

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2021
SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.04pm.

Present:

Mr J O'Dowd (Acting Chairperson)
Ms K Armstrong
Ms J Bunting
Mr R Butler
Mr T Clarke
Ms S Ennis
Mr C McGrath
Mr A Muir

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel Mr P Gill Ms L Hogg Dr G McGrath	Mr A Hicks Mr R Ramsey Ms F Leneghan Ms P Devlin Mr M O'Hare	Clerk of Business Clerk Assistant Clerk/Chief Executive Director of Parliamentary Services Legal Services Adviser to the Speaker PS to the Speaker Assistant Assembly Clerk Clerical Supervisor
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Observers:

Mr G Middleton Mr D McCreedy	Junior Minister The Executive Office
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1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from the Speaker, Andy Allen, Dolores Kelly and Clare Bailey.

2 Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 15 June were **agreed**.

3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4 **Consent Decisions**

4.1 Members **noted** that at the meeting on 1 June, they had considered correspondence from the Committee on Procedures seeking the views of the Business Committee on provision for handling consent decisions and had been provided with an advice paper on the issue on 15 June.

4.2 Members **noted** that the Committee on Procedures had decided to defer reaching a view on appropriate procedures for handling consent motions until they had received feedback from Business Committee, Chairpersons Liaison Group and the Executive.

4.3 Members **agreed** to respond to the Committee on Procedures on the basis of the recommendations contained within the advice paper.

5 **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 28 June 2021**

Monday 28 June

Public Petitions

5.1 Members **agreed** to schedule a Public Petition on an Animal Cruelty Register for Mrs Kelly.

5.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a Public Petition on an Acute Mental Health Facility in Omagh for Ms Brogan.

Executive Committee Business

5.3 Members **noted** that, in addition to the business agreed at last week's meeting, the Executive Office had listed a further item of business.

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for a motion to consider the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 (Amendment No. 6) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.

Committee Business

- 5.5 Members **noted** that the Committee for the Economy motion to extend Committee Stage of Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Bill remained scheduled, but the Committee had withdrawn its request for plenary time to debate a second motion.

Private Members' Business

- 5.6 Members **noted** that sufficient time was available to schedule Private Members' business.
- 5.7 A motion on the COVID-19 Sports Sustainability Fund was proposed, but Members **noted** that the NI Audit Office had produced a report on this matter on which the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is due to consider evidence on 8 July. It is established convention that PAC is allowed to complete its role in scrutinising AGNI reports before they are debated in the Assembly.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** to schedule the following Private Members' motions with the usual timings:
- Damp and Mould in Housing Executive Properties (DUP)
- 5.9 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 28 June.

Tuesday 29 June

Public Petition

- 5.10 Members **agreed** to schedule a Public Petition on Transforming Dementia Care for Mr Colm Gildernew.

Executive Committee Business

- 5.11 Members **noted** that Executive business remained as agreed at the last meeting.

Committee Business

- 5.12 Members **noted** that no Committee Business had been requested.

Private Members' Business

- 5.13 Members **agreed** not to schedule Private Members' business.
- 5.14 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 29 June.

6 **Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week Commencing 5 July 2021**

Monday 5 July

Executive Committee Business

- 6.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister of Finance and Minister of Health.
- 6.2 Members **noted** that the Minister for Communities had listed Further Consideration Stage of the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Bill.
- 6.3 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Bill stage.
- 6.4 Members **noted** that the Minister for the Economy had scheduled the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Amendment of Certain Relevant Periods) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
- 6.5 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Statutory Rule.
- 6.6 Members **noted** that the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs had scheduled the Sea Fish Industry (Coronavirus) (Fixed Costs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021
- 6.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Statutory Rule.
- 6.8 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

Committee Business

- 6.9 Members **agreed** to schedule a Committee for the Executive Office motion on Historical Institutional Abuse with the usual timings, the wording of which has still to be confirmed.

- 6.10 Members **agreed** to schedule one hour for a motion from the Committee on Procedures.

Private Members' Business

- 6.11 Members **noted** that there was likely to be insufficient time for Private Members' business, but **agreed** to confirm this at the next meeting.
- 6.12 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 5 July.

Tuesday 6 July

Executive Committee Business

- 6.13 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister for Infrastructure.
- 6.14 Members **noted** that the Minister for Communities had listed Final Stage of the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Bill.
- 6.15 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Bill stage.
- 6.16 The junior Minister indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

Committee Business

- 6.17 Members **noted** that no Committee Business had yet been requested.

Private Members' Business

- 6.18 Members **noted** correspondence from Ms Kellie Armstrong seeking to schedule Second Stage of her Integrated Education Bill on this date.
- 6.19 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for Second Stage of the Bill.
- 6.20 Members **agreed** to defer consideration of further Private Members business until the next meeting.
- 6.21 Members **noted** that, as this would be the last sitting before recess, the Business Committee would not meet that day and **agreed** to remove the lunchtime suspension to allow business to continue beyond 1pm.

6.22 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 6 July.

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 on Tuesday 29 June in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Acting Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.14pm

Mr John O'Dowd
Acting Chairperson