

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 7th March 2006

Time: 9.00 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 would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)06-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 21st February 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)07-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 28th February 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. An amendment was suggested, which would be incorporated before the minutes were submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

Final Minutes of meeting of 17th January 2006

3.1 **Paragraph 4.2** Marion Stapleton referred to the consultation process for The Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee (Composition) Order 2006.

She confirmed that Conwy County Council had been consulted twice but had not responded.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)08-06 (p1)**

The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)08-06 (p2)**

*& Report of the Health and Social Services Committee - **BC(2)08-06 (p9)***

The Housing (Right to Buy) (Priority of Charges) (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)08-06 (p3)**

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)08-06 (p4)**

The Health Professions Wales Abolition Order 2006 - **BC(2)08-06 (p5)**

*& draft Report of the Health and Social Services Committee - **BC(2)08-06(p15)***

The Community Health Council (Establishment of Carmarthenshire Community Health Council, Transfer of Functions and Abolition of Llanelli/Dinefwr and Carmarthen/Dinefwr Community Health Councils) Order 2006 - **BC(2)08-06 (p6)**

The Children (Prescribed Orders - Northern Ireland, Guernsey and Isle of Man) Amendment Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)08-06 (p7)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)08-06(p1); BC(2)08-06(p2) and BC(2)08-06(p5). The Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)08-06(p3), BC(2)08-06(p4) and BC(2)08-06(p6). (Following the meeting, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined that none of these draft Orders need be referred to a Subject Committee.)

BC(2)08-06(p4)

4.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said that this draft Order was “*designed to facilitate the introduction and operation of the new capital finance system, ‘the prudential system’, as set out in Part 1 of the 2003 Act.*” He asked if the Explanatory Memorandum could include an explanation of the prudential system.

BC(2)08-06(p5)

4.2 The Chair referred to the draft Report of the Health and Social Services Committee on this draft Order. She said that the Report did not contain sufficient detail to inform discussions properly. Karin Phillips said she would look at Committee reports generally and at ways of improving the information provided in them. The Chair referred to the paragraph on financial implications in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which gave a global figure for the ASPB merger programme. The Committee asked if more detailed figures could be provided on the financial implications of this particular draft Order. The Business Minister said that this information would be provided.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

BC(2)08-06(p8)

4.3 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration's intention to approve the Regulatory Code for Housing Associations Registered in Wales.

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

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)08-06(p10)

5.1 The Committee noted the paper from the Members' Research Service on the parliamentary progress of Bills of relevance to the Assembly. The Chair referred to the covering note, which said that the Minister for Health and Social Services had indicated to the Health and Social Services Committee that "*the Assembly Government will only press for framework powers if they are necessary to deliver WAG policy objectives*" and "*framework powers are unlikely to be included (in Bills) unless the Assembly Government demonstrates that they will be used with 'some immediacy'.*" The Business Minister said she would report back to clarify the position.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)08-06(p11)

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

- A debate on Public Sector staff safety (particularly A&E staff) would be scheduled later in the term.
- A statement by the Minister for Local Government and Public Services on Council Tax rises would be scheduled when Local Authorities had completed the process of setting the council tax rates for next year.

- A written statement on passenger safety on trains and on railway stations had been issued.
- There was no intention of scheduling time for a statement on funding the police mergers or a statement on the possible loss of 60 police jobs in North Wales as these were non-devolved matters.
- The Business Minister would make a statement on the UK Gender Pay gap on 14th March.
- The Minister for Health and Social Services would be making a statement on the new contract for the supply of oxygen soon.
- There was no intention of making a statement on Continuing Care as the matter could be raised during the Minister for Health and Social Services' question time.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the Malcolm Wicks announcement that there would be an 18% increase in energy production by 2010.
- A written statement on Avian Flu would be issued later this week and the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside would provide oral updates as developments unfolded.
- The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside would issue a written statement on Foot and Mouth contingency plans.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on diabetes in relation to Chiropody Services as Local Health Boards and Trusts would be expected to manage the clinical needs of their local population in relation to general chiropody services. However, the situation would be kept under review by health officials.
- The Minister for economic Development and Transport would issue a written statement on the Kwik Save/ Sommerfield sale of 68 Welsh stores shortly.

6.2 Peter Black asked when the statement on the new contract for the supply of oxygen would be scheduled. The Business Minister said that the statement would be scheduled to take place in the next three weeks.

This Week's Business

BC(2)08-06(p12)

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

6.4 The Business Minister said that it had been proposed to suspend Standing Orders later that day to debate a motion to thank the Parliament of New South Wales for the gift of a mace. The Committee believed it would be appropriate for the debate to be held, with notice, on Commonwealth Day (15th March)

rather than by suspending Standing Orders today.

Business Managers' Requests

6.6 Jocelyn Davies asked if the following items of business could be scheduled :

- A debate on the Power Commission's recommendations and their implications for the Assembly's new standing orders.
- A statement on the job losses announcement by Cable and Wireless and the implications for the Welsh economy.

6.7 Lisa Francis asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the proposed plans for an off-shore Gwynt y Mor wind farm.
- A statement on refuse collection.
- A statement on the distribution of nicotine patches in schools.
- A statement on the lecturers' pay.
- A statement on the health problems associated with the drug ecstasy.

6.8 Peter Black asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the lecturers' pay dispute and a debate on the funding of the Higher Education sector as a whole
- A statement on the progress for change agenda
- An oral statement on the supply of oxygen contract.
- A statement on the Assembly's commitment to fair trade.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)08-06(p13)

6.9 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 14th March, 21st March and 28th March.

6.10 Karin Phillips referred to the election of a Planning Decision Committee, which had taken place on 28th February. She said that there had been a problem with the Committee, as one of the members had realised that he would be obliged to declare an interest in the subject matter. She said that the Committee would need to be replaced by a new one and that this would be arranged shortly.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

9.1 The Business Committee considered a paper from the Business Minister on proposals to amend Standing Orders arising from the Public Services

Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005. The Business Minister said that it was intended to bring forward a number of amendments as soon as possible. Paul Silk said that APS would provide any assistance which was needed.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT