

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 24 JUNE 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.35pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Lord Morrow
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Ms T Caul	Legal Services

Observers:

Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin
Deputy Speaker Beggs
Junior Minister McCann
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Mrs Overend, Mr Kelly and Mr Dickson.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 June were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 30 June 2014**

Public Petitions

4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of public petitions on Monday 30 June relating to 'the Full Application of the Canadian Consensus Criteria for M.E. in Northern Ireland' (Mr D Bradley); and 'Detoxification provisions in the Foyle Constituency' (Mr P Ramsey).

4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a public petition on Tuesday 1 July relating to 'Loane House, Dungannon' (Ms B McGahan).

Assembly Business

4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule two Ulster Unionist Party motions on Tuesday 1 July to change committee memberships and membership of the Assembly Commission.

Executive Business

4.4 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for either day, but that Ministerial statements might be possible.

Committee Business

4.5 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business on either day.

Private Members' Business

4.6 Members' **noted** that no Private Members' Business had been scheduled for Monday 30 June.

4.7 Members **noted** that, shortly after the last meeting of the Committee, Mr Ramsey had received a letter from the Minister of Education advising that, because of protocols relating to Executive responses to PAC reports, he would be unable to respond to the motion on 'Unauthorised Absence from

School' that had been scheduled for Tuesday 1 July. A letter was also **noted** from the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee asking the Business Committee to withdraw the motion from the Order Paper, as the PAC intended to consider the DFP Memorandum of Reply on the matter after the recess. Members **noted** that the SDLP was content to withdraw the motion but that, although the party had not had another suitable motion on the list at the last meeting, one had subsequently been tabled. The Speaker indicated that there appeared to be exceptional circumstances surrounding the motion, and recommended that members applied some latitude to the normal arrangements for making changes to selections. Ms Ruane asked for the importance of adhering to the convention to be recorded, and all members then **agreed** to relax the normal arrangements to allow the SDLP to select a motion on 'Cancer Research and Treatment' (Mr F McKinney; Mr S Rogers) as a replacement for the motion previously scheduled for Tuesday 1 July.

4.8 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected.

4.9 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Any other business**

5.1 Members **noted** that, subject to Executive agreement on Thursday 3 July, there was a possibility that notice might be given under Standing Order 11 that the Assembly should meet for the purpose of a Ministerial statement on the outcome of the June Monitoring round.

5.2 Junior Minister McCann was asked to convey to the Executive the Committee's view that an additional sitting on Monday 7 July, rather than Friday 4 July, would be preferable for practical reasons and to allow MLAs more scope to consider the outcome of the monitoring round.

5.3 The Speaker conveyed good wishes to the Clerk on her forthcoming retirement and presented her with flowers on behalf of members.

6. **Date and Time of next meeting**

- 6.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 2 September 2014 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.45pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**