

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2003  
**Time:** 9 a.m.  
**Venue:** Video Conferencing Room

**Present:** Jenny Randerson (Chair)  
Karen Sinclair, Business Minister  
Jonathan Morgan, Conservative Business Manager  
Kirsty Williams, Liberal Democrat Business Manager  
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager  
John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly  
Peter Jones, Presiding Office Legal Unit  
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee  
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit  
Marie Knox, Head of Committee Secretariat (agenda item 6)  
Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee Secretariat  
Catherine Morris, PS to Deputy Presiding Officer

**1. Apologies & announcements**

**2. Minutes of the previous meetings**

**(i) BC197-03 (Draft) Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Two minor amendments were suggested which would be incorporated into the final version and presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

**Action: Chamber Secretariat**

**3. Matters Arising**

**4. Subordinate Legislation**

**(a) Orders for consideration**

The Sweeteners in Food (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (BC199-03)  
*Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*

4.1 The Business Committee considered paper BC199-03 which provided advice on the handling of the Order and agreed the recommended procedure.

**The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that this Order need not be referred to a subject committee.**

**(b) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; papers to note.**

**BC200-03 & BC201-03**

4.2 The Committee noted the letters to Members from Cabinet Secretariat on the use of the Executive procedure for the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Wales) (No.2) Order 2003 and the Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Wales) (No.2) Order 2003. Members of the Committee sought clarification of the reason why it had not been possible for these Orders to follow the Assembly's normal procedures. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that he would be minded to table revocation motions if the issue was not clarified. The Chair asked Marion Stapleton to report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

**Action: Marion Stapleton to report back**

## **5. Advice to Assembly on procedures**

### **BC208-03**

5.1 The Committee noted the paper on responsibilities of the Assembly Cabinet. Marion Stapleton said she would circulate the document to Members via e-mail.. In response to a query from the Chair, Marion Stapleton confirmed that a list of the statutory functions for which each Minister was responsible had been published on the Cabinet pages of the Intranet and Internet. The Deputy Presiding Officer repeated his request of the previous week and said it was necessary to enumerate all functions of Ministers and separate them from other responsibilities.

**Action: Marion Stapleton to report back**

## **6. Committees**

### **BC194-03 & BC195-03**

6.1 The Business Committee considered the papers on the election of electoral region Assembly Members to Regional Committees and the paper on the charring of Regional Committees. Kirsty Williams and Jonathan Morgan said that their groups were content that arrangements should remain as they were during the First Assembly. Jocelyn Davies said that she would consult further with her group. Business Managers agreed to return to the issue at the next Business Committee meeting.

### **BC202-03**

6.2 The Business Committee considered the paper on Committee timetabling. Business Managers advised the Business Minister that subject committee meetings should continue to be timetabled in accordance with the previous arrangements and said that they would not support any proposal to hold fewer subject committee meetings. The Committee agreed that subject committee meetings should provisionally proceed on the basis of the previous arrangements until the Assembly had an opportunity to debate a motion proposing a periodic timetable statement under Standing Order 5.1.

### **BC203-03**

6.3 The Business Committee considered the paper on Public Appointments Panels and agreed to return to the issue at its next meeting.

## **7. Forthcoming Business**

### **BC204-03**

7.1 The Business Committee noted the paper on arrangements for the Home Grown Cereals Authority (Rate of Levy) Order 2003. Members of the Committee advised the Business Minister that the date for making the Order should be put back a week so that the normal procedures could be followed as the Committee thought it was unacceptable to suspend Standing Orders in this case.

#### **(i) This Week's Business**

7.2 The Committee considered paper BC205-03 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

7.3 The Business Minister said that there were two amendments to the week's business. On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, the Minister for Economic Development and Transport would make a statement on LG Philips Displays Redundancies. On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport would make a statement on the European Capital of Culture: 2008.

#### **(ii) Draft Business Statement**

7.4 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 3 June.

7.5 The Business Minister said that the debate under Standing Order 6.5 on the Assembly Arrangements for dealing with Business, which had been scheduled for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, would now take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. She said that a debate on Wales in Europe would take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June and that a statement by the Minister for Environment, Planning & Countryside on Proposals for the Assembly's Sustainable Development Scheme, would take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. A debate on the National Public Health Service, Public Health Laboratory Service in Wales and the Wales Centre for Health would take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

7.6 Jocelyn Davies and Jonathan Morgan asked if an oral statement could be made on teachers' redundancies. The Business Minister said that she would relay this request to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

7.7 Members of the Committee asked Marion Stapleton to confirm that Ministers had responded to all of the Committee reports which had been finalised before the election. Marion Stapleton said she would report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

**Action: Marion Stapleton to report back**

### **BC209-03**

7.8 The Committee considered the paper on proposed recess dates for 2003-2004. No consensus was reached. Business Managers agreed that the dates of the summer recess needed to be resolved quickly.

### **BC210-03**

7.9 The Business Committee considered the paper on options for the allocation of minority party debates. The Committee agreed a timetable which would mean that the Conservatives would have 6 one-hour slots, Plaid Cymru would have 5 one-hour slots and 2 forty-five-minute slots and the Liberal Democrats would have 2 one-hour slots and 2 forty-five minute slots.

## **8. Matters referred from plenary**

### **BC207-03**

8.1 The Business Committee noted the paper on answers to written questions during Assembly General Election periods. Some amendments were suggested which would be considered before the paper was resubmitted to the Committee.

## **9. Revisions to Standing Orders**

## **10. Presiding Officer rulings**

## **11. Any other business.**

**CHAMBER SECRETARIAT**