

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2017
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.02pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)

**Mr S Agnew
Mr A Attwood
Mr T Clarke
Mr S Dickson
Dr S Farry
Mr D Kearney
Mr G Lyons
Mr C McGrath
Ms C Ní Chuilín
Mrs S Overend
Mr R Swann**

In attendance:

Mrs L Hogg	Clerk/Chief Executive
Dr A McGarel	Clerk of Business
Dr G McGrath	Director of Parliamentary Services
Mr P Gill	Clerk Assistant
Mr D Martin	Clerk Assistant
Mr J McMillen	Legal Services and Governance
Ms A Kelly	Legal Services and Governance
Mr R Ramsey	Adviser to the Speaker
Ms F Leneghan	PS/Speaker
Mr G Ervine	Assistant Assembly Clerk
Mr M O'Hare	Clerical Supervisor

Observers:

**Junior Minister Fearon
Junior Minister Ross
Mr A Rogers The Executive Office**

1. Apologies

1.1 There was an apology from Mr D McAleer.

2. **Minutes of previous meetings**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 November were **agreed**.
- 2.2 The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 16 December were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 16 January 2017**

- 4.1 The Speaker informed Members that, if a motion of no confidence in the Speaker was selected, he would absent himself from the meeting for the period of discussion relating to that motion and ask Mr Clarke, in line with Standing Order 55(4), to take the Chair.
- 4.2 Members **noted** an advice paper on relevant issues for the Business Committee arising from the resignation of the deputy First Minister.
- 4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule the Appointment of First Minister and deputy First Minister as an item of business on the Order Paper for Monday 16 January.

Assembly Business

- 4.4 Members **agreed** to schedule a motion to suspend Standing Order 20(1) for Monday 16 January to allow Question Time to be postponed should the Appointment of First Minister and deputy First Minister extend beyond 2pm.

Executive Business

- 4.5 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 16 January:
- Question Time to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health.
- 4.6 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 17 January:
- Question Time to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Justice.

Private Members' Business

- 4.7 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 16 January.
- 4.8 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 16 January lay with Sinn Féin and DUP.

The Speaker left the meeting at 1:13pm; Mr Clarke took the Chair.

The following motions were selected:

- 'No Confidence in the Speaker' (Ms C Ní Chuilín, Mr C Murphy, Mr A Maskey and Mr G Kelly).
- 4.9 Mr Lyons undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection following the meeting.
- 4.10 Members **agreed** that up to 2 hours should be allocated for the motion 'No Confidence in the Speaker', with the usual speaking times.
- 4.11 Members **agreed** that up to 1 hour 30 minutes should be allocated for the motion to be confirmed by Mr Lyons, with the usual speaking times.
- 4.12 The draft Order Paper for Monday 16 January 2017 was **agreed**.

The Speaker re-joined the meeting at 1:16pm and resumed the Chair.

Opposition Business

- 4.13 Members **agreed** that Tuesday 17 January 2017 be formally designated an 'Opposition Day'.
- 4.14 Two motions were scheduled for Tuesday 17 January for discussion under 'Opposition Business'.
- 4.15 The first motion scheduled is on 'Public Inquiry into the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme' (Ms C Hanna, Mr S Aiken OBE, Ms N Mallon and Mr P Smith). Members **agreed** that up to 2 hours should be allocated for the motion with the usual timings.
- 4.16 The second motion scheduled is on 'Failure of the Executive' (Mr M Nesbitt, Mr C Eastwood, Mr R Swann and Ms C Hanna). Members **agreed** that up to 2 hours should be allocated for the motion with the usual timings.

4.17 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 17 January. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with DUP and the following adjournment debate was selected:

- 'Removal of Loading Bays at Main Street and Bridge Street in Bangor' (Mr A Easton).

4.18 Junior Minister Ross advised that no further Executive Business was expected at this stage.

4.19 The draft Order Paper for Tuesday 17 January 2017 was **agreed**.

5. **Provisional arrangements for the plenary meetings in week commencing 23 January 2017**

5.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and **agreed** to change the date of her Question Time slot from Tuesday 23 January to Monday 30 January.

Executive Business

5.2 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Monday 23 January:

- Question Time to the Executive Office and the Minister of Education.

5.3 Members **noted** that the following Executive Business was scheduled for Tuesday 24 January:

- Question Time to the Minister for Communities and the Minister for the Economy.

Private Members' Business

5.4 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' Motions on Monday 23 January and two Private Members' Motions on Tuesday 24 January.

5.5 Under the system of allocation, the selections for Monday 23 January lay with SDLP and DUP and the selections for Tuesday 24 January lay with Sinn Féin and UUP. The following motions were selected:

- 'Values and Principles of the Good Friday Agreement' (Mr C Eastwood, Ms N Mallon, Mr C McGrath and Mr D McCrossan).

- 'Review of Bail Policy in Cases of Terrorism and Murder' (Mr D Beattie, Mr R Beggs and Mrs S Overend).

5.6 Mr Clarke undertook to inform the Business Office of his party's selection following the meeting.

5.7 Ms Ní Chuilín undertook to inform the Business Office of her party's selection following the meeting.

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

5.9 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment Debate on Tuesday 24 January. Under the system of allocation, the selection lay with UUP and the following adjournment debate was selected:

- 'Broadband Provision in Newry and Armagh' (Mr D Kennedy).

5.10 Junior Minister Ross advised that all Ministers were available.

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

6. **Correspondence**

6.1 Members **noted** correspondence from the Minister for the Economy and **agreed** to change the date of his Question Time slot from Monday 27 February to Tuesday 21 February.

7. **Any Other Business**

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

8.1 Members **agreed** to meet at 1:00pm on Tuesday 17 January 2017 in Room 106.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.22pm

The Speaker
Chairperson