



## **COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 4 November 2020**  
**ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AND VIDEO-CONFERENCE**

Present: Ms Linda Dillon MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Video-Conference: Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA  
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA  
Ms Sinéad Bradley MLA  
Mr Gary Middleton MLA

In attendance: Nick Mitford (Committee Clerk)  
Stewart Kennedy (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Apologies: Mr Gerry Carroll MLA  
Mr John O'Dowd MLA

The meeting commenced in open session at 2.31pm

The Committee Clerk informed Members that he had received notification from Mr John O'Dowd MLA that he had nominated the Chairperson to vote on his behalf.

The Chairperson informed Members that the Assembly had received a resignation letter from Catherine Kelly.

**1. Apologies**

As above.

**2. Draft Minutes**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 October 2020.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**4. Members' Statements**

The Committee noted a covering memo from the Clerk.

The Committee noted responses received from the DUP, Sinn Féin, UUP and the Alliance Party.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to defer its consideration of responses to the next meeting to afford the SDLP and People Before Profit the opportunity to provide their views.

**5. Proxy Voting**

The Committee noted a covering memo from the Clerk.

The Committee noted a number of responses in relation to Proxy Voting.

The Committee noted a paper on Proxy Voting from Assembly Research and Information Services.

The Committee discussed a number of issues in relation to Proxy Voting which included the 9.30am deadline for appointing proxy.

*Agreed:* Following discussions, the Committee agreed to defer its consideration of responses and to schedule a briefing from RaISe at its next meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee also agreed for the Clerk to bring further information regarding the 9.30am deadline to the next meeting.

## **6. Correspondence**

The Committee noted correspondence from a number of Committees confirming that they are content with the proposals of the temporary provisions in Standing Order 110 to 116.

The Committee also noted the latest Newsletter from the NI Human Rights Commission.

## **7. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson advised Members that, at its next meeting, the Committee will consider responses received regarding the review of LCMs and will also consider how it wishes to proceed in respect of Members' Statements. The Committee will also receive a briefing from Research on Proxy Voting.

## **8. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson advised Members that, in light of the number of Ministers who recently had to self-isolate and the impact that had on Assembly business, that it might be cognisant of the Committee to reconsider hybrid proceedings in the Chamber.

During discussions, some Members raised issues regarding the limited seating in the Chamber during Assembly business.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed for the Clerk to arrange an informal meeting with Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and officials from the Assembly Commission to discuss the potential of introducing hybrid proceedings in the Assembly.

## **9. Any other Business**

There was no other business.

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The Chairperson reminded Members to notify the Clerk if they are attending future meetings via video-conference or in person.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Wednesday 18 November at 2.30pm in Room 29.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2.55pm.

**Linda Dillon MLA**

Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

18 November 2020