

Business Committee BC(2)31-05 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 22nd November 2005

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

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 Service

Peter Jones, Counsel to the Assembly
Parliamentary Service

Alun Jenkins, DLS (Agenda Item 4)

Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee
Secretariat

Rita Phillips, Assistant PS to the
Presiding Officers

Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams. Apologies for absence were also received from Catherine Morris. The Chair welcomed Rita Phillips who was deputising for her.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)29-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 8th November 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)30-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 15th November 2005

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

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

3.1 **Paragraph 4.3** The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to The Voluntary Adoption Agencies (Amendment) Regulations 2005 if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had given his approval for the amending Regulations to be made. Marion Stapleton said that it was felt that the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not need to approve the amending regulations as the parent regulations had been approved.

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Ancient Monuments Board for Wales (Abolition) Order 2006 - **BC(2)31-05(p1)**

The Historic Buildings Council for Wales (Abolition) Order 2006 - **BC(2)31-05(p2)**

Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products - **BC(2)31-05(p3)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)31-05(p4)**

Standing Order 25, Section 3

*& Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee - **BC(2)31-05(p9)***

The Voluntary Adoption Agencies (Amendment) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)31-05(p5)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The Children Act 2004 (Commencement No. 5) (Wales) Order 2005 - **BC(2)31-05(p6)**

The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)31-05(p7)**

The Valuation Tribunals (Wales) Regulations 2005- **BC(2)31-05(p8)**

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)31-05 (p6) and BC(2)31-05(p7). The Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC (2)31-05(p1), BC(2)31-05(p2) and BC(2)31-05(p8). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of the draft Orders need be referred to Subject Committee.

BC(2)31-05(p3)

4.1 David Melding said his group wanted to debate this draft Order.

BC(2)31-05(p4)

4.2 The Committee considered this draft Order and noted the Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee which accompanied it. The Chair said that the Committee report raised an issue in relation to findings by the Soil Association and asked if the issue had been addressed in the Explanatory Memorandum. Marion Stapleton said that she had made enquiries but it had not been possible to collect the information in time for the meeting. David Melding said that his group wanted to debate this draft Order.

BC(2)31-05(p5)

4.3 The Deputy Presiding Officer noted that this draft Order would be made under Standing Order 23, Section 3 and would be made jointly with the UK Government. He said that it had been previously agreed that the Explanatory Memorandums accompanying such draft Orders would indicate whether or not the Assembly was required to make the legislation jointly. Alun Jenkins said that, in this case, it was a policy decision to make the Order jointly and that the Assembly was not required to do so.

BC(2)31-05(p6)

4.4 David Melding said that the Health and Social Services Committee had not been notified about this draft Order in the usual way i.e. via the list of forthcoming legislation submitted to subject committees. He said that he, as Chair of that Committee, had been sent a letter containing a copy of the draft Order.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

BC(2)31-05(p11)

4.5 The Business Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside's intention to approve the Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock : Sheep.

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

(d) Papers for Information

BC(2)31-05(p12)

4.5 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside's intention to confirm the Pontblyddyn Sewage Pumping Station Compulsory Purchase Order 2004.

BC(2)31-05(p13)

4.6 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside's intention to confirm the Menai Strait Salmon and Sea Trout Netting Byelaws 2005.

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)31-05(p14)

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

A written statement on the latest position regarding the E.coli outbreaks had been issued on 15th November.

A statement or debate on School Discipline would be scheduled in the early part of 2006, which would coincide with the introduction of the primary legislation in Westminster, which is likely to be during the early part of next year.

A written statement would be issued shortly on the actions taken by the Minister for Health and Social Services to improve patient access to GPs following recent announcements that GPs in England were being asked to review their opening hours.

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration had made a statement on Policing in Wales on 15th November. A debate on the Social Justice and

Regeneration Committee's Report on the reorganisation of police forces in Wales was scheduled for 6th December, following which, the Committee's comments would be fed back to Charles Clarke . A subsequent debate would be scheduled at an appropriate time in early 2006.

This Week's Business

BC(2)31-05(p15)

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

Business Manager's Requests

6.3 The Chair said that Kirsty Williams had requested a statement on the proposed closure of Aeron Valley Cheese Packing factory in Ceredigion. Jocelyn Davies and David Melding supported this request.

6.4 Jocelyn Davies asked if statements could be made to update the Assembly on the position regarding DARA and on the use of Bed and Breakfasts to accommodate homeless families. David Melding supported the former request. Jocelyn Davies also asked if a statement could be made on the hiring out by the Government of the new Assembly Building.

6.5 David Melding asked if a statement could be scheduled on the availability of the routine flu vaccine. He said he would be content with a written statement if the situation was not controversial. He also asked if a statement could be made on homelessness.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)31-05(p11)

6.6 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 29 November, 6 December and 10 January.

6.7 The Chair referred to the debate on the Report of the Committee on the Inquiry into the E.coli Outbreak in Wales, which was scheduled for 10th January and asked when a motion would be tabled to delegate to the First Minister the Assembly's functions under the Inquiries Act. Jocelyn Davies said that it was preferable for the motion to be tabled as soon as possible so that the inquiry could get underway. The Business Minister said that she would schedule a debate on the motion following consultation with Business Managers.

BC(2)31-05(p17)

6.8 The Committee noted the proposed recess dates for 2006-07. It was noted that the dates corresponded as much as possible to school holidays in the LEAs across Wales.

BC(2)31-05(p18)

6.9 The Business Committee noted the draft Periodic Timetable statement. Karin Phillips said there may be some clashes under the new arrangements with previously arranged meetings, such as meetings of the Partnership Council. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the House Committee was an executive committee and might, on occasion, have to meet outside the provisions of the periodic timetable statement.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)30-05(p14)

7.1 Business Managers said that their groups were content with the draft Seating plan for the new Chamber. It was noted that the Presiding Officer would issue further details shortly.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

11.1 David Melding said he would be replaced shortly by Lisa Francis as Business Manager for the Conservative Party. The Chair thanked him on behalf of the Committee for his work on the Committee.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT