

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 01 APRIL 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.33pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Mr S Dickson
Mr G Kelly
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon	Clerk of Business
Mr T Reaney	Clerk/Director General
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Principal Deputy Speaker McLaughlin
Deputy Speaker Beggs
Junior Minister McCann
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 There were no apologies

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 24 March and 25 March were **agreed and signed by the Speaker.**

3. **Matters arising**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 07 April 2014**

Executive Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Business previously scheduled for Monday 07 April.
- 4.2 Members **noted** that the scheduling of the Final Stage of the Local Government Bill, on Tuesday 8 April, was subject to the Speaker's statutory obligations being fulfilled after the Further Consideration Stage of the Bill on Tuesday 1 April. Members **further noted** that, if the Final Stage did not take place on Tuesday 8 April, the Business Committee might need to consider an additional sitting on Wednesday 9 April to allow the Bill to complete Final Stage before the Easter recess.

Committee Business

- 4.3 Members **noted** that the motion to amend Standing Order 56(1) had not been agreed by the Committee on Procedures and was no longer scheduled for Monday 07 April.
- 4.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Audit Committee on the 'Salary of the Comptroller and Auditor General' on Monday 07 April. It was also **agreed** that up to 30 minutes should be allocated for the debate with 10 minutes to move, 5 minutes to wind and a maximum of 5 minutes for all others.
- 4.5 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Tuesday 8 April.

Private Members' Business

- 4.6 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion tabled by the SDLP to annul the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2014 on Monday 07 April. It was **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

4.7 Due to the expected late sitting time on Tuesday 08 April, it was **agreed** to postpone Mr Chris Hazzard's Adjournment debate on the 'Establishment of Minor Injuries Unit at Downe Hospital' to Tuesday 29 April.

4.8 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected at this stage.

4.9 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 28 April 2014**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development was scheduled for Monday 28 April, and that there was the possibility of Ministerial Statements on both days following the Easter recess.

5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education was scheduled for Tuesday 29 April.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for either day.

Private Members' Business

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 28 April and two on Tuesday 29 April.

5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 28 April lay with Sinn Féin and the Alliance Party and the following motion was selected:

- 'Praxis Care' (Ms J McCann, Mr M Brady).

5.6 Mr Dickson undertook to inform members of the Alliance Party's selection at the next meeting of the Committee.

5.7 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Tuesday 29 April lay with the DUP and Sinn Féin and the following motions were selected:

- Giro d'Italia 2014 (Mr S Douglas, Mr P Weir);

- Marriage Equality (Ms C Ruane, Ms B McGahan, Ms M Fearon).

- 5.8 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.9 Members rescheduled Mr Chris Hazzard's Adjournment debate on the 'Establishment of Minor Injuries Unit at Downe Hospital' from Tuesday 08 April to Tuesday 29 April.
- 5.10 Junior Minister McCann advised that the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment was unavailable to respond to business on the morning of Tuesday 29 April. Consequently, Mr Weir requested that the running order of the two motions be reversed, so that a Ministerial response could be facilitated. Ms Ruane undertook to consider the request and report back at the next meeting.
- 5.11 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Any other business**

- 6.1 Members **noted** a letter from the Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures regarding its consideration of issues related to the emergence of new political parties or groupings during a mandate.
- 6.2 The Speaker referred members to a letter from the First Minister and deputy First Minister asking to exchange their Question Time slot on Tuesday 27 May with the Minister for Social Development on Tuesday 20 May. Members **noted** that the Minister for Social Development was content, and **agreed** to the request.
- 6.3 Mr Weir reported that a number of committees had agreed not to meet during the week of the European and Local Government elections and suggested that consideration should also be given to the Assembly not sitting on Monday 19 May and Tuesday 20 May. The Speaker recommended that the Executive's position should be clarified before the matter was considered further. Junior Minister McCann confirmed that the Executive was scheduled to meet on Monday 07 April and undertook to raise the issue of plans for plenary business for that week with Ministerial colleagues. Members therefore **agreed** to reconsider Mr Weir's request at the next meeting, and that the clerk would prepare an options paper identifying possible scheduling arrangements for the week commencing Monday 19 May 2014.

7. **Date and Time of next meeting**

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 8 April 2014 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.42pm

The Speaker
Chairperson