

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 24th January 2006
Time: 9.30 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
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
Catherine Morris, 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 was representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)01-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 10th 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)02-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 17th January 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Some amendments were agreed which would be incorporated into the final draft before they were submitted to the Committee.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

Draft Minutes of meeting of 17th January 2006

3.1 **Paragraph 3.1** Marion Stapleton confirmed that the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) did not intend to issue the *Rent Only Residential*

Management Code in Welsh and that there was no statutory obligation for them to do so. She said that the RICS was not currently one of the organisations without a Welsh Language Scheme which the Government was encouraging to issue documents bilingually. The Chair said that she would now write to the RICS encouraging them to issue the Code in Welsh, and also to the Welsh Language Board.

Action: Chair

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The General Medical Services Transitional and Consequential Provisions (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2006 - **BC(2)03-06(p1)**

The National Health Service (Primary Medical Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)03-06(p2)**

The Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)03-06(p3)**

The Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment and Support Schemes (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)03-06(p4)**

The Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)03-06(p5)**

& Report from the Local Government and Public Services Committee –
BC(2)03-06(p10)

Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)03-06(p6)**

& Report of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee -
BC(2)03-06(p11)

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)02-06(p1); BC(2)02-06(p2); BC(2)03-06(p5); and BC(2)03-06(p6) and the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)02-06(p3) and BC(2)03-06(p4) . The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of the draft Orders need be referred to a Subject Committee.

BC(2)03-06(p1)

4.1 Members noted that the General Practitioners Committee (Wales) had been consulted about this draft Order but that there was no information about their response. Marion Stapleton said she would report back on this issue.

Action: Marion Stapleton

BC(2)03-06(p5)

4.2 Peter Jones said that it was not clear from the supporting papers for this Order whether the amendments proposed as a result of consultation had been incorporated in the draft Order. He pointed to a proposed amendment to refer to town councils in Article 6 which did not appear to have been taken on board. Marion Stapleton said that she would confirm the position at the next meeting; and provide Members with details of how each proposed amendment had been incorporated into the draft Order in good time for the Plenary debate.

Action: Marion Stapleton

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

The Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (Wales) Determination 2006-2007 - **BC(2)03-06(p7)**

The (Wales) General Determination of the Item 8 Credit and Item 8 Debit 2006-2007 - **BC(2)03-06(p8)**

4.3 Peter Jones said that the supporting papers for these draft Orders did not make it clear which of the procedures under Standing Order 29.3 were being applied and the reasons for the Minister's decision. Marion Stapleton said that she would provide revised papers for the next Committee meeting.

Action: Marion Stapleton

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

(d) Papers for Information

Notification on behalf of the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration of a proposal to confirm the Carmarthenshire County Council (Number 16 Margaret Street, Ammanford) Compulsory Purchase Order 2004 under Standing Order 30 - **BC(2)03-06(p9)**

4.4 Members noted the email about the proposal to confirm a CPO. In response to a query Alun Jenkins said that the local authority would have had to have regard to their Welsh Language Scheme in preparing the Order.

5. Committees

BC(2)03-06(p15)

5.1 The Committee considered a paper on the implications of Clause 29 of the Government of Wales Bill for Committees after May 2007. Following extensive discussion the Chair said that this had been a valuable opportunity for members to consider the future shape of committees and the Standing Order changes which might be necessary. She urged those groups who had not yet done so to take advantage of the presentations being offered by MRCS.

BC(2)03-06(p16)

5.2 The Committee considered a paper on the scrutiny of the Children's Commissioner's Annual Report. It was agreed that a joint meeting of the ELL, HSS, SJR and EOC Committees should be held before the end of February at a time to be agreed amongst the Chairs when clashes could be kept to a minimum.

BC(2)03-06(p17)

5.3 The Committee considered a paper on the Committee on Rail Infrastructure and Improved Passenger Services. The proposed meeting arrangements and the proposed Standing Order amendment to allow substitutions were agreed. A draft report of the Business Committee would be submitted to the next meeting.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

BC(2)03-06(p18)

5.4 The Committee considered a paper on temporary revisions to Standing Orders relating to the Committee on the Government of Wales Bill. It was agreed that the proposed amendment to allow substitutions should be considered in Plenary that week; and that the Committee should return to the paper at its next meeting after Business Managers had consulted their groups.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)03-06(p12)

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

- The Minister for Economic Development and Transport would be making an oral statement on DARA on Tuesday 24 January.
- The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration would be making an oral statement on police reform on Wednesday 25 January
- The Minister for the Environment, Planning and Countryside had issued a written statement on the north Wales water supply
- The Minister for Health and Social Services had issued a written statement on the number of cases of mumps and the take up of the MMR Vaccine
- There was no intention to make time available for a separate debate on European funding as this could be covered in the debate on matters relating to the European Union, which was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 25 January.
- A debate on palliative care would be scheduled later in the session.
- There was no intention to schedule time for a debate on Gross Value Added as the matter was frequently raised during questions to the

Minister for Economic Development and Transport and in the Subject Committee

This Week's Business

BC(2)03-06(p13)

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

Business Manager's Requests

6.3 Jocelyn Davies asked if a statement could be made on progress towards free home care for the disabled.

6.4 Peter Black asked if statements could be made on the provision of specialist drugs for Alzheimer's Disease; funding for the Supporting People programme; vocational training for ex-offenders; and the impact on the Assembly's funding of Post Offices in Wales of the UK Government's proposal to abolish the Post Office Credit Account.

6.5 Lisa Francis asked if statements could be made on the food at Cefn Coed Hospital, Swansea; the role of the Welsh Assembly Government in the UK Government's review of energy; and the safety of the NLG terminal at Milford Haven.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)03-06(p14)

6.6 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 31st January; 7th February and 14th February.

6.7 Marion Stapleton said that the draft Foot and Mouth Disease (Wales) Order 2006, which was due to be considered in Plenary on 31st January under Standing Order 24.27, would be in English only because an amended draft had only just been received from DeFRA.

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 Paul Silk said that tests in the Siambry by officials had revealed a number of problems which needed to be rectified and as a result the proposed training session for Members had been postponed from 24th January until 31st January.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT