

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

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 9 JUNE 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 JoAnne Dobson MLA  
Mr Ian Milne MLA  
Mr Declan McAleer MLA  
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA  
Mr Edwin Poots MLA

Apologies: Mr Tom Elliott MLA

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

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

#### **1. Apologies**

The apologies are noted above.

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

There is no Chairperson's business.

#### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015**

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015.

#### **4. Oral briefing DARD: Reservoirs Review and Audit**

The following departmental officials joined the meeting at 2.19 p.m.

David Porter, Acting Chief Executive  
Kieran Brazier, Head of Bill Team

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

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

*2.25 p.m. Mr McMullan joined the meeting.*

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

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

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

**Agreed:** The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request information on the number of reservoirs with co-ownership.

#### **5. Oral Briefing Land Matters Task Force: Land Matters Strategy**

The following representatives from the Land Matters Task Force joined the meeting at 2.42 p.m.

Dr Jonathan Bell, NIEL  
John Martin, RSPB  
Martin Carey, Mourne Heritage Trust

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

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

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

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

#### **6. Written Briefing DARD: Update on 2015 Single Application**

**Agreed:** The Committee noted the written brief from the Department on the 2015 Single Application; the Committee agreed to request an oral briefing and an update on the inspection process to be scheduled for mid-October 2015.

#### **7. Correspondence**

- Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 2 June 2015 from the EU Affairs Manager on new EU legislation in respect of Transmissible Animal Diseases; and agreed to forward it to the Department to request an update and confirmation of how the regulations may affect Northern Ireland.
- Agreed:* The Committee noted the correspondence dated 22 May 2015 from Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council in respect of cross border export of lambs. The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for a response with the Committee copied into the response.
- Noted:* The Committee noted the DARD Investment Strategy for May 2015.

## **8. Forward Work Programme**

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

## **9. AOB**

- Agreed:* The Committee discussed the need for support for the primary producers of beef and suckler cow industry in Northern Ireland; the Committee agreed to request a written briefing from the Ulster Farmers' Union on the issue and to receive an oral briefing from the Department.

## **10. Date, time and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 16 June 2015 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

*3.17 p.m. The meeting adjourned.*

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William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

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Date

