

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 27 JANUARY 2015
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 12.32pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)
Mr S Dickson
Mrs K McKeivitt
Lord Morrow
Mrs S Overend
Mr P Ramsey
Ms C Ruane
Mr R Swann
Mr P Weir

In attendance:

Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Ms N Dunwoody	Clerk Assistant
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Mr H Widdis	Director of Legal Services and Governance
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr C McNickle	Assistant Assembly Clerk

Observers:

Deputy Speaker Beggs
Junior Minister Bell
Junior Minister McCann
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 20 January 2015 were **agreed** and signed by the Chairperson.

3. **Matters arising**

- 3.1 Mr Swann expressed concern that a point of order had been raised on the floor of the Assembly in relation to the UUP motion on 'Development Proposal 264 Coláiste Dhoire'. Mr Swann referred Members to 4.6 of the agreed minutes which stated that Members had agreed to the scheduling of the motion.
- 3.2 Ms Ruane expressed the view that, whilst the Committee had agreed in principle to the scheduling of the motion, the point of order was in relation to inaccuracies within the motion and noted that the Minister of Education had written to the Speaker on this matter.
- 3.3 Mr Swann informed Members that his party had not been made aware of these concerns before the commencement of the debate in the Assembly and expressed concern that the Minister of Education's letter was dated the same day that the motion was scheduled for debate.
- 3.4 The Chairperson reminded Members that the onus is on Members to scrutinise the wording of Private Members' Motions and to ensure that the content of motions are accurate.
- 3.5 Ms Ruane expressed concern regarding the late scheduling of the motion on 'Development Proposal 264 Coláiste Dhoire' as the delay did not give Members adequate time to scrutinise the wording of the motion. Ms Ruane further expressed the view that, where possible, Private Members' Motions should not be changed following the scheduling on the provisional Order Paper.

4. **Finalisation of the Order Papers for the plenary meetings in week commencing 02 February 2015**

Public Petition

- 4.1 Members **agreed** to schedule the presentation of a Public Petition by Mr Daithí McKay, on 'Withdrawal of Funding from Railway Street Addiction and Rehabilitation Unit, Ballymena' for Tuesday 03 February.

Executive Business

- 4.2 Members noted that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 02 February:
- Ministerial Statement on the North South Ministerial Council Meeting in Inland Waterways Sectoral Format;
 - Ministerial Statement on the North South Ministerial Council Meeting in Language Body Sectoral Format;
 - Motion to approve the draft Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse (Amendment of Terms of Reference) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 was scheduled for Tuesday 03 February.
- 4.3 Members noted that the motion on the Draft Police Pension (Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2015 was no longer scheduled for Tuesday 03 February.

Committee Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** that there was no change to Committee Business previously scheduled for Monday 02 February.
- 4.5 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business for Tuesday 03 February.

Private Members' Business

- 4.6 Members noted that there was no Private Members' Business scheduled for Monday 02 February.
- 4.7 Mr Weir requested that his party's motion on 'The 2015 Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Mitochondrial Donation) Regulations', scheduled for Tuesday 03 February, be replaced with a motion on 'Assembly Consent to the Making of the draft Crime and Courts Act 2013 (National Crime Agency and Proceeds of Crime) (Northern Ireland) Order 2015'. Members **agreed** to the request.
- 4.8 Ms Ruane expressed concern regarding the late scheduling of the motion on 'Assembly Consent to the Making of the draft Crime and Courts Act 2013 (National Crime Agency and Proceeds of Crime) (Northern Ireland) Order 2015'. Ms Ruane further expressed the view that this delay did not give Members adequate time to scrutinise the motion and that the late scheduling of Private Members' Motions represented poor practice.

- 4.9 Members **agreed** that up to two hours should be scheduled for the debate with the usual speaking times.
- 4.10 Junior Minister Bell advised that no further business was expected at this stage.
- 4.11 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 09 February 2015**

Executive Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 09 February:
- Question Time to the Minister of Education and to the Minister for Employment and Learning;
 - Motions on the 2014-15 Spring Supplementary Estimates Supply Resolution and 2015-16 Vote on Account;
 - First Stage of the Budget Bill.
- 5.2 Members **agreed** that the motions on the 2014-15 Spring Supplementary Estimates Supply Resolution and 2015-16 Vote on Account should be grouped into one debate.
- 5.3 Members **agreed** that a total allocation of four hours 30 minutes should be allocated to the debate with one hour for the Minister to divide between moving and winding at his discretion and 10 minutes for all other speakers.
- 5.4 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 10 February:
- Question Time to the Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and to the Minister of the Environment;
 - Consideration Stage of the Welfare Reform Bill (NIA Bill 13/11-15).
- 5.5 Members **agreed** to schedule the Bill Stage over Tuesday 10 February and Wednesday 11 February, with the Tuesday sitting being suspended at 10pm and resuming at 10.30am on Wednesday to conclude the stage.

Committee Business

- 5.6 Members **noted** that there was no Committee Business requested for Monday 09 February.

- 5.7 Members **agreed** to schedule three motions from the Committee on Procedures on Tuesday 10 February to amend Standing Orders 20A(4), 4, and 6.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** that Committee Business should be scheduled before Executive Committee Business on the split Order Paper dated Tuesday 10 February and Wednesday 11 February.

Private Members' Business

- 5.9 Members **agreed** to schedule no Private Members Business on either day due to the scheduled Executive Committee Business.
- 5.10 The provisional Order Papers were **agreed**.

6. Correspondence from the Committee on Procedures

- 6.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures regarding a request that an ad hoc committee be established to consider a Statutory Rule subject to affirmative resolution laid by the Attorney General.
- 6.2 Members **agreed** to schedule a Business Motion on Tuesday 10 February 2015 regarding the 'Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to consider a Statutory Rule laid by the Attorney General Northern Ireland'.

7. Recess Dates 2015-16

- 7.1 Members **noted** a paper on proposed Assembly recess dates 2015-2016.
- 7.2 Members **agreed** to reconsider the issue at the next meeting of the Committee.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 Members **noted** a request from Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, to change the date of his Question Time slot from Tuesday 10th March to Monday 23rd March. Members **further noted** that the Minister for Social Development was content with the proposal.

8.2 Members **agreed** to the request.

8.3 The Chairperson reminded Members of the Assembly's aim to reduce paper consumption and proposed that Members are sent an electronic version of the current No Day Named List along with other meeting papers on a Thursday, with any motions tabled between that and the Tuesday deadline, provided in hard copy at the meeting.

8.4 Members **agreed** to the proposal.

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

9.1 Members **agreed** to meet at approximately 12.30pm on Tuesday 03 February 2015 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 12.46pm

The Speaker
Chairperson