

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 6th July 2004
Time: 9 a.m.
Venue: Conference Room E

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

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
Peter Jones, Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary Service
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Karin Phillips, Members' Research and Committee Services
Alun Jenkins, OCG (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) BC345-04 (Final) Tuesday 22nd June 2004

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their final format. An amendment was suggested, which would be incorporated before the minutes were translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC365-04 (Draft) Tuesday 29th June 2004

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. An amendment was suggested, which would be incorporated before the minutes were translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

BC365-04 - 29th June 2004

3.1 **Paragraph 4.1** Alun Jenkins confirmed that no Crown Bodies in Wales would be effected by the making of The Water Act 2003 (Commencement No.2) (Wales) Order 2004, as they did not currently own land upon which there was a reservoir.

3.2 **Paragraph 4.4** Alun Jenkins confirmed that a Welsh translation of The Care Standards Act 2000 (Commencement No.20) Order 2004 was not yet available. An e-mail would be sent to Members notifying them when a translation became available.

3.3 **Paragraph 11.1** It was agreed that the Committee would discuss the Report of the Richard Commission and that the paper from the Clerk on this issue would be included on the agenda for the meeting. The Business Minister said that a paper from the First Minister on the Richard Commission's Report would be made available to the Committee as soon as possible. However, if this was not practicable, the paper would be circulated during the meeting.

BC345-04 - 22nd June 2004

3.4 **Paragraph 4.4** It was agreed that a paper listing any Orders which it was proposed would be made under the Executive procedure, would be submitted to the Committee in its next meeting. The Business Minister said that the Cabinet had recently agreed to make two Orders under the Executive procedure but that, at present, there was no intention to make any further Orders under the Executive procedure.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Potatoes Originating in Egypt (Wales) Regulations 2004 (BC367-04)
Recommended Procedure: Accelerated

The Plant Protection Products (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (BC368-04)
Recommended Procedure: Standing Order 25, Section 3

The Education (LEA Financial Schemes) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (BC369-04)
Recommended Procedure: Standard

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC367-04 and the Standard procedure for BC369-04. The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that neither of these draft Orders need be referred to subject committee.

BC367-04

4.1 The Chair noted that the Explanatory Memorandum said that "*the Regulations authorise Member States to take temporary emergency measures against the spread of potato brown rot*" and said that similar legislation had been introduced in England on 15th May, Northern Ireland on 19th April and in Scotland on 31st March. Members of the Committee said that if this was a matter of urgency, the regulations could be introduced in Wales under the Executive procedure.

BC369-04

4.2 The Chair said that this draft Order had been submitted to the Committee in its previous meeting but that consideration of it had been deferred because

elements of the supporting documents were unclear. The Committee agreed that the revised supporting documents were now clearer.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

5.1 The Business Committee considered the Presiding Officer's draft Guidelines on Definitions of Committee Activity which had been submitted to the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 8.20. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Presiding Officer to notify him that the Committee was content with the Guidelines.

Action: Secretariat

6. Forthcoming Business

BC370-04

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

- There was no intention to schedule a statement by the First Minister on constitutional issues.
- There was no intention to schedule a statement by the Minister for Health and Social Services on the issue of choice in Public Services in Wales.

This Week's Business

6.2 The Committee considered paper BC371-04, which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

6.3 The Business Minister said that the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning would be making a statement on the Children's Commissioner's report on the Clywch inquiry on Tuesday 6 July. She said that no motion had been tabled for the debate on the Interim Report of the Assembly Working Group on Childcare, which had been scheduled for 7 July, and that this would be replaced by a statement on the same issue by the Minister for Health and Social Services.

6.4 Jonathan Morgan asked if a statement could be made by the First Minister on reports in the media relating to a complaint which had been made against a Minister. Jocelyn Davies supported this request, but said that she would be content for a written statement to be issued.

Draft Business Statement

6.5 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 13th

July, 21st September and 28th September.

6.6 Business Managers noted that the debate on Iaith Pawb, which had been scheduled for 13th July, had been postponed. The Business Minister said that all of the legislation which had been scheduled for 13th July would follow the standard procedure to safeguard the passage of the legislation before the recess and that, consequently, the debate had been postponed because there was not sufficient time. Business Managers said that they were unhappy that the debate would not take place before the recess and suggested that the Plenary meeting could be extended to accommodate the debate. The Chair suggested that the debate could be timetabled and postponed if it was felt that there was not sufficient time for the debate during the meeting. Jonathan Morgan asked when the debate would be rescheduled. The Business Minister said she would report back on this issue.

6.7 Jonathan Morgan said that a Social Inclusion Action Plan had been considered by the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee meeting on 30 June. He said that some members of that Committee had felt that there had not been sufficient time to debate the issue during the Committee meeting and asked if a debate in Plenary could be scheduled.

6.8 Jocelyn Davies asked if a debate could be scheduled on the Government's Capital Programme. Business Managers supported the request.

6.9 Jocelyn Davies said that the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside had given an indication to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee that he would be making a statement on CAP reform in Plenary.

6.10 Peter Black asked when the debate on social housing, which had originally been scheduled for 6 July but had been postponed, would take place.

6.11 The Chair referred to the debate on "Fairness For All: A New Commission for Equality and Human Rights", which was scheduled for 22 September. She said that the consultation period was due to end on 6th September and asked for confirmation that the Assembly's views would be taken on board by the UK Government. Members of the Committee asked if the draft Business Statement, in future, when referring to certain debates, could give a fuller explanation about the subject under discussion.

BC377-04

6.12 The Business Committee considered a revised draft Periodic Timetable statement. The Business Minister said that the order for Ministers' Question Times had been amended. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that Standing Orders would need to be suspended if the new arrangements meant that any Minister would not be answering questions once in every four weeks that the Assembly meets in Plenary in accordance with Standing Order 6.3(iv).

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC374-04

7.1 The Business Committee considered and approved the Report of the Business Committee. It was agreed that the Report, which recommended to the Assembly that subject committee meetings should revert to a 2 weekly cycle, would be laid in advance of the debate on the Periodic Timetable Statement on 13 July.

BC375-04

7.2 The Business Committee agreed a paper on arrangements for the tabling of Written Assembly Questions during the summer recess. The paper proposed that Members should be able to table up to 5 Written Questions a week throughout the summer recess.

BC376-04

7.3 The Business Committee agreed a paper from the Table Office confirming the specified Tabling Days during the summer recess as 14, 15, 16 and 17 September.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT