

## **COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURES**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2016  
ROOM 21, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Gordon Lyons MLA (Chairperson)  
Mr Steven Agnew MLA  
Mrs Rosemary Barton MLA  
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA  
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA  
Mr Barry McElduff MLA  
Mr Colin McGrath MLA  
Mr Conor Murphy MLA

In attendance: Alison Ross (Clerk)  
Neil Currie (Assistant Clerk)  
Lesley Johnston (Clerical Officer)

**1.24pm** The meeting began in closed session.

#### **1. Apologies**

Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Mr Mervyn Storey MLA

#### **2. Draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016**

*Agreed:* Members agreed the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016.

#### **3. Official Opposition**

The Committee considered a briefing paper outlining a number of options on the way forward in relation to the Official Opposition.

**1.27pm** Mr Buchanan joined the meeting.

*Agreed:* It was agreed to write to the parties and Independent Members represented in the Assembly seeking their views on the options under consideration, and to consider the matter further at the next meeting.

#### **4. Hybrid Bills**

**1.31pm** Paul Conway from the Legal Services Office joined the meeting and briefed the Committee on the legal advice and draft Standing Orders he had prepared to give effect to the Committee's policy decisions in respect of Hybrid Bills.

**1.35pm** Mr McGrath left the meeting.

*Agreed:* The Committee was content with the proposed Standing Orders and agreed that draft motions to amend Standing Orders should be brought to the next meeting.

*Agreed:* It was agreed to write to the Executive Office outlining the Committee's decision and asking for comments.

**1.38pm** The Chairperson thanked Mr Conway for his attendance and he left the meeting.

#### **5. Standing Order 23(3) – Publication of papers deposited in the Library**

**1.38pm** Mr Lyttle joined the meeting.

The Committee considered legal advice which included a draft amendment to Standing Order 23(3) in relation to the publication of papers deposited in the Assembly Library.

*Agreed:* The amendment to Standing Order 23(3) and the motion were agreed.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Clerk should write back to the Head of the Assembly Research and Information Service to advise him of the Committee's decision.

**1.40pm** The meeting moved into public session.

#### **6. e-Petitions presentation by the Information Systems Office**

**1.41pm** Paddy McAllister from the Information Systems Office and Martina Dalton, the Information Standards Officer, joined the meeting and briefed the Committee and answered Members' questions on the work underway to develop the e-Petitions system.

**1.56pm** Mr Murphy left the meeting.

**1.57pm** Mr Lyttle left the meeting.

In the absence of a decision-making quorum proceedings continued in line with Standing Order 49(5).

The Committee discussed a number of issues relating to the admissibility criteria for hosting an e-Petition on the Assembly website, as set out in the recommendations in the previous Committee's Report on the Review of Public Petitions Procedures in the last mandate.

**2.04pm** The Chairperson thanked Mr McAllister and Ms Dalton for their attendance and they left the meeting.

**2.05pm** Mr Agnew joined the meeting (a decision-making quorum was present).

The Clerk was asked to prepare an options paper on the issues discussed at the meeting for consideration at the next meeting.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Information Systems Office should continue to build the online systems over the summer recess.

## **7. Forward Work Programme**

The Committee was content with the Forward Work Programme.

*Agreed:* It was agreed that the Committee should meet twice a month (on the second and fourth Tuesday) at 1.15pm, but to review this after a few months.

## **8. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

## **9. Any other Business**

None.

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Tuesday, 13 September 2016 at 1.15pm in Room 21, Parliament Buildings.

**2.15pm** The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.

Gordon Lyons  
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

13 September 2016