

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 14 February 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room F

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats
John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Karin Phillips, Members' Research and Committee Service
Peter Jones, Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary Service
Alun Jenkins, DLS (Agenda Item 4)
Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee Secretariat
Louise Hull, Assistant PS to the Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams. The Chair welcomed Peter Black who would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3. The Chair welcomed Louise Hull, assistant PS to the Deputy Presiding Officer.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)04-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 31st January 2006

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their final format. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC(2)04-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 7th February 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. As there were no comments, they would be translated and submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

Draft Minutes of meeting of 7th January 2006

3.1 Paragraph 6.3 The Chair said that the Business Committee had referred the issue of the provision of facilities for British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation to the House Committee. Peter Black said that the House Committee had not considered the issue in its meeting on 9th February, but should do so in its next meeting. The Business Minister said that she had written to APS officials to seek advice on how BSL interpretation could be managed in Plenary.

Action: Secretariat to notify House Committee Secretariat

3.2 Paragraph 4.1 The Chair referred to The Official Feed and Food Controls (Wales) Regulations 2006 (BC(2)05-06(p6)) and said that the Committee had agreed to notify the Environment, Planning and Countryside (EPC) Committee about the Regulations. She said that the EPC Committee had decided to scrutinise the legislation in its next meeting.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Feeding Stuffs and the Feeding Stuffs (Sampling and Analysis) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p1)**

The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p2)**

The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p3)**

The Single Education Plan (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p4)**

The Enzootic Bovine Leukosis (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p5)**

The Education Act 2002 (Commencement No. 9 and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p6)**

The Staffing of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p7)**

Brucellosis (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p8)**

The NHS Pensions Agency (Asiantaeth Pensiynau'r GIG) Abolition Order 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p9)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The NHS Blood and Transplant (Gwaed a Thrawsblaniadau'r GIG) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p10)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p11)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (Establishment and Constitution) (Amendment) Order 2006 - **BC(2)06-06(p12)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)06-06(p1); BC(2)06-06(p2); BC(2)06-06(p4) BC(2)06-06(p6) and BC(2)06-06(p7). The Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)06-06(p5) and BC(2)06-06(p8). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of these draft Orders, with the exception of BC(2)06-06(p3), need be referred to a Subject Committee. The Deputy Presiding Officer referred BC(2)06-06(p3) to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee, with the remit to report back to the Assembly within 4 weeks.

BC(2)06-06(p1)

4.1 Lisa Francis said that the paragraphs on financial implications in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order were not clear. She said that her group would like to debate the draft Order.

BC(2)06-06(p2)

4.2 Alun Jenkins confirmed that the Welsh version of this draft Order would be laid in the Table Office alongside the English version later that day.

BC(2)06-06(p3)

4.3 Lisa Francis said that the paragraphs on financial implications in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order were not clear. Peter Black said that he felt this draft Order should be referred to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee for further consideration. Business Managers said that they would like to debate this draft Order.

BC(2)06-06(p5)

4.4 The Chair referred to paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said that “*similar legislation was introduced in England on 1 September 2000 and in Scotland in November 2000.*” She said that this was a significant delay. The Committee noted that the Explanatory Memorandum also said that “the industry have been operating in accordance with the provisions of this Order”.

BC(2)06-06(p9) – BC(2)06-06(p12)

4.5 The Deputy Presiding Officer noted that these draft Orders would be made jointly with the UK Government. He asked if the Explanatory Memorandums accompanying the draft Orders could explain whether the Orders would be made jointly out of choice, or whether it was a requirement. Marion Stapleton said this information would be provided in the supporting documents.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

(c) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)06-06(p19)

5.1 The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee about consideration of forthcoming legislation.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)06-06(p15)

6.1 The Business Minister responded to requests from Business Managers and said that:-

- The First Minister had made a statement on the WDA pensions in Plenary on 7th February.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the provision of the Herceptin cancer drug, as Members had the opportunity to discuss the issue in the Welsh Liberal Democrats' nominated debate on drug availability on 7th February.
- A written statement by the Minister for Economic Development and Transport on the loss of 1000 jobs if the Wylfa power station were to close would be issued shortly.
- A written statement by Minister for Health and Social Services on child suicides would be issued shortly.

This Week's Business

BC(2)06-06(p16)

6.2 The Committee considered this paper, which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

6.3 The Business Minister said that the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside would be making a statement later that day on the closure of Dairygold at Felinfach. Members of the Committee noted that the indicative timings for Tuesday's meeting showed that the meeting would overrun. It was suggested that the meeting could be extended if there was a lack of time.

Business Manager's Requests

6.4 Jocelyn Davies asked if a statement could be made on the rollout of the new dental contract.

6.5 Peter Black asked if statements could be made on the new contract for the supply of oxygen, and on the way the UK and Welsh Governments worked together with regard to the Welsh language. Jocelyn Davies supported this request.

6.6 Lisa Francis asked if statements could be made on

- The £1million grant aid received by Dairygold.
- The name of the new Assembly building.
- The height of a building reportedly to be built next to the Senedd.
- Allied Steel and Wire pensions.
- The cost of revamping water equipment following the cryptosporidiosis outbreak.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)04-06(p12)

6.7 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 28th February; 7th March and 14th March.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)06-06(p18)

7.1 The Committee agreed the paper on the appointment of an additional trustee for the National Assembly for Wales Members' Pension Scheme.

BC(2)06-06(p20)

7.2 The Business Minister introduced a paper on the appointment of a National Assembly for Wales member to the Rail Passengers' Council. She said that the appointment had yet to be made and that the paper outlined three options for how this could be achieved. These were –

- Delegate the necessary functions to the First Minister.
- Delegate the functions to a committee of the Assembly.
- For the appointment to be made by the Assembly in Plenary.

7.3 It was noted that the Assembly had decided not to delegate to the First Minister the functions to make the appointment. Peter Black and Lisa Francis said that they would prefer to delegate the functions to a sub-committee of the Economic Development and Transport Committee. Jocelyn Davies said she felt that the necessary functions should be delegated to the First Minister, and that she hoped that the appointment could be made as soon as possible, because it was not acceptable to keep candidates waiting. Lisa Francis asked if Paul Silk could provide some written advice on how the second and third options could be achieved. The Committee agreed to return to this issue in its next meeting.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT