

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.34pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Mr S Dickson
Mr G Kelly
Mrs K McKevitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
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 D Martin	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
Deputy Speaker Dallat
Junior Minister Bell
Junior Minister McCann
Mr A Rogers **OFMDFM**

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were noted from Mr Pat Ramsey.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 04 March were **agreed** and signed by the Speaker.

3. **Matters arising**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for the plenary meeting on 18 March 2014**

Executive Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that, at 11.30 that morning, the Executive had issued a revised notice of forthcoming business showing the Consideration Stage of the Local Government Bill listed for Tuesday 18 March. Concern was expressed at the impact of the late scheduling of the stage, particularly given the short time available for tabling amendments; and the Speaker indicated that what had happened was not a good approach to take to scheduling plenary business properly. Following a proposal from Mr Swann, who asked for his party's concern to be recorded, it was **agreed** that the Speaker would write to the Executive about the late change to business.
- 4.2 Members **agreed** to schedule the Bill Stage over Tuesday 18 March and Wednesday 19 March, with the Tuesday sitting being suspended at 10pm and resuming at 10.30am on Wednesday to conclude the stage. It was also **agreed** that the Tuesday lunchtime suspension should last from 12.30pm to 1pm only.
- 4.3 Members **noted** that amendments would have to be tabled by 9.30am on Thursday 13 March, and **further noted** that any amendments tabled before the deadline would be issued by the Bill Office on daily lists. The Speaker outlined the practical difficulties involved in considering and marshalling the anticipated volume of amendments after the deadline. Members were asked to note that, while every effort would be made, it would be unlikely that a Marshalled List of Amendments might issue before Friday. Ms Ruane referred to the added complication of the impact that the public holiday on Monday 17 March would have on the preparation time available to Members and the Speaker undertook to ensure that the Marshalled List of Amendments would be published as soon as it was possible to do so.

Committee Business

- 4.4 Members **agreed** that, if an urgent motion relating to a statutory rule was to come forward from the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development later

in the day, it could be added to the Order Paper before printing, but **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Tuesday 18 March.

Private Members' Business

- 4.5 Members **agreed** that the Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 18 February should be rescheduled during the week commencing Monday 24 March.
- 4.6 Junior Minister McCann advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.7 The draft two-day Order Paper was **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 24 March 2014**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Monday 24 March:
- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister for Regional Development;
 - Ministerial Statement on the North South Ministerial Council in Special EU Programmes Sectoral format.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 25 March:
- Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education;
 - Further Consideration Stage of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Bill.

Committee Business

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

Private Members' Business

- 5.4 Members **agreed** to reschedule the DUP and SDLP motions, previously scheduled for Tuesday 18 March, to Monday 24 March, and **agreed** to schedule two further motions on Tuesday 25 March.
- 5.5 The following motions were rescheduled to Monday 24 March:
- 'Fostering Services' (Miss M McIlveen, Mr J Wells);
 - 'Housing Crisis' (Mrs D Kelly, Mr A Maginness).
- 5.6 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Tuesday 25 March lay with the DUP and Sinn Féin. The following motions were selected:
- 'Freedom of Religious Belief' (Mrs A Foster, Mr J Wells, Mr M Storey and Mr R Newton);
 - 'Sporting Facilities for People with Disabilities and Special Needs' (Mr O McMullan, Mr C Ó hOisín, Ms R McCorley).
- 5.7 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for each motion, with the usual speaking times.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** to reschedule Mr Trevor Clarke's Adjournment debate on 'Creavery Primary School' from Tuesday 18 March to Tuesday 25 March.
- 5.9 Junior Minister McCann advised that all Ministers were available to respond to the motions.
- 5.10 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. Any other business

- 6.1 There was no other business

7. Date and Time of next meeting

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 18 March 2014 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.52pm

**The Speaker
Chairperson**