

Business Committee BC(2)23-05 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 20th September 2005

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room E

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

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business
Manager

David Melding, Welsh Conservatives
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

Karin Phillips, Members' Research and
Committee Services 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

Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)21-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 5th July 2005

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)22-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 12th July 2005

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication following final approval by the Committee.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

BC(2)21-05(Final Minutes)

3.1 **Paragraph 4.2** - The Business Minister reported back on issues relating to The Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (Contingency Planning) (Wales) Order 2005 and said that a Welsh Generic Exotic Diseases Contingency Plan had been prepared and would be going out for consultation in the Autumn. She said that, until the Welsh Contingency Plan was introduced, the Government could use the UK-wide contingency plan. The Business Minister said that she was not aware of any other animal health legislation which was awaiting introduction following its transfer from Defra.

3.2 **Paragraph 7.2** Andrew George referred to the Table Office arrangements for Written Assembly Questions during the Summer recess. He said that the arrangements had worked well and that 15-20 questions had been tabled each week.

BC(2)22-05 (draft minutes)

3.3 **Paragraph 4.3** Marion Stapleton confirmed that approval had been granted by the Registrar General and the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the Assembly to make The Access to Information (Post-Commencement Adoptions) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (BC(2) 22-05(p1)).

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Education (Assisted Places) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)23-05 (p1)**

The Food Labelling (Amendment) (Wales) (No. 2) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)23-05 (p2)**

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Commencement No 4 and Consequential and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2005 - **BC(2)23-05 (p3)**

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)23-05 (p5)**

*(& Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee - **BC(2)23-05(p21)**)*

Reporting of Prices of Milk Products (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)23-05 (p4)**

The Education (Assisted Places) (Incidental Expenses) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)23-05 (p6)**

The Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order 2005 - **BC(2)23-05 (p7)**

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)23-05(p3), BC(2)23-05(p4), BC(2)23-05(p5) and the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)23-05(p1), BC(2)23-05(p2), BC(2)23-05(p6) and BC(2)23-05(p7) . The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of these Orders need be referred to Subject Committee.

BC(2)23-05 (p4)

4.1 Jocelyn Davies said that her group wished to debate this draft Order and suggested that the draft Order should follow the Standard procedure. David Melding supported this suggestion.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

Assembly Learning Grant Scheme 2005/06 - **BC(2)23-05 (p8)**

Education Maintenance Allowance Scheme - **BC(2)23-05 (p9)**

National Minimum Standards for Adoption Support Agencies - **BC(2)23-05 (p10)**

4.2 Members of the Committee asked if, in future, the reasons for disapplying any of the requirements of Standing Order 29 could be explained clearly in the supporting documents. The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if the Cover Sheets accompanying the legislation could indicate on which dates the Welsh and English versions had been notified to Members.

BC(2)23-05 (p10)

4.3 The Business Committee noted the National Minimum Standards for Adoption Support Agencies. Jocelyn Davies referred to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Memorandum, which said that the *"Health and Social Services Committee has not been notified separately of these Standards."* However, the Committee had been notified of the legislation from which the Standards originated. She said that Committees should be notified of all legislation under Standing Order 29. Marion Stapleton said that should have been the case.

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

(d) Papers for Information

BC(2)23-05(p11)

4.4 The Business Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside's proposal to confirm the North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee Byelaw 9 under Standing Order 30. The Chair asked if a Welsh version of the Byelaws had been prepared. Marion Stapleton said she would report back on this issue. The Chair noted that a copy of the Byelaws had been placed in the Members' Library. She said that, as it was intended to confirm the Byelaws during the Summer recess, and as they were of particular interest to Members from North Wales, a copy should have been sent to all Members. Marion Stapleton confirmed that, in future, this would be the case.

BC(2)23-05(p12)

4.5 The Business Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Health & Social Services' intention to approve the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) (NHSBSA) Directions 2005.

BC(2)23-05(p13) & BC(2)23-05(p14)

4.6 The Business Committee noted the e-mails of notification about the Minister for Health & Social Services' intention to approve The Notification to and Co-operation with the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) Wales Directions 2005 (the Co-operation Directions) (BC(2)23-05(p13)) and the NHS Blood and Transplant (Gwaed a Thrawsblaniadau'r GIG) (Wales) Directions 2005 (BC(2)23-05(p14)). The Chair noted that it was not intended for the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) Wales Directions 2005 (the Co-operation Directions) to be made bilingually because of the *"very limited nature and audience of the directions"*. However, the NHS Blood and Transplant (Gwaed a Thrawsblaniadau'r GIG) (Wales) Directions 2005 had been produced bilingually. Marion Stapleton said she would seek clarification and report back on this issue.

5. Committees

BC(2)23-05(p15)

5.1 The Committee noted the letter of notification from the Health and Social Services Committee about an additional formal meeting on Thursday 17 November 2005.

BC(2)23-05(p16)

5.2 The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee about consideration of forthcoming legislation.

BC(2)23-05(p17)

5.3 The Committee noted the letter of notification from the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee about an additional formal meeting on Thursday 22 September 2005.

BC(2)23-05(p22)

5.4 The Committee agreed the request from the Committee on School Funding for meetings to be scheduled on 28 September, 2 November and 16 November.

BC(2)23-05(p23)

5.5 The Committee noted the letter of notification from the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee about an additional formal meeting on Thursday 29 September 2005.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)23-05(p18)

6.1 The Business Minister responded to a request from Business Managers and said that a debate on the State Aid Regime was scheduled for 23 November.

This Week's Business

BC(2)23-05(p19)

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

6.3 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the allocation of 45 minutes for Wednesday's debate on the Report of the Committee on the Better Governance for Wales might not be sufficient and that, consequently, the Plenary meeting could overrun. The Business Minister said that, if necessary, she would move a procedural motion to extend the meeting.

Business Manager's Requests

6.4 David Melding asked if a statement could be made on the proposed reduction in the number of police forces in England and Wales. He said that this was a matter of public importance and asked if the statement could outline how the Assembly would be consulted. He also asked if a statement could be made on the decision by the UK Government to postpone the Council Tax revaluation exercise in England, and its relevance to Wales. Jocelyn Davies supported these requests. The Chair said that Kirsty Williams had indicated that she would also support these requests.

6.5 Jocelyn Davies asked if statements could be made on NHS funding of Community Hospitals and on an outbreak of the E-Coli virus in the Rhondda Cynon Taff area. She also asked if a written statement could be issued on the Barnett formula following a recent article in the media. David Melding supported these requests.

Draft Business Statement

6.6 The Committee noted that the debate on the draft Budget, which was scheduled for 4 October, had been allocated an indicative timing of 120 minutes. The Committee welcomed this.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

11.1 The Chair suggested that a paper could be prepared exploring the role of the Business Committee in the light of the report of the Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper. The Committee welcomed this suggestion and it was agreed that a paper would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Action: Secretariat

11.2 Andrew George referred to the new format for the Plenary Agenda, a hard copy of which had been circulated to members of the Committee. He said that the agendas had been made clearer and that the presentation was consistent on the Intranet, Internet and Chamberweb in order to improve clarity still further. He said that he would like to receive feedback from Members on the new format.

