monday 21 November is formally designated an opposition day.

Executive Business

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 21 November:

- Question Time to the Executive Office and the Minister for the Economy.

5.3 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 22 November:

- Legislative Consent Motion on the Savings (Government Contributions) Bill.
- Question Time to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Finance.

#### Opposition Business

5.4 Three motions were scheduled for Monday 21 November for discussion under 'Opposition Business'.

5.5 The first motion scheduled is on 'EU Funding for the Agricultural Sector' (Mr P McGlone, Mr A Attwood, Mr H McKee and Mr R Swann). Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion with the usual timings.

5.6 The second motion scheduled is on 'Impact of Draft Strategic Area Plan on Rural Schools' (Mrs S Overend, Mr C McGrath, Mrs R Barton and Mr D McCrossan). Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion with the usual timings.

5.7 The third motion scheduled is on 'Poverty and Deprivation' (Mr A Attwood, Mr A Allen, Ms N Mallon and Mr M Nesbitt). Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour should be allocated for the motion with the usual timings.

#### Private Members' Business

5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 22 November.

5.9 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Tuesday 22 November lay with UUP and DUP. The following motions were selected:

- 'Energy Affordability and Security' (Mr S Aiken and Mr A Chambers).
- 'Review of Arm's-Length Bodies' (Mr C Stalford, Mr W Irwin, Mrs P Cameron and Mr P Logan).

- 5.10 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motions, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 22 November. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP and the following adjournment debate was selected:
- ‘Funding for Road and Footpath Maintenance in North Down’ (Mr A Easton).
- 5.12 Junior Minister Ross advised that all Ministers were available.
- 5.13 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

## 6. **Speaking Rights**

- 6.1 Members **noted** a memo outlining the Speaker’s response to the Committee on Procedures on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act, in his capacity as Speaker.
- 6.2 Mr Swann requested that a further option be added to the paper on this issue, similar to when NI21 became a two-member party and were called at the end of group 3 on the speaking list.
- 6.3 As agreed at point 1.2, Members **agreed** to defer discussion on this item of business until next week.

## 7. **Business Committee Membership**

- 7.1 As agreed at point 1.2, Members **agreed** to defer discussion on this item of business until next week.

## 8. **Draft Response on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act**

- 8.1 Members were referred to the draft response to the Committee on Procedures in relation to the consultation on the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act.
- 8.2 Members **agreed** to ask the Committee on Procedures to request a week’s extension for the Business Committee response.
- 8.3 Members **agreed** to defer further discussion on this item of business until next week.

9. **Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Executive Office and **agreed** to change the date of its Question Time slot from Monday 5 December to Tuesday 29 November. Members **also agreed** that Executive Office questions are taken first on Tuesday 29 November.
- 9.2 Members **noted** correspondence from Mr Steven Agnew in relation to the selection of Private Members' Motions. Members **agreed** to request an advisory note from the Clerk on this issue and consider it further at next week's meeting.
- 9.3 Mr Swann requested that statistics on late answers to Written Questions are presented to the Business Committee on a regular basis. Members **agreed** to this request.
- 9.4 Mr Dickson raised the issue of Committees arranging extra meetings at the same time as Question Time. It was agreed that this issue would be raised through the Chairpersons' Liaison Group and with Committee Clerks.

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

- 10.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 15 November 2016 in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.27pm*

**The Speaker**  
**Chairperson**