

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)22-08

Date: Tuesday 15 July 2008

Time: 8.30 a.m.

Venue: Meeting Room 4th Floor, Corporate Unit

Assembly Members in Attendance

Rosemary Butler, Deputy Presiding Officer (Chair)

Carwyn Jones, Leader of the House

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager

William Graham, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager

Officials in Attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business

Siwan Davies, Head of Legislation and Chamber Services

Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House

Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from the Presiding Officer. The Deputy Presiding Officer chaired the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)21-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 8 July 2008

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their draft format. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Business Committee Secretariat

3. Forthcoming Business

This Week's Business - BC(3)22-08(p1)

3.1 The Committee agreed that a motion to suspend Standing Orders would be tabled to bring forward the following motions on Wednesday:

To establish and elect a Special Assembly Procedure Committee;

To revise Standing Orders 25.19 and 25.20;

Approve Guidance for Members on the Proper Conduct of Proceedings in relation to Special Assembly Procedure Committees, issued under Standing Order 2.17;

To elect Huw Lewis as a member of the Finance Committee in place of Lynne Neagle; and

To elect Joyce Watson as a member of the Equality of Opportunity Committee in place of Huw Lewis.

3.2 The Committee agreed that Voting Time would take place no earlier than 4.30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

3.3 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 15 and 16 July 2008.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)22-08(p2)

3.4 The Committee noted the 3 Week Timetable of Government Business.

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)22-08(p3)

3.5 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

3.6 The Committee determined the organisation of non-government Business.

3.7 The Committee returned to discussions on changing the times of Plenary meetings. It was agreed that Plenary times would remain the same for the first week back after the Summer Recess, with the intention of introducing the new Plenary timings (1.30 -6pm) as soon as practicable thereafter.

3.8 Business Managers asked for a paper on the procedural implications of changed plenary times and options for the organisation of plenary business once they have been introduced. It was agreed that this would be shared with Business Managers over the recess so that agreement could be reached early in the Autumn term.

4. Assembly Committees

Paper from Assembly Parliamentary Service: Identifying what is effective scrutiny - BC(3)22-08(p4)

4.1 Business Managers considered a previously commissioned paper on identifying effective scrutiny. The Committee agreed the paper's analysis of the outcomes of effective scrutiny and noted that options to assess the degree to which these are being demonstrated would be brought back to the Committee following the summer recess.

Request from the Subordinate Legislation Committee to visit Westminster - BC(3)22-08(p5)

4.2 The Business Committee agreed a request by the Subordinate Legislation Committee to visit Westminster Parliament on Monday 3 November, as part of its inquiry into the scrutiny of subordinate legislation and delegated powers.

5. Tabling Arrangements

Summer Recess: Tabling Arrangements for Legislation And Chamber Services - BC(3)22-08(p6)

5.1 The Business Committee agreed tabling days following the Summer Recess:

The Table Office would open on 16-19 September for tabling business for the first two weeks following the Summer Recess.

The Legislation Office would open on 15-19 September for tabling amendments to the proposed Learner Travel (Wales) Measure, to be considered at Stage 3 proceedings.

The Committee noted that duty Clerks would be available throughout the recess.

5.2 The Business Committee also agreed the arrangements for tabling Written Questions. It was agreed that Members would be able to table up to 5 written questions per week throughout the Summer Recess with a weekly "cut off" point for tabling questions of 10:30am on Wednesday each week.

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