

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2013
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Samuel Gardiner MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Lord Morrow MLA
Mr George Robinson MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Jonathan Watson (Clerical Supervisor)

1.01pm The meeting opened in closed session.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2013

Agreed : Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2013.

3. Re-introduction of fallen or rejected Bills

1.02pm Jonathan McMillen from Legal Services joined the meeting and briefed Members on the legal advice and draft amendments to Standing Orders he had prepared in relation to the re-introduction of fallen or rejected Bills. This was followed by a question and answer session.

1.04pm The Chairperson suspended the meeting to enable Members to vote in plenary.

1.19pm Meeting reconvened in closed session with the following Members present:

Mr Gerry Kelly (Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister
Mr Samuel Gardiner
Mr Chris Lyttle
Mr Barry McElduff
Mr Oliver McMullan
Lord Morrow
Mr George Robinson

1.20pm Mr Maginness joined the meeting.

Lord Morrow proposed that the Committee adopt the version titled “Option A” of the draft amendments to Standing Order 30, and that the optional text requiring cross-community support be omitted.

The Committee divided on the proposal. Ayes 9; Noes 1

Ayes

Noes

Jim Allister
Samuel Gardiner
Gerry Kelly
Chris Lyttle
Barry McElduff
Oliver McMullan
Alban Maginness
Lord Morrow
George Robinson

Trevor Clarke

The proposal accordingly was agreed to.

The Chairperson advised Members that a motion to amend Standing Order 30, reflecting what had been agreed, would be prepared for his signature.

1.30pm The Chairperson thanked Mr McMillen for his assistance and he left the meeting.

1.30pm The meeting moved into public session.

4. Inquiry into the extent to which Standing Orders should permit the Attorney General to participate in proceedings of the Assembly

The Committee considered a letter from Mr John Larkin QC, Attorney

General for Northern Ireland, which provided comments on the points raised in the Speaker's submission.

The Committee also considered a briefing paper with some options on the way forward.

Agreed : It was agreed that Members should obtain the views of their parties on each of the issues, so that decisions can be taken at the meeting scheduled for 24 September 2013.

5. Amending Bills after Further Consideration Stage

The Committee noted a memo from the Bill Office updating Members in relation to the drafting of a new Standing Order to provide for an Exceptional Further Consideration Stage.

6. Review of the Committee System

The Committee considered a briefing note updating Members on the Review of the Committee System project.

Agreed : It was agreed to consider this item at the meeting in October 2013.

7. Correspondence

(a) The Committee considered correspondence from the Speaker asking the Committee on Procedures to consider issues relating to the emergence of new political parties or groupings during a mandate, including speaking arrangements.

Chris Lyttle proposed that the Committee write back to the Business Committee requesting that, until such time as the Committee on Procedures comes to a view on this matter, that the speaking arrangements in place prior to the Business Committee meeting of 11 June 2013 should continue, ie, parties of two or more members being called in the first round of speakers.

The Committee divided on the proposal. Ayes 6; Noes 4

Ayes

Jim Allister
Gerry Kelly
Chris Lyttle
Barry McElduff
Oliver McMullan
Alban Maginness

Noes

Trevor Clarke
Samuel Gardiner
Lord Morrow
George Robinson

The proposal accordingly was agreed to.

Agreed : It was agreed to give further consideration to this matter at the next meeting scheduled for 24 September 2013.

(b) The Committee considered a letter from the Director of Clerking and Reporting regarding the scheduling of parliamentary business within the Assembly. The letter requested that the Committee on Procedures considers this matter with a view to examining options and making recommendations to improve the effectiveness and focus of the scheduling of parliamentary business within the Assembly.

Agreed : It was agreed to consider this item at the next meeting scheduled for 24 September 2013.

1.55pm Mr Maginness left the meeting.

8. Review of Forward Work Programme

The Committee considered a proposed Forward Work Programme up to November 2013, plus an update on forthcoming business.

Agreed: It was agreed that Subsidiarity Monitoring should be considered at the meeting in January 2014, unless developments mean that attention is required sooner.

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

9. Any other Business

None.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 24 September 2013 at 1.00pm in Room 144, Parliament Buildings.

1.56pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

24 September 2013