

COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2016
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr William Irwin MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Seán Rogers MLA (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Sydney Anderson MLA
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA
Mr Declan McAleer MLA
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA
Mr Ian McCrea MLA
Mr Oliver McMullan MLA
Mr Ian Milne MLA

Apologies: Mr Robin Swann MLA

In attendance: Ms Stella McArdle, Committee Clerk
Ms Lynda Conlon, Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr Mark O'Hare, Clerical Supervisor
Ms Marion Johnson, Clerical Officer

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

1.36 p.m. *Mrs Dobson and Mr McCarthy joined the meeting.*

1. Apologies

The apologies are recorded above.

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson advised the Committee that he has requested a briefing from the Department on the extension of the flood protection scheme, including the definition of business for the purpose of that scheme, and the prospect of securing compensation for farmers affected by flooding incidents.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department of the Environment to request clarification of the eligibility criteria for their emergency flood compensation scheme. The Committee also agreed to write to the Department for Regional Development to request details of their role in flood prevention and alleviation efforts.

1.42 p.m. Mr Milne joined the meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016

Agreed: The Committee agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016.

4. Matters Arising

5. Rural Needs Bill: Update on Proposed Amendments and Order to Print Report

Agreed: The Committee agreed to consider the issue of amendments to clause 1 of the Rural Needs Bill at the meeting of 09 February 2016.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content with paragraph 5 of the Rural Needs Bill Report, as amended.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that, in relation to the meeting of 26 January 2016, an unapproved version of the Minutes of Proceedings will be included in the appendices of the Report.

Question put and agreed: That the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development orders the Rural Needs Bill Report (NIA 288/11-16) to be printed.

6. Fisheries Bill: Consideration of Key Issues and Potential Amendments; Informal Clause by Clause; and Formal Clause by Clause

1.47 p.m. Mr Rogers left the meeting.

Noted: The Committee noted an update from DARD on the EU Commission position on the ongoing Pilot case.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content with the opinion provided by the Examiner of Statutory Rules on the revised Delegated Powers Memorandum.

Agreed: The Committee noted the response provided by the Department to the matters raised in Research Paper NIAR 685/2015 'Fisheries Bill - Assessing the Costs' and agreed to forward it to the relevant Research Officers for information.

Noted: The Committee noted a written submission from the Irish Federation of Sea Anglers on clause 6 the Fisheries Bill.

The Committee commenced its informal clause by clause consideration of the Fisheries Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is not content with clauses 1 to 5 of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to instruct the Bill Office to draft amendments that clauses 1 to 5 not stand part of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content with clause 6.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is not content with clauses 7 to 18 of the Bill.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to instruct the Bill Office to draft amendments that clauses 7 to 18 not stand part of the Bill.

1.53 p.m. Mr McAleer joined the meeting.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content with clause 19.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to move directly to formal clause by clause scrutiny of the Fisheries Bill.

1.55 p.m. Mr McCarthy left the meeting.

The Committee commenced its formal clause by clause consideration of the Fisheries Bill.

Clause 1 – Sea-fishing

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

1.55 p.m. Mrs Dobson and Mr Milne left the meeting.

Clause 2 – Size limits for sea fish

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 – Grants of licences subject to conditions imposed for environmental purposes

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – Powers of British sea-fishery officers to enforce sea fisheries legislation

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – Section 4: interpretation etc

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – Enforcement of EU rules

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content with clause 6 of the Bill as drafted.

Clause 7 – Penalties for certain offences under the 1966 Act

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 7 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 - Penalties for certain offences under the 1967 Act

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 8 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 - Offences by directors, partners, etc

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 9 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10 - Fish dealer's licence: no need for certificate of Justice of the Peace

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11 - Restriction on removal of material from bed of lake

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 12 - Dams in rivers: fish passes etc

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 12 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13 - Gratings in certain watercourses

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 13 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 14 - Fixed penalty notices

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 14 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 - Fixed penalty notices: effect on prosecution

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 15 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 - Interpretation

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 16 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 - Power to make consequential amendments

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 17 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 - Commencement

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content to give notice of its intention to oppose the question that clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 – Short title

Question put and agreed: That the Committee is content with clause 19 of the Bill as drafted.

7. Correspondence

Noted: The Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Finance and Personnel providing details of a recent briefing on the NICS Voluntary Exit Scheme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed its submission to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister's 2016 report on Assembly Committee European Priorities.

8. Forward Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it is content to receive a separate oral update on the DARD aspects of the Going for Growth Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Forward Work Programme.

9. AOB

Agreed: The Committee agreed to request that a briefing on flooding compensation is scheduled as soon as is practicable.

2.08 p.m. Mr McCrea left the meeting.

2.09 p.m. Mr Rogers rejoined the meeting.

2.10 p.m. The meeting suspended.

2.17 p.m. The meeting resumed in Open Session with the following Members in attendance: Mr Irwin, Mr Rogers, Mr Anderson, Mr McAleer and Mr McMullan.

10. Oral Briefing DARD: DARD/DEARA Budget 2016/17

The following DARD official joined the meeting at 2.17 p.m.

Graeme Wilkinson, Acting Deputy Secretary, Senior Finance Director
Tracey Teague, Assistant Secretary, Corporate Services Director

Roger Downey, Acting Assistant Secretary, Finance Director

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

- 2.25 p.m. *Mr Milne rejoined the meeting.*
2.33 p.m. *Mr Rogers left the meeting.*
2.37 p.m. *Mr McCrea rejoined the meeting.*
2.41 p.m. *The officials left the meeting.*

11. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development will take place on Tuesday 02 February 2016 at 1.30 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

- 2.42 p.m. *The meeting adjourned.*

William Irwin, Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

02/02/2016

Date