



Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Minutes of Proceedings

Thursday 22 April 2021

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting by StarLeaf

Present by Video or Teleconference:

Declan McAleer MLA (Chairperson)
Philip McGuigan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Clare Bailey MLA
Rosemary Barton MLA
John Blair MLA
Maurice Bradley MLA
Harry Harvey MLA
William Irwin MLA
Patsy McGlone MLA

Apologies: None

In Attendance by Video or Teleconference:

Stella McArdle, Clerk
Bronagh Irwin, Assistant Clerk



Marion Johnson, Clerical Supervisor

Katy Duffy, Clerical Officer

The meeting commenced at 9.33 a.m. in open session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Chairperson's Business

Mrs Barton joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Noted: The Committee noted the note of the informal meeting with the NI Affairs Committee which the Chairperson attended on 15 April 2021.

Noted: The Committee noted the note of the informal meeting with the Chairperson for the Office for Environmental Protection which took place on 15 April 2021.

3. Draft Minutes

Agreed: The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2021.

4. Matters Arising

None.



5. Oral Evidence Session Mid and East Antrim Borough Council: Withdrawal of DAERA and Local Authority Staff from Ports

The following representatives from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council joined the meeting by StarLeaf at 9.36 a.m.:

Anne Donaghy, Clerk and Chief Executive

Councillor Peter Johnston, Mayor of Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

The representatives briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr Bradley joined the meeting at 10.01 a.m.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to request sight of the letter that was sent to HM Cabinet Office from the Clerk and Chief Executive on behalf of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executive's in Northern Ireland and to seek clarification as to why the letter was not included in their written submission to the Committee. The Committee also agreed to request further information on whether a referral was made to the PSNI in relation to an email sent to the Head of Human Resources from a Trade Union Side representative raising concerns about threats made using graffiti and "potentially other methods".

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move into closed session.

The Committee moved into closed session at 11:32 a.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move to agenda item 7.

6. Departmental Oral Briefing: The Horse Racing (Amendment) Bill – Outcome of the Consultation and Policy Position on the Bill

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move into open session.



The meeting moved into open session at 11:46 a.m. with the Deputy Chairperson in the Chair.

The following departmental officials joined the meeting by StarLeaf at 11.47 a.m.:

Colette McMaster, Director of Sustainable Agri-Food Development

John Terrington, Head of Agri- Food Brexit Policy

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

The Chairperson resumed the Chair at 12:14 p.m.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the officials for their attendance.

7. Oral Evidence Session Mid and East Antrim Borough Council: Shared Environmental Services

The following representatives from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council joined the meeting by StarLeaf at 12.26 p.m.:

Nicola Rowles, Director of Development

Paul Duffy, Head of Planning

The representatives briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr McGlone left the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Ms Bailey left the meeting at 13:12 p.m.

Ms Bailey joined the meeting at 13:13 p.m.

The oral evidence session was reported by Hansard.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance.



8. Departmental Written Briefing: Independent Panel for Review of Decisions Process

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

9. Departmental Written Briefing: Independent Panel for Review of Decisions Process

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

10. Departmental Written Briefing: Advice from the UK Climate Change Committee on the Economic Implications for setting and delivering the 2050 emissions target for Northern Ireland

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

11. Departmental Written Briefing: Plan to Reduce Unnecessary Plastics in the Government Estate

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.



12. Departmental Written Briefing: The Sea Fish Industry (Coronavirus) (Fixed Costs) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2021

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

13. Departmental Written Briefing: EU Transition Update

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

14. Correspondence

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

15. Forward Work Programme

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.

16. Any Other Business

Consideration of this agenda item was deferred until the next meeting, due to time constraints.



17. Date, Time and Place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs will take place on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 9.00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.20 pm.

Declan McAleer MLA

Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs