# NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

## TUESDAY 11 MAY 2021 SENATE CHAMBER, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

## **MINUTES**

The meeting began at 1.01pm.

Present: The Speaker (Chairperson)

Ms K Armstrong
Ms C Bailey
Mr R Butler
Ms S Ennis
Mr C McGrath
Mr G Middleton

In attendance: Dr A McGarel Clerk of Business

Mr P Gill Clerk Assistant

Ms L Hogg Clerk/Chief Executive
Dr G McGrath Director of Parliamentary

Services

Mr J McMillan Head of Legal Services
Mr R Ramsey Adviser to the Speaker

Ms F Leneghan PS to the Speaker

Ms P Devlin Assistant Assembly Clerk

Mr M O'Hare Clerical Supervisor

Observers: Mr D McCreedy The Executive Office

## 1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Keith Buchanan, Dolores Kelly, Andrew Muir, John O'Dowd, John Stewart and junior Minister Lyons.
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting
- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 4 May were **agreed**.

## 3 Matters Arising

3.1 There were no matters arising.

## 4 <u>Finalisation of the Order Papers for the Plenary Meetings in Week</u> <u>Commencing 17 May 2021</u>

## Monday 17 May

## **Executive Committee Business**

4.1 Members **noted** that Executive business remained as scheduled at the last meeting.

### **Committee Business**

- 4.2 Members **noted** that the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs had requested that a motion is scheduled to extend committee stage of the Horse Racing (Amendment) Bill.
- 4.3 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for the Committee's motion.

## Private Members' Business

- 4.4 Members **noted** that sufficient time was available to schedule Private Members' business.
- 4.5 Members **agreed** to schedule the following Private Members' motions with the usual timings:
  - Unfettered Access to Medicines and Medical Devices (DUP)
  - Ending Religious Discrimination in Teaching Appointments (UUP)
- 4.6 The Executive Office official confirmed that the relevant Ministers would be available.
- 4.7 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Monday 17 May.

## Tuesday 18 May

## **Executive Committee Business**

- 4.8 Members **noted** that the Executive had scheduled two items of business, as follows:
  - The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI)
     2021 (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (NI) 2021
  - The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (NI)
     2021 (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (NI) 2021
- 4.9 Members **noted** that the regulations were made by the Department of Health but would be taken through the Assembly by the junior Ministers, and that a single debate had been requested for both motions.
- 4.10 Members **agreed** to schedule a single, untimed debate for both Regulations.

## Committee Business

- 4.11 Members **noted** that the Committee for Health was seeking to reschedule their motion on mental health awareness week.
- 4.12 Members **agreed** to schedule the Health Committee's motion with the usual timings.

### Private Members' Business

- 4.13 Members **noted** that sufficient time was available to schedule Private Members' business
- 4.14 Members **agreed** to schedule the following Private Members' motions with the usual timings:
  - Public Inquiry into the Murder of Human Rights Lawyer Pat Finucane (SF)
- 4.15 Members **agreed** to schedule the following adjournment debate:
  - Opposition to a waste incinerator from the residents of Hightown,
     Mallusk and South Antrim (UUP)
- 4.16 The Executive Office official indicated that all Ministers were currently available.
- 4.17 Members **agreed** the Order Paper for Tuesday 18 May.

## 5 <u>Provisional Arrangements for the Plenary Meetings in Week</u> Commencing 24 May 2021

## Monday 24 May

### **Executive Committee Business**

- 5.1 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister for Infrastructure and Minister of Justice.
- 5.2 Members **noted** that the Executive had not yet scheduled any business.
- 5.3 The Executive Office official advised that no other Executive business was expected at that time.

### Committee Business

- 5.4 Members **noted** that the Committee for Education was seeking to schedule a motion on the use of restrictive intervention on children and young people.
- 5.5 Members agreed to schedule the Education Committee motion with the usual timings.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.6 Members **agreed** to defer consideration of Private Members' business until the next meeting.
- 5.7 A Member enquired as to whether the recent practice of selecting motions with a week's notice would be permanent but was advised by the Speaker that it was a temporary adjustment to facilitate the current timing of notification of Executive business.
- 5.8 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Monday 24 May.

### Tuesday 25 May

## **Executive Committee Business**

- 5.9 Members **noted** that Question Time was scheduled for the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.
- 5.10 Members **noted** that Final Stage of the Pension Schemes Bill had been scheduled by the Minister for Communities.

- 5.11 Members **agreed** to schedule an untimed debate for Final Stage of the Bill.
- 5.12 The Executive Office official indicated that no other business was expected at that time.

## Committee Business

5.13 Members **noted** that there were no requests for Committee Business to date.

### Private Members' Business

- 5.14 Members **agreed** to defer consideration of Private Members' business until the next meeting.
- 5.15 Members **agreed** the Provisional Order Paper for Tuesday 25 May.

## 6 Response to the Committee on Procedures on Proxy Voting

- 6.1 Members **noted** receipt of a memo from the Speaker outlining possible options for the Business Committee in considering a response to the Committee on Procedures on proxy voting, as well as a copy of his draft response in his capacity as Speaker.
- 6.2 Following discussion, Members **agreed** that they would provide the Committee on Procedures with their own party positions on the issue and not to issue a response from the Business Committee.

## 7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 A Member advised that committees had received information from their departments on the legislation anticipated to be brought forward by the end of the mandate, and suggested that the Business Committee write to the Executive to request that it receives the same information.
- 7.2 Members **agreed** to write to the Executive to request this information.

## 8 Date and time of next meeting

8.1 Members **agreed** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 18 May in the Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings.

The Speaker brought the meeting to a close at 1.18pm

The Speaker Chairperson