

## **COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Tom Buchanan MLA  
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Tom Elliott MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

Apologies: Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk  
Ms Elaine Farrell, Assistant Clerk  
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor  
Ms Dagmar Walgraeve, Clerical Officer  
Mr Mark Allen, Research Officer (agenda item 11)

*1.35 p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

The apologies are noted above.

#### **2. Chairperson's Business**

The Chairperson advised that he had met with Karro Food Group on 5 March 2015 to discuss the pig price differential. A note of the discussion will follow in due course.

#### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 2 March 2015 from the Department on the AFBI Strategic Plan and Estate.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 10 March 2015 from the Department on the Zoonoses (Fees) (amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015. The Committee agreed that the regulations should proceed to the next legislative stage.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence from the Department dated 3 March 2015 on the Children's Services Co-operation Bill and agreed to forward it to the OFMDFM Committee.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 27 February 2015 advising that a new Agriculture policy Officer has taken up post in Brussels from 2 March 2015.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 3 March 2015 from Karro Food Group on the pig price differential.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the additional research information on data migration issues and animal registration and traceability systems.

#### **5. Oral Briefing: Institute for Global Security**

The following representatives from the Institute for Global Security joined the meeting at 1.39 p.m.

Professor Chris Elliott  
Professor Andrew Meharg

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

*1.42 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.*

*1.43 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.*

*1.55 p.m. Mr McCarthy left the meeting.*

*1.56 p.m. Mr Elliott left the meeting.*

*1.57 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.*

*2.00 p.m. Mr Poots joined the meeting.*

*2.01 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*  
*2.11 p.m. Mr Elliott rejoined the meeting.*  
*2.21 p.m. Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*

*Mr Irwin declared an interest that he is a farmer.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider a visit to the Institute for Global Security post Easter.

## **6. Oral Briefing DARD: HQ Outline Business Case**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.25 p.m.

Gerry Lavery, Deputy Secretary  
Tom Kennedy, Assistant Secretary  
Mark Wilson, Principal Officer  
Jim McGuinness, Accountant

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

*2.35 p.m. Mrs Dobson joined the meeting.*  
*2.44 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*  
*2.50 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*  
*2.56 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to OFMDFM to seek an update on the interest expressed from other parties other than DARD in respect of the development and use of the Ballykelly site.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek information on the criteria used to select Ballykelly as the new location for DARD HQ.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the DFP to request information on the future plans for Dundonald House following the vacation of DARD from the building and clarification on the potential for costs, including rates, to DARD in the future.

## **7. Oral Briefing DARD: The Common Agricultural Policy (Control and Enforcement) (NI) Regulations 2015**

The following Departmental officials of the TB Strategic Partnership Group joined the meeting at 2.59 p.m.

Joseph Kerr, Principal Officer  
Mark McLean, Principal Agricultural Economist  
David Lynch, Deputy Principal

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

*3.01 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

*3.04 p.m. Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the regulations should move to the next legislative stage.

### **8. Written brief DARD: Compulsory Testing for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the written brief from the Department on the delay in the legislation for Compulsory Testing for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD).

### **9. Correspondence**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the copied correspondence dated 27 February 2015 from the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee to the Minister on TRPSI.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 3 March 2015 from the Department on the outcome of the consultation on the Seed Potatoes (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence from Mr David McIlveen MLA on the consultation on his Private Members Bill on Protection of Property.

*3.09 p.m. The meeting went into closed session and agreed to consider agenda item 14 next.*

### **10. Forward Work Programme: Consideration of Committee Review post Easter**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to consider a potential Committee review at the meeting on 24 March 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence from Assembly Community Connect Advisory Group proposing a networking event in June with rural Third Sector leaders. The Committee agreed to

attend the event and host an external Committee meeting on a Thursday in the Rural Community Network premises.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the scheduled visits to the Balmoral Show in May and the Sheep Conference in June and agreed to advise the clerk of their intention to attend or otherwise.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the additional meeting on Monday 16 March 2015 at 12.00 p.m. in room 29.

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

*3.39 p.m. The meeting moved into open session.*

### **11.Oral Briefing RalSe: EU Issues**

The Assembly Research Officer joined the meeting at 3.39 p.m. and briefed the Committee on EU Issues.

*3.45 p.m. Mr Poots rejoined the meeting.*

*3.49 p.m. Mr McCarthy rejoined the meeting.*

*3.52 p.m. Mr McAleer left the meeting.*

*3.55 p.m. Mr Milne left the meeting.*

*4.00 p.m. Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

### **12.Forward Work programme: Discussion for meeting with Commissioner Hogan**

*Agreed:* The Committee discussed the potential areas for questions to Commissioner Hogan and agreed to consider allocation of such at the meeting on 24 March 2015.

*4.13 p.m. Mr Poots left the meeting.*

*4.14 p.m. Mr Buchanan and Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

### **13.AOB**

There was no other business.

### **14.Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Monday 16 March 2015 at 12.00 p.m. in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*4.15 p.m. The meeting adjourned.*

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William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date