

COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gerry Kelly MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Trevor Clarke MLA
Mr Jim Allister MLA
Mr Samuel Gardiner MLA
Mr Paul Givan MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA
Mr Alban Maginness MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)
Christopher Jeffrey (Clerical Officer)

1.06pm The meeting began in closed session.

1. Apologies

None.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr McQuillan to the Committee. Mr McQuillan confirmed that he had no financial or other interests, relevant to the work of the Committee, to declare.

2. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016

Agreed: Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016.

3. Standing Orders – Code of Conduct

1.08pm Jonathan McMillen from the Legal Services Office joined the meeting and briefed the Committee and answered Members' questions on the draft amendments to Standing Orders 69 and 81 he had prepared to give effect to the provisions of the new Code of Conduct and Guide to the Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members.

1.10pm Mr McElduff joined the meeting.

1.15pm Mr Maginness joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed a proposed wording for amendments to Standing Orders 69 and 81, and agreed to write back to the Committee on Standards and Privileges to seek confirmation that it is content with the draft amendments to Standing Orders and the timeframe envisaged.

1.18pm The Chairperson thanked Mr McMillen for his briefing and he left the meeting.

1.18pm The meeting moved into public session.

4. Standing Orders for Hybrid Bills

The Committee considered a Research and Information Service briefing paper on the provision for hybrid bills in other legislatures.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare an options paper for consideration at the next meeting. It was also agreed that the next meeting would take place on 9 February 2016.

5. Review of Public Petitions Procedures

The Chairperson informed Members that a response from the junior Ministers to his letter dated 29 June 2015 (and a reminder letter dated 27 November 2015) had still not been received.

Agreed: In view of the short time remaining in this mandate, it was agreed to conclude the review without a response from the junior Ministers.

Agreed: It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare a draft report for consideration no later than the meeting of 23 February 2016.

1.22pm Mr Clarke joined the meeting.

6. Time allowed for answers to supplementary Oral Questions

The Chairperson informed Members that only one party had responded with views on reducing the time allowed for answers to supplementary Oral

Questions from two minutes to one minute.

Agreed: It was agreed that Members should obtain party views on this matter for consideration at the next meeting.

7. Forward Work Programme

The Chairperson advised Members that the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister would shortly write to the Committee requesting amendments to Standing Orders to reflect the provisions of the Public Services Ombudsman Bill.

The Chairperson advised Members that a response had still not been received from the First Minister and deputy First Minister (to his letter dated 27 November 2015) in relation to the receipt of instructions to draft facilitating Standing Orders to implement the relevant provisions of “*A Fresh Start – the Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan*”.

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Any other Business

The Chairperson proposed that future Committee meetings commence at 1.15pm, to facilitate those Members who attend the Business Committee.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to the change in starting time.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 9 February 2016 at 1.15pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

1.31pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

9 February 2016