

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

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015  
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Joe Byrne MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
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

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

*1. 37 p.m. The meeting commenced in Open Session.*

#### **1. Apologies**

There are no apologies.

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

The Chairperson advised the Committee that he had attended the launch of the Health and Safety Executive's Farm Safety Video on 11 March 2015.

The Chairperson advised Members that the informal meeting with Commissioner Hogan and the allocation of questions will be discussed later in the meeting.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 and 16 March 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meetings held on 10 and 16 March 2015.

### **4. Matters Arising**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 10 March 2015 from the Groceries Code Adjudicator on the pig price differential.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the copied correspondence dated 18 March 2015 from the Minister to the CAL Committee on TRPSI funding for Libraries NI.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 18 February 2015 from the Department in respect of issues raised at the Committee meeting on 3 March 2015. The Committee agreed to forward an extract on AFBI Omagh to the Tyrone Farming Society.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the updated correspondence dated 12 March 2015 from the Department on CAP (Control and Enforcement) NI Regulations 2015.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 11 March 2015 in respect of the process for election of social partners to Leader Boards.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the note of the meeting between the Chairperson and KARRO.

### **5. Oral Briefing DARD: The CAP (Basic Payment and Support Scheme) Regulations (NI) 2015**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 1.39 p.m.

Joseph Kerr, Head of Resource Management Services  
Mark McLean, Principal Agricultural Economist  
David Lynch, Programme Planning and Management Branch

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

*1.42 p.m. Mrs Dobson joined the meeting.*

*1.44 p.m. Mr Elliott and Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*

*1.51 p.m. Mr Anderson left the meeting.*

*Mrs Dobson declared an interest that her husband receives Single Farm Payment.*

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

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

*1.58 p.m. Mr Anderson rejoined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that it was content with the merits of the policy.

## **6. Oral Briefing DARD: Interim Report of the Review of the Implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011**

The following Departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.04 p.m.

Geraldine Fee, Animal Health & Welfare Assistant Secretary  
Jackie Robinson, Head of Animal ID Legislation & Welfare  
John McConnell, Animal ID Legislation & Welfare

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

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

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

*2.17 p.m. Mr Anderson and Mr Poots left the meeting.*

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

*2.22 p.m. Mr McMullan rejoined the meeting.*

*2.24 p.m. Mrs Dobson left the meeting.*

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

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

*Agreed:* The Committee to request that the Department returns to the Committee with an analysis of the consultation responses on the Interim Report.

## **7. Oral Briefing DARD: Sustainable Use of Poultry Litter Project**

The following Departmental official and of the joined the meeting at 2.30 p.m.

Brian Ervine, Head of Environmental Policy  
Alan McVicker, Strategic Investment Board Ltd

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

*2.32 p.m. Mr Anderson and Mr McAleer rejoined the meeting.*

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

*2.47 p.m. Mr Elliott rejoined the meeting.*

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

## **8. SR 2015/128: The Plant Health (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015**

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2015/128: The Plant Health (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015 and has no objections to the rule.

## **9. SR 2015/129: The Plant Health (Wood and Bark) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015**

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2015/129: The Plant Health (Wood and Bark) (Amendment) Order (NI) 2015 and has no objections to the rule.

## **10. SR 2015/148: The Zoonoses (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015**

Question put and agreed:

That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development has considered SR 2015/148: The Zoonoses (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) and, subject to comment from the Examiner of Statutory Rules, has no objections to the rule.

*2.57 p.m. Mr Elliott rejoined the meeting.*

## **11. Correspondence**

*Noted:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 6 March 2015 from the Committee for Finance and Personnel on the NI Civil Service Voluntary Exit Scheme.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the third issue of EU Matters.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the 2015 Society of Dairy Technology Spring Conference, which takes places on 31 March-1 April 2015. Members are advised to inform the clerk if they wish to attend.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the Explanatory Memorandum 36598 and 36636 agreed to forward it to the Department for comment.

*Noted:* The Committee noted the Explanatory Memorandum 36577, 36671 and 36581.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to discuss the next agenda item in Closed Session.

*2.58 p.m. The meeting moved into Closed Session.*

## **12. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Department on Better Regulation and Research and Development before consideration of a Committee Review topic.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed not to meet on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a visit to the Global Institute for Food Security, QUB on a Tuesday from 12.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in Autumn 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the questions to Commissioner Hogan would be taken in order of party strength.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft Press Release on the informal meeting with Commissioner Hogan on 27 March 2015.

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

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

*3.25 p.m. Mr Anderson left the meeting.*

*3.31 p.m. Mr McMullan left the meeting.*

*3.37 p.m. Mr Byrne left 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 Tuesday 14 April 2015 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*3.38 p.m. The meeting adjourned.*

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William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date