



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, 13 MAY 2014

SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Ms Anna Lo MLA (Chairperson)
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Cathal Boylan MLA
Mr Tom Elliott MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Lord Morrow MLA
Mr Peter Weir MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Sheila Mawhinney (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Sean McCann (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Neil Sedgewick (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Jennifer McCullough (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Colum Eastwood MLA

The meeting began in public session at 12:48.

1. Apologies

Apologies were indicated as above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised that Committee that the proposed visit to view the archaeological archives in Swords, which was scheduled for Thursday 29th May 2014, has had to be postponed until 2nd October 2014.

The Committee was content to hold its weekly meeting on 29th May 2014.

3. Draft minutes

The minutes from the meetings held on 6th May 2014 were agreed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 The Committee noted a Departmental reply in relation to sickness absence.

Agreed: The Committee noted the response and agreed to write to the Department to ask for a copy of the results on the Work Place Stress Assessment Survey carried out in 2013.

Mr Elliott joined the meeting at 12:57.

4.2 The Committee considered correspondence a response from the Mourne AONB Residents Group regarding the proposed informal meeting with representatives of the group in relation to ASSI designation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to reschedule the meeting for the end of June.

4.3 The Committee considered a Departmental reply regarding issues raised by the correspondents in relation to the Dalradian Gold Mine.

Agreed: The Committee noted the response and agreed to forward the reply to the original correspondents. The Committee also agreed to ask the Department for clarification on what procedures are in place for monitoring planning conditions and if there is any provision for community participation in these.

Mr McCrea joined the meeting at 13:08

4.4 The Committee considered a Departmental letter requesting that Committee members consider the synopsis of responses to the consultations and the SL1 for The Shadow Arrangements and draft Local Government (Transitional, Supplementary and Incidental Provisions and Modifications) Regulations and also The Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors by correspondence only. The Department also asked that the Committee hold an additional meeting on 19 May to consider the relevant SR and the finalised Code.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to hold the additional meeting as requested, but stipulated that relevant Departmental officials, including the Permanent Secretary, should attend the meeting to brief it fully on the Regulations and Code of Conduct. The Committee also agreed to write to the Minister to express its discontent in the strongest terms at the late notice and extremely short timescale offered by the Department to consider the subordinate legislation and the draft Code.

5. Consultation on proposal to amend the Draft Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the consultation on the proposal to amend the Draft Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request a copy of the synopsis of responses from the Department.

6. SL1 – The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the SL1 proposal for The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Agreed: The Committee was content for the Department to proceed with making the Rule.

7. SR 2014/127 The Planning Fees (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the Statutory Rule SR 2014/127, The Planning Fees (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Question put and agreed:

That 'The Committee for the Environment has considered SR 2014/127 - The Planning Fees (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and, subject to the Examiner's report, has no objection to the Rule.'

8. Departmental briefing on the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill

Ian Greenway (Principal Officer, Road Safety and Vehicle Regulations Division), Desi McDonnell (Head of Road Safety Policy and Research) John McMullan (Road Safety) and Nicola McEvoy (Road Safety) briefed the Committee regarding the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill.

The main areas discussed were the necessity for the Bill, its main provisions and the necessity for an education program to communicate the changes introduced by the Bill.

Mr Boylan joined the meeting at 13:48

Agreed: Departmental officials agreed to provide the Committee with statistics on the number and percentage of 17-24 year olds in possession of a driving licence; and further information on the amount of alcohol found in common foods and medicinal products.

Mr Weir joined the meeting at 13:58.

Mr Milne left the meeting at 13:59.

Mr Maginness left the meeting at 13:59.

Mr Elliott left the meeting at 14:00.

Mrs Cameron left the meeting at 14:01.

The Committee also considered a draft press release on the Committee stage of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment.

9. Correspondence

The Committee considered correspondence from Professor Colin Reid regarding a research summary report examining potential new legal mechanism for the conservation of biodiversity.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment.

The Committee considered a Departmental response regarding speed camera abuse raised by D Boland.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the original correspondent.

The Committee noted the following correspondence:

Irish Environment Monthly Bulletin May 2014.

Departmental correspondence regarding the new pollution prevention and control (district councils) charging scheme for NI 2014.

Correspondence from the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee regarding the ReNew Project on European Waste.

Correspondence from Donegal Council on the Road User Levy.

The Committee also noted several press releases from DOE.

10. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

11. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 29th May 2014 at 12:45 in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 14:12.

Pam Cameron, MLA
Deputy Chairperson, Committee for the Environment
19 May 2014