

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2013
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.33pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr K McCarthy
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
Dr G McGrath	Director of Clerking and Reporting
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Ms K Jardine	Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Junior Minister Bell
Junior Minister McCann
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

- 1.1 The Speaker welcomed members back following the summer recess and noted apologies from Mr Gerry Kelly, Mrs Karen McKeivitt and Mr Stewart Dickson. The Speaker welcomed Mr Kieran McCarthy as the Alliance substitute.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

- 2.1 The minutes of the following meetings were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker:

- (i) Tuesday 25 June 2013 (AM)
- (ii) Tuesday 25 June 2013 (PM)
- (iii) Monday 8 July 2013

(iv) Tuesday 16 July 2013.

3. **Matters arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 10 September**

Executive Business

4.1 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister for Regional Development, and the Minister for Social Development was scheduled for Monday 9 September; and that Topical Questions would be introduced as part of Question Time on that day.

4.2 Members **noted** that, in addition to Question Time to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure, two statements from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment were also scheduled for Tuesday 10 September; the first on the NSMC meeting in Tourism sectoral format, and the second on the NSMC meeting in Trade and Business Development sectoral format.

Committee Business

4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development on 'Plant Health and Tree Disease' for debate on Monday 9 September, with the usual timings.

Private Members' Business

4.4 Members agreed to schedule the presentation of a public petition on Tuesday 10 September by Mr Paul Frew in support of the Pinewood Residential Care Home.

4.5 Members **noted** that the rotas for Private Members' business had started again at the beginning of the new session. Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' motion on Monday 9 September, and two on Tuesday 10 September. Under the system of allocation the selections lay with the DUP, Sinn Féin and the DUP.

The following motion was selected for Monday 9 September:

- 'Support for the terms of the Ministerial Pledge of Office and the Code of Conduct for Members' (Mr T Buchanan, Mr N McCausland, Lord Morrow).

The following motions were selected for Tuesday 10 September:

- 'Promotion of Equality and Reconciliation' (Mr G Kelly, Ms C Ní Chuilín);
- 'Compensation Policy' (Mrs A Foster, Mr P Givan, Mr J Craig).

4.6 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.

4.7 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 10 September. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the DUP. The following topic was selected:

- 'The state of the road infrastructure, Beechfield and Ashfield Estates, Donaghadee' (Mr A Easton).

4.8 Junior Minister Bell advised that all relevant Ministers were available to respond to the selected plenary business.

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

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 16 September 2013**

Executive Business

5.1 In addition to Question Time to the Minister of Finance and Personnel and the Minister of Education, members **noted** that a statement from the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development on the NSMC meeting in Agriculture sectoral format was scheduled for Monday 16 September; and that the Health and Social Care (Amendment) Bill would also be introduced on that day, subject to the necessary clearances from the Speaker.

5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time to the Minister for Employment and Learning and the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety was scheduled for Tuesday 17 September.

Committee Business

5.3 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee on Procedures to amend Standing Order 30 on Monday 16 September. Members **noted** that, while there are no time limits for motions of this type, the debate was not likely to be lengthy, with 10 minutes being shown in the indicative timings.

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister on its report on its proposals for a Public Services Ombudsman Bill, on Monday 16 September, with the usual timings.

Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' motion on Monday 16 September, and one on Tuesday 17 September. Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with Sinn Féin and the SDLP. The following motion was selected for Monday 16 September:

- 'Free School Meal Entitlement' (Mr C Hazzard, Ms M Boyle, Mr P Sheehan).

The SDLP selection for Tuesday 17 September, which was confirmed after the meeting, was:

- 'Day of Recognition for the Emergency Services' (Mrs K McKeivitt, Mr C McDevitt).

- 5.5 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.

- 5.6 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 17 September. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin. The following topic was selected:

- 'University of Ulster expansion at Magee' (Ms M McLaughlin).

- 5.7 Junior Minister Bell advised that all relevant Ministers were available to respond to the selected plenary business.

- 5.8 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. **Response from the Committee on Procedures on issues relating to the emergence of new political parties or groupings during a mandate**

- 6.1 The Speaker **referred** members to a reply from the Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures, following the Business Committee's request that it consider issues relating to the emergence of new political parties or groupings during a mandate, including speaking arrangements.

- 6.2 Members **noted** the request from the Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures that, until such times as the Committee on Procedures comes a

view on the matter, the speaking arrangements in place prior to the Business Committee meeting on 11 June 2013 be reinstated.

- 6.3 Members **agreed** to reflect on the matter, particularly in light of the role of the Business Committee and the authority of the Speaker as outlined in Standing Orders 17(4) and (5), and undertook to return to the issue at the meeting on Tuesday 17 September.

7. **Request to exchange Question Time slots**

- 7.1 The Speaker **referred** members to a letter from the Minister of Justice requesting an exchange of his Question Time slot on Monday 18 November, with the Minister for Regional Development on Tuesday 19 November.
- 7.2 Members **noted** that the Minister for Regional Development was content, and **agreed** to the request.

8. **Any other business**

- 8.1 The Speaker referred members to an email from Mr McClarty advising that he and Mr Allister had agreed to exchange memberships on the Committee for Social Development and the Committee for Employment and Learning. Members **agreed** to schedule a business motion on Monday 9 September to make this change, and Mr Ramsey and Mr Swann agreed to be signatories to the motion.
- 8.2 The Speaker advised members that, as Topical Questions would begin on Monday 9 September, he had issued a ruling dealing with the practical arrangements and the procedure will apply in the Chamber.

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

- 9.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 10 September 2013 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.50pm.

Speaker
Chairperson