

DRAFT
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 07 JANUARY 2014
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.33pm.

Present:

The Speaker
Mr S Dickson
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Ms L Gordon
Dr G McGrath

Clerk of Business
Director of Clerking and
Reporting

Ms N Dunwoody
Mr R Ramsey
Mr H Widdis
Mr C McNickle

Clerk Assistant
Adviser to the Speaker
Director of Legal Services
Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Junior Minister Bell
Mr A Rogers

OFMDFM

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were noted from Mr Gerry Kelly.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 03 December 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 13 January 2014**

Executive Business

4.1 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Monday 13 January:

- Question Time to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister and to the Minister for Regional Development;
- Ministerial statement on the Report on the Review of Apprenticeships;
- Ministerial statements on the roads and transport issues, and the road safety issues discussed at the North South Ministerial Council Transport Sectoral meeting.

4.2 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 14 January:

- Question Time to the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure and to the Minister of Education;
- Consideration Stage of the Public Service Pensions Bill;
- Ministerial statement on the cross-departmental Strategy on Autism.

Committee Business

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

Private Members' Business

4.4 Members **agreed** to schedule one Private Members' Motion on Monday 13 January.

4.5 Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with Sinn Féin.

4.6 The following motion was selected:

- 'Haass/O'Sullivan Proposals' (Ms J McCann, Mr G Kelly and Ms C Ruane).

4.7 Members **agreed** that up to 2 hours should be allocated for the motion, with the usual speaking times.

4.8 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 14 January. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the SDLP and the following topic was selected:

- 'Restoration of 24 hour Accident and Emergency service at the weekend at Downe Hospital' (Mr S Rogers).

4.9 Junior Minister Bell advised that all Ministers were available to respond.

4.10 The Draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 20 January 2014**

Executive Business

5.1 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Monday 20 January:

- Question Time to the Minister for Employment and Learning and to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment;
- First Stage of the Reservoirs Bill, subject to the Speaker's clearance.

5.2 Members **noted** that the following business was scheduled for Tuesday 21 January:

- Question Time to the Minister of the Environment and to the Minister of Finance and Personnel.

5.3 Members further **noted** the possibility of Ministerial statements on both days.

Committee Business

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

Private Members' Business

5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 20 January and one on Tuesday 21 January.

5.6 Under the system of allocation, the selections lay with the UUP, DUP and Sinn Féin.

5.7 The following motions were selected for Monday 20 January:

- 'Rural Development Funding within the Common Agricultural Policy' (Mrs J Dobson and Mr R Swann);
- 'Smithwick Tribunal Report' (Mr P Givan, Mr J Wells, Mr W Humphrey and Mr S Anderson).

5.8 The following motion was selected for Tuesday 21 January:

- 'Non-farming Rural Dwellers' (Mr C Boylan, Mr I Milne and Mr B McElduff).

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

5.10 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 21 January. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with the UUP and the following topic was selected:

- 'The Addictions Treatment Unit at the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital in Omagh' (Mr R Hussey).

5.11 Junior Minister Bell advised that all Ministers were available to respond.

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

6. **Any other business**

6.1 The Speaker referred Members to a letter from the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment requesting to change Question Time slots on 11 February 2014 and 31 March 2014.

6.2 Members **noted** that the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety was content with the proposed change on 11 February 2014. Members further **noted** that the Minister for Social Development was content with the proposed change on 31 March 2014.

6.3 Members **agreed** to the requests.

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

- 7.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 14 January 2014 in Room 106.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 12.38pm

The Speaker
Chairperson