

**NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**  
**BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2020**  
**IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**MINUTES**

*The meeting began at 1.02pm. (C) denotes attendance via conference call*

**Present:**

**The Speaker (Chairperson)**

**Ms K Armstrong**

**Ms C Bailey**

**Mr R Butler**

**Ms S Ennis**

**Mrs D Kelly**

**Mr C McGrath**

**Mr G Middleton**

**Mr A Muir**

**Mr J O'Dowd**

**Mr J Stewart**

**In attendance:**

**Dr A McGarel**

**Mr P Gill**

**Ms L Hogg**

**Ms K McDonald**

**Mr R Ramsey**

**Ms F Leneghan**

**Ms P Devlin**

**Mr M O'Hare**

**Clerk of Business**

**Clerk Assistant**

**Clerk/Chief Executive**

**Legal Advisor**

**Adviser to the Speaker**

**PS to the Speaker**

**Assistant Assembly Clerk**

**Clerical Supervisor**

**Observers:**

**Mr G Lyons**

**Ms K Loveland-**

**Morrison**

**Junior Minister**

**Executive Office**

**1     Apologies**

**1.1     Apologies were received from Keith Buchanan.**

## 2 Minutes of previous meetings

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 8 September were **agreed**.

## 3 Matters Arising

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

## 4 Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings on Week Commencing 21 September 2020

### Monday 21 September

#### Assembly Business

- 4.1 Members **noted** that no Assembly Business had been requested.

#### Executive Committee Business

- 4.2 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Health and Infrastructure Ministers.
- 4.3 Members **noted** that the possible NSMC statement which had been notified to the Committee the previous week remained unconfirmed but would be added when confirmation was given.
- 4.4 Members **noted** that the Executive Office had not scheduled any other Executive Business for this date.

#### Committee Business

- 4.5 Members **noted** the request from the Committee for Communities to schedule a motion to extend Committee Stage for the Pensions Schemes Bill.
- 4.6 Members **agreed** to schedule the motion with an untimed debate for the motion.

### Private Members' Business

- 4.7 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed to schedule the following motions:
- Promoting Dementia Friendly Policy (cross-party)
  - Honouring the EU Withdrawal Agreement Protocol (SF)
- 4.8 Members **noted** that the cross-party motion was scheduled first last week on the basis that it would become an all-party motion but not all parties agreed to sign it, so it remains cross-party.
- 4.9 Members **noted** that unlike all-party motions, cross-party motions do not take precedence over other Private Members' motions and that the Sinn Féin motion must therefore be taken first.
- 4.10 Members **noted** that a cross-party motion can only be scheduled if it is selected by one of the signatory parties when it is their turn to pick a motion.
- 4.11 Members **noted** that the DUP was willing to select the motion as its next choice, but wanted the debate to take place on Monday 21 September to coincide with World Dementia Day.
- 4.12 Members **noted** that the SDLP, who had the next choice of motion after Sinn Féin, agreed to switch with DUP to allow the motion to go ahead on Monday 21 September.
- 4.13 Members **noted** that DUP were content for the current cross-party signatories to the motion to remain.
- 4.14 Members **agreed** that they were content with the proposed approach.
- 4.15 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 21 September.

### Tuesday 22 September

#### Assembly Business

- 4.16 Members **noted** that no Assembly Business had been requested.

### Executive Committee Business

- 4.17 Members **noted** that the Minister for Communities would make a statement to the Assembly on Social Recovery from COVID-19.
- 4.18 Members **noted** that the the Ministers of Justice and Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs would respond to oral questions.
- 4.19 Members **noted** that five items of Executive Business had been scheduled since last week, as follows:
1. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No 2) Regulations (NI) 2020
  2. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) Regulations (NI) 2020
  3. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020
  4. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020
  5. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (NI) 2020
- 4.20 Members **noted** that a single debate covering all five motions had been requested, which would by convention have no time limit.
- 4.21 Members **agreed** to schedule a single untimed debate for all five statutory rules.

### Private Members' Business

- 4.22 Members **noted** that on the basis of Executive Business notified last week, the Committee agreed to schedule two Private Members' motions for SDLP and DUP.
- 4.23 Members **noted** that they had agreed that the SDLP could defer choosing its motion until this week.
- 4.24 SDLP selected the following Private Members' motion with the usual timings:
- United Kingdom Internal Market Bill (SDLP)
- 4.25 Members **noted** that the DUP's motion on the Introduction of Legislation Equivalent to Helen's Law would be removed from the draft Order Paper as the cross-party motion on dementia had replaced it.

- 4.26 Members **agreed** not to schedule further Private Members motions.
- 4.27 Members **noted** that they had previously agreed to schedule an Adjournment debate on Covid-19 outbreak at Craigavon Area Hospital, and **agreed** that it should remain on the Order Paper.
- 4.28 Junior Ministers/TEO Officials confirmed that Ministers would be available to respond to the selected motions.
- 4.29 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 22 September.

**5 Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings on Week Commencing 28 September 2020**

**Monday 28 September**

Assembly Business

- 5.1 Members **noted** that no Assembly Business had been requested to date.

Executive Committee Business

- 5.2 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Executive Office and Minister for Communities.
- 5.3 Members **noted** that an Oral Statement from the Minister of Health was expected on this date but was unconfirmed.
- 5.4 Members **noted** that no other Executive Business had been scheduled to date.
- 5.5 Junior Ministers/TEO Officials advised that no other business was known to them at that time.

Private Members' Business

- 5.6 Members **agreed** to schedule two Private Members' motions.
- 5.7 Members **noted** that the selections were for SF and DUP.
- 5.8 The following Private Members' motions were selected with the usual timings:
- Children with Hearing Difficulties and Deafness (SF)

- Introduction of Legislation Equivalent to Helen's Law (DUP)

5.9 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 21 September.

## **Tuesday 29 September**

### **Assembly Business**

5.10 Members **noted** that no Assembly Business had been requested to date.

### **Executive Committee Business**

5.11 Members **noted** that the Economy and Education Ministers would respond to oral questions.

5.12 Members **noted** that the Executive Office had scheduled a motion on the Screen Commission (Funding) Order 2020, and an LCM on the Fisheries Bill.

5.13 Junior Ministers/TEO Officials advised that no further business was expected at that time.

5.14 Members **noted** that two items of business from the Committee on Procedures were likely, and would take approximately one hour for debate.

5.15 Members **agreed** to allow time for two items of business for the Committee on Procedures.

### **Private Members' Business**

5.16 Members **agreed** not to schedule any Private Members' motions.

5.17 Members **agreed** to schedule an Adjournment debate, and **noted** that the topic selection was for SDLP.

5.18 The following Adjournment debate topic was selected with the usual timings:

- School Estate in Upper Bann (SDLP)

5.19 The Junior Minister/TEO official confirmed that Minister would be available to respond to the selected business.

5.20 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 29 September.

6     **Any Other Business**

6.1    A Member raised a query regarding the scheduling of Committee meetings, and was advised that the matter was being dealt with by the Chairpersons' Liaison Group.

6.2    There was no other business.

7     **Date and time of next meeting**

7.1    Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place at 1pm on Tuesday 22 September in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

*The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.12pm*

**The Speaker**  
**Chairperson**