

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 26 MAY 2015
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy 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)
Bronagh Irwin (Clerical Supervisor)
Dee Papacosta (Clerical Officer)

1.01pm The meeting opened in public session.

1. Apologies

Mr Trevor Clarke MLA

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Givan to the Committee. Mr Givan confirmed that he had no financial or other interests, relevant to the work of the Committee, to declare. The Chairperson reminded Members of the on-going need to declare any interests, financial or otherwise which are relevant to the work of the Committee.

2. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015

Agreed: Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2015.

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

The Committee considered the responses from stakeholders in relation to the viability of the pilot procedure used to manage the draft affirmative Statutory Rule laid by the AGNI.

1.05pm Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.

1.09pm Mr McElduff joined the meeting.

The Committee also considered the management of Statutory Rules laid by the AGNI subject to the negative resolution procedure.

1.13pm Mr Allister joined the meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed to give further consideration at the next meeting to the management of Statutory Rules laid by the AGNI subject to the draft affirmative and negative resolution procedures.

The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee on Standards and Privileges intends to ask the Assembly to confirm a new Code of Conduct in June 2015.

Agreed: As this could impact on the amendments to Standing Orders currently being drafted to implement the recommendations in Part 1 of the AGNI inquiry report, it was agreed to await the outcome of the Assembly's consideration of the revised Code of Conduct before finalising the drafting of amendments.

4. Review of Public Petitions Procedures

The Committee considered a briefing paper outlining the proposed four phase model for submitting petitions electronically.

Agreed: It was agreed to recommend that e-petitions can only stay open for one year and that signatories must be aged 18+.

1.30pm Mr McCarthy left the meeting.

Agreed: It was agreed to give further consideration to the e-petitions process at the next meeting.

5. Female representation within the team of Speaker, Principal Deputy Speaker and Deputy Speakers

The Committee considered information on the election of Deputy Speakers in the House of Commons, plus a briefing paper summarising the research paper on female Presiding Officers/Speakers in other legislatures.

Agreed: It was agreed to give further consideration to this matter at the next meeting.

6. Any other Business

None.

7. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 23 June 2015 at 1.00pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

1.59pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

23 June 2015