

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2013
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Paul Frew MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Joe Byrne (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr William Irwin MLA
Mr Trevor Lunn MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Robin Swann MLA

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Clerk
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor
Ms Dagmar Walgraeve Clerical Officer

1.30 p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session

1. Apologies

There are no apologies.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee and he and Oliver McMullan had attended the Northern Ireland Ploughing Championships on 18 October 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write a letter of congratulations to the organisers of the Northern Ireland Ploughing Championships.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013.

4. Matters arising

Noted: The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department dated 16 October 2013 regarding issues raised at the meeting on 1 October 2013.

Noted: The Committee noted the update from the Department on Ash Die-back.

5. Dairyman Project: Oral Briefing DARD

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 1.34 p.m.

Dr Sinclair Mayne, Deputy Chief Executive, AFBI
Dr John Bailey, Dairyman Project Leader, AFBI
Ian McCluggage, Head of Dairy Development, CAFRE
Brian Ervine, Principal Officer, DARD

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

1.35 p.m. Mr McMullan joined the meeting.

1.41 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.

1.55 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.

1.55 p.m. Mr Lunn and Ms McIlveen left the meeting.

2.03 p.m. Mr Swann joined the meeting.

2.04 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.

Mr Irwin declared an interest as a dairy farmer.

6. Farm Safety: Oral Briefing DARD

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.05 p.m.

David Small, Deputy Secretary

Martin McKendry, Head of Development Service, CAFRE
Michael McLean, Principal Officer

The officials briefed the Committee and this was followed by a question and answer session.

2.20 p.m. Ms McIlveen rejoined the meeting.

2.25 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.

2.26 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.

2.31 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.

2.34 p.m. Mr Byrne left the meeting.

2.40 p.m. Mrs Dobson rejoined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request figures for the number of farm accidents reported which are non-fatal.

2.44 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

3.34 p.m. The meeting resumed with the following Members present:

Mr Byrne, Mr Buchanan, Mrs Dobson, Ms McIlveen, Mr McMullan and Mr Swann.

The Deputy Chairperson took the chair.

7. Pre-Consultation: The Zoonoses (Fees) Regulations (NI) 2014

Agreed: The Committee noted the pre-consultation on the Zoonoses (Fees) Regulations (NI) 2014 and agreed to seek an analysis of the consultation responses at SL1 stage.

8. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted the invitation to stakeholder conference on 6 November – consultation on policy options arising from the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (pillar 1 direct payments)

Agreed: The Committee noted the correspondence dated 14 October 2013 from the University of Ulster, Business School requesting to meet with the Committee to discuss findings from the LOCFOOD Project. The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting with the Business School in the New Year.

- Noted:* The Committee noted the Explanatory Memorandum on the EU Forest Strategy.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from Farmers for Action on the suicide rates among farmers in France.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister dated 11 October 2013 regarding the progress report from the Barroso Task Force Desk Officer. The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing on Horizon 2020.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department dated 16 October 2013 regarding the Olive Oil (Marketing Standards) Regulations 2014.

3.35 p.m. Mr Irwin and Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.

9. Forward Work Programme

- Agreed:* The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

10.AOB

There was no other business.

11.Date, time and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 5 November 2013 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

Paul Frew, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development
