

DRAFT
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
BUSINESS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2017
IN ROOM 106, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1.01pm.

Present:

The Speaker (Chairperson)

Mr S Agnew

Mr T Clarke

Mr S Dickson

Dr S Farry

Mr G Lyons

Mr C McGrath

Mrs S Overend

Mr R Swann

In attendance:

Mrs L Hogg

Dr A McGarel

Dr G McGrath

Mr P Gill

Mr D Martin

Mrs A McKelvey

Ms A Kelly

Mr R Ramsey

Ms F Leneghan

Mr G Ervine

Mr M O'Hare

Clerk/Chief Executive

Clerk of Business

**Director of Parliamentary
Services**

Clerk Assistant

Clerk Assistant

**Legal Services and
Governance**

**Legal Services and
Governance**

Adviser to the Speaker

PS/Speaker

Assistant Assembly Clerk

Clerical Supervisor

Observers:

Junior Minister Ross

Mr A Rogers

The Executive Office

1. Apologies

1.1 There was an apology from Mr A Attwood.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 January were **agreed**.

2.2 The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 13 January were **agreed**.

3. **Matters arising**

4. **Finalisation of the Order Paper for plenary meetings in week commencing 23 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.

Executive Committee Business

4.2 Members **noted** that a motion to delay for seven days, the motion on the draft Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, was passed on Monday 16 January. Members therefore **noted** that this item of business has been added to the Order Paper for Monday 23 January.

4.3 Members **noted** that, as Standing Orders require that a Member may speak only once during a debate on a motion, only Members who didn't speak during the debate on Monday 16 January will be allowed to speak on Monday 23 January.

4.4 Members **noted** that Question Time for The Executive Office cannot take place on Monday 23 January.

4.5 Members **agreed** to bring forward questions to the Minister of Education to 2:00pm on Monday 23 January and for debate to resume at 2:45pm.

4.6 Members **noted** that there was no change to Executive Committee Business previously scheduled for Tuesday 24 January.

Private Members' Business

4.7 Members **agreed** that DUP could select a motion for Monday 23 January that was tabled following last week's Business Committee meeting. DUP selected the following motion for Monday 23 January:

- 'Cavity Insulation in Northern Ireland Housing Executive Properties' (Mr A Easton)

4.8 Members **noted** that there was no further change to Private Members' Business previously scheduled for Monday 23 January.

- 4.9 Members **noted** that, as Sinn Féin has not provided a motion for its selection on Tuesday 24 January, the UUP motion on 'Review of Bail Policy in Cases of Terrorism and Murder' will move into the first Private Members' motion slot.
- 4.10 Members **noted** that this left one further slot for a Private Members' motion on Tuesday 24 January.
- 4.11 Under the system of allocation, this selection lay with DUP. The DUP indicated that they would not be selecting a motion for debate.
- 4.12 The next selection lay with Sinn Féin. No Sinn Féin representative was in attendance to select a motion for debate.
- 4.13 The next selection lay with DUP. Once again, the DUP indicated that they would not be selecting a motion for debate.
- 4.14 The next selection lay with the Green Party. The following motion was selected for Tuesday 24 January:
- 'Independent Investigation of Alleged Breaches of the Ministerial Code' (Mr S Agnew and Ms C Bailey)
- 4.15 Junior Minister Ross advised that all Ministers were available.
- 4.16 Junior Minister Ross advised that no further Executive Business was expected at this stage.
- 4.17 Members **agreed** that, as there will be no Business Committee on Tuesday 24 January, not to suspend for lunch that day.
- 4.18 The draft Order Papers were **agreed**.

5. **Any Other Business**

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

- 6.1 Unless the Business Committee was required to meet to schedule unexpected business, members **noted** that the newly appointed Business Committee would meet as soon as possible after the first sitting of the new Assembly, in week commencing 6 March.
- 6.2 Members **noted** that there would also be a meeting with Whips to agree arrangements for the first sitting, including seating arrangements in the Chamber, which was likely to be on Tuesday 7 March. Members noted that this would be confirmed in writing closer to the time.

- 6.3 In response to a query from Mr Agnew the Speaker **informed** Members that current arrangements for Business Committee would apply immediately after the election but that it would be for a new Business Committee to agree its own arrangements once appointed.

The Chairperson brought the meeting to a close at 1.10pm

The Speaker
Chairperson