

Business Committee

BC(2)23-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 19th September 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager
John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Adrian Crompton, 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

Catherine Morris, PS to the Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)21-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 4th July 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)22-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 11th July 2006

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

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

3.1 **Paragraph 11.1** Andrew George reported back on a procedure for the Presiding Officer to be consulted on motions and amendments which “*may affect the relationship between the Assembly and the Government.*” He said that the issue had arisen because of problems with a motion tabled by Mike German under Standing Order 31, which the Presiding Officer had ruled out of order before it was debated. He said that the Table Office had robust procedures in place to deal with business which raised legal or novel or contentious procedural issues. He said that the Presiding Officer had also asked for all motions and amendments to be sent to him before they were published. Jocelyn Davies said that her concerns did not relate to the Table Office, but that no notification had been given to Members that the motion would be ruled out of order. The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if there was an intention to reschedule the debate on the motion. The Business Minister confirmed that she had offered to reschedule the debate.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Act 2006 (Commencement) Order 2006 – **BC(2)23-06 (p1)**

The Environmental Noise (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)23-06(p2)**

The Paying Agency (National Assembly for Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)23-06 (p3)** *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*

The Youth and Community Work Education and Training (Inspection) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)23-06(p4)** *Recommended Procedure: Standard*

The Feeding Stuffs (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)23-06(p5)** *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)23-06(p1) to BC(2)23-06(p4). (Following the meeting, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined that none of the draft Orders, with the exception of BC(2)23-06(p5) should be referred to a subject committee. The Deputy Presiding Officer determined that BC(2)23-05(p5) should be referred to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee with the remit to report back to the Assembly within two weeks.)

BC(2)23-06(p1)

4.1 Jocelyn Davies said that it was normal practice for a general debate to be held on Commencement Orders and said that her group wanted this draft Order to follow the standard procedure.

BC(2)23-06(p3)

4.2 The Chair referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order which said that a letter had been sent to the Chair of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee notifying them of the draft Order. Jocelyn Davies said that it was unfortunate that the Committee had not had the opportunity to consider whether or not to scrutinise the legislation. It was agreed that the draft Order should follow the standard procedure to allow Members to raise any concerns during the Plenary debate.

BC(2)23-06(p5)

4.3 It was noted that these Regulations had been notified to the Health and Social Services Committee, but that they would also be relevant to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee. Members of the Committee said that it had previously been agreed that, if that was the case, such draft Orders would be notified to both committees. Business Managers recommended that the Deputy Presiding Officer should refer the Regulations to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee for consideration.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

BC(2)23-06(p8)

4.4 The Committee noted The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Categories of Works and Maximum Amounts of Grant) (No.3) (Wales) Determination 2006.

Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

BC(2)23-06(p9)

4.5 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the use of the Executive procedure for The Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) (Wales) Order 2006.

BC(2)23-06(p10)

4.6 The Committee noted the letter of notification about the use of the Executive procedure for The Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) (Wales) Order 2006.

BC(2)23-06(p11)

4.7 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification of The Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

Responses to Requests

6.1 The Committee noted the Business Minister's responses to requests for items of business:

- A Debate on Communities First would be scheduled for the autumn term.
- A statement on the centralisation of Neurosurgery would be made when the arrangements had been decided.
- A written statement on the Welsh Assembly Government response to the Energy Review had been issued before the recess and would be reporting to the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee shortly.
- A written statement on the Blaenau Gwent/Newport rail link had been issued before the

recess.

5.2 Lisa Francis said the Business Minister had said that a debate on the NHS in Wales would be scheduled during the first half of the autumn term and asked if the Minister had decided on a specific date. The Minister said that she would let Business Managers know. _

This Week's Business

BC(2)23-06(p12)

5.3 The Business Minister said that there were no changes to the week's business.

Business Managers' Requests

5.4 Jocelyn Davies asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on RSA Grants.

6.7 Kirsty Williams supported the above request and asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the reported 100 job losses at the Duracell factory in Wrexham.

5.5 Lisa Francis supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A debate on the NHS.
- A debate on Manufacturing Job Losses in Wales.
- A debate on the Welsh Assembly Government's proposals for the Tourism Industry in Wales.
- A statement on the Milk Industry.
- A statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's press office budget.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)22-06(p14)

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 26 September, 3 October and 10 October.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

BC(2)23-06(p13)

9.1 The Committee agreed proposals to amend Standing Order 21. It was agreed that a Report of the Business Committee would be prepared and a Plenary debate scheduled for 27th September.

Action: Secretariat

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT