

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

**MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2020**  
**IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 3.12pm.*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**  
**Ms K Armstrong**  
**Mr K Buchanan**  
**Mr R Butler**  
**Ms S Ennis**  
**Mr C McGrath**  
**Mr A Muir**  
**Mr J O'Dowd**  
**Mr G Robinson**

**In attendance:**

<b>Dr A McGarel</b>	<b>Clerk of Business</b>
<b>Mr P Gill</b>	<b>Clerk Assistant</b>
<b>Mrs L Hogg</b>	<b>Clerk/Chief Executive</b>
<b>Dr G McGrath</b>	<b>Director of Parliamentary Services</b>
<b>Mr A Hicks</b>	<b>Legal Advisor</b>
<b>Mr J McMillen</b>	<b>Head of Legal Services</b>
<b>Mr R Ramsey</b>	<b>Adviser to the Speaker</b>
<b>Mr P Stitt</b>	<b>Clerical Supervisor</b>
<b>Mrs K O'Hanlon</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>
<b>Ms P Devlin</b>	<b>Assistant Assembly Clerk</b>
<b>Mr M O'Hare</b>	<b>Clerical Supervisor</b>

**Observers:**

<b>Ms K Morrison</b>	<b>Executive Office</b>
<b>Mr D Kearney</b>	<b>Junior Minister</b>

The Speaker opened the meeting by welcoming new Members Keith Buchanan, Sinead Ennis and John O'Dowd to the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Mrs Dolores Kelly and Mr John Stewart.

## 2 **Minutes of previous meetings**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 14 January 2020 and the first meeting on 20 January 2020 were agreed.

## 3 **Matters Arising**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

## 4 **Party seating allocation in the Chamber**

- 4.1 Members considered a paper on the seating arrangements in the Chamber. Members were advised that during previous discussions on this matter, the Alliance Party had sought an arrangement which did not involve its members being separated by the aisle. Members **agreed** that the Clerk of Business would liaise with the relevant parties to seek a solution.

## 5 **Order Paper for plenary meeting on 27 January 2020**

### Assembly Business

- 5.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion to schedule a motion to suspend Standing Order 20(1).
- 5.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion to appoint Mr John Blair to the Assembly Commission.
- 5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion for Mr Keith Buchanan to replace Ms Pam Cameron on the Assembly Commission.
- 5.4 Members noted that no Executive business had yet been scheduled, but that there remained the possibility that Ministerial statements, Matters of the Day and Urgent Oral Questions could be tabled.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.5 Members **agreed**, in the absence of any Executive Business, to schedule Private Members' Business.
- 5.6 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 27 January lay with DUP and Sinn Fein.  
The following motions were selected:

- Motion: Autism Training in Schools (DUP)

- Motion: Climate Emergency (SF)

6 **Provisional arrangements for plenary meetings in the week commencing 3 February.**

- 6.1 Members **agreed** that only one sitting would be held in the week commencing 3 February to facilitate the work of Assembly committees.
- 6.2 Members noted that Question Time would commence on Monday 3 February with four Ministers taking oral questions.
- 6.3 Members noted that there was no Executive Business listed at present, and the Junior Minister did not advise of any expected items.

7 **Any other business**

- 7.1 There was no other business.

8 **Date and time of next meeting**

- 8.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place after the adjournment of the sitting on Monday 27 January in Room 106.

*The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 3.23pm*

**The Speaker  
Chairperson**