

## COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**MONDAY 7 MARCH 2016  
ROOM 29, 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 Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Adrian McQuillan MLA  
Mr Alban Maginness MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

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

**1.20pm** The meeting began in closed session.

**1. Apologies**

None.

**2. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2016**

*Agreed:* Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2016.

**3. Fresh Start Agreement – provision in Standing Orders**

**1.21pm** Paul Gill, Clerk Assistant and Jonathan McMillen from the Legal Services Office joined the meeting and briefed the Committee and answered Members' questions on the revised draft amendments to Standing Orders to

give effect to the provisions for an Official Opposition, as set out in “*A Fresh Start (the Stormont Agreement and Implementation Plan)*”.

**1.29pm** Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.

**1.35pm** Mr Givan joined the meeting.

The Committee considered three options for the proposed new Standing Order 45A which would provide for an Official Opposition.

Mr Clarke proposed that the Committee adopt the Option 1 version of the proposed new Standing Order 45A.

The Committee divided on the proposal. Ayes 7; Noes 4

**Ayes**

**Noes**

Trevor Clarke  
Paul Givan  
Gerry Kelly  
Barry McElduff  
Oliver McMullan  
Adrian McQuillan  
George Robinson

Jim Allister  
Samuel Gardiner  
Kieran McCarthy  
Alban Maginness

The proposal accordingly was agreed to.

The Committee considered two options for the positioning of “Opposition Business” in the order in which categories of Assembly business are listed in the draft amendment to Standing Order 10(1).

Mr Clarke proposed that the Committee adopt the Option 1 version of the draft amendment to Standing Order 10(1).

The Committee divided on the proposal. Ayes 7; Noes 4

**Ayes**

**Noes**

Trevor Clarke  
Paul Givan  
Gerry Kelly  
Barry McElduff  
Oliver McMullan  
Adrian McQuillan  
George Robinson

Jim Allister  
Samuel Gardiner  
Kieran McCarthy  
Alban Maginness

The proposal accordingly was agreed to.

The Committee considered draft amendments to Standing Order 20A (to provide for the first Topical Question to be asked by a member of the official opposition) and was content with the proposed amendments.

*Agreed:* The amendment to Standing Order 10(1) and the motion were agreed.  
The amendment to Standing Order 20A and the motion were agreed.  
The proposed new Standing Order 45A and the motion were agreed.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Chairperson should write back to the Speaker to advise him of the outcome of the Committee's deliberations.

**1.36pm** The Chairperson thanked Mr Gill and Mr McMillen for their attendance and they left the meeting.

**1.36pm** The meeting moved into public session.

#### **4. Draft Legacy Report**

The Committee considered the draft Legacy Report summarising the work and achievements of the Committee during the mandate, including a summary of the work of the Committee during the final session, and outlining some issues that the incoming Committee may wish to consider taking forward.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft Legacy Report and was content for it to be published.

#### **5. Forward Work Programme**

The Chairperson advised Members that this was the final meeting of the mandate, and there was therefore no need to consider a Forward Work Programme.

The Chairperson thanked Members for their contributions during the mandate.

#### **6. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

#### **7. Any other Business**

*Agreed:* As it was the final meeting of the mandate, the Committee was content for the Chairperson to sign off the minutes of today's meeting.

#### **8. Date, time and place of next meeting**

As the Committee had concluded its business, there was no need for a further meeting.

**1.40pm** The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gerry Kelly  
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

14 March 2016