

## COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2015  
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Jim Allister MLA  
Mr Samuel Gardiner MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)  
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)  
Dee Papacosta (Clerical Officer)

**1.35pm** The meeting began in closed session.

#### **1. Apologies**

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA  
Mr Sammy Douglas MLA  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA  
Lord Morrow MLA

#### **2. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015**

*Agreed:* Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

The Chairperson advised Members that he had written to the Speaker about the interpretation and use of Standing Orders and Speaker's rulings in relation to maintaining order in the Chamber.

*Agreed:* As a response had not been received from the Speaker, it was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the next meeting.

#### **4. Review of miscellaneous Standing Orders**

The Committee considered legal advice in relation to the review of Standing Orders 12, 49 and 52.

*Agreed:* It was agreed not to propose any amendments to these Standing Orders.

The Chairperson advised Members that the Legal Services Office would respond separately in relation to Standing Order 21, and the Committee was content to consider this at the next meeting.

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

*Agreed:* It was agreed to publish the report in two parts, and that Part 1 of the report would include phases 1, 2 and 3.

**1.39pm** Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.

The Committee read the draft report (Part 1) paragraph by paragraph.

#### **Report:**

Paragraphs 1 – 101, agreed

**Summary of Recommendations** – agreed

**Executive Summary** – read and agreed

*Agreed:* The inclusion of the following appendices was agreed:  
Appendix 1 – Minutes of Proceedings relating to the report  
Appendix 2 – Minutes of Evidence  
Appendix 3 – Written Submissions  
Appendix 4 – Options Matrix for participation of the AGNI  
Appendix 5 – Correspondence

*Agreed:* Members ordered the report to be printed.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Chairperson could approve the minutes for the part of today's meeting dealing with consideration of the draft report, in order for an extract to be included in the report.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the report should be embargoed until commencement of the debate of the report in plenary.

*Agreed:* The motion to accompany the report's introduction to Assembly was agreed.

**1.46pm** The meeting moved into public session.

## **6. Review of Public Petitions Procedures**

The Committee considered a briefing paper analysing the views expressed in the written submissions received on the Review of the Public Petitions Procedures.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the current model of public petitions used in the Assembly should be enhanced by including a facility to submit petitions electronically.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare an options paper on the various models of e-petitions systems, including financial and resource implications, for consideration at the next meeting.

## **7. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson advised Members that a joint implementation group had been set up to take forward the actions agreed in the Stormont House Agreement, and that discussions were still ongoing.

*Agreed:* It was agreed to add this item to the list of forthcoming business as yet unscheduled, and to revisit the issue when it becomes clear what the implications are for Standing Orders.

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

## **8. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **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 March 2015 at 1.00pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

**1.50pm** The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly  
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

24 March 2015