

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)02-09

Date: Tuesday 20 January 2009

Time: 8.30 a.m.

Venue: Meeting Room 4th Floor, Corporate Unit

Assembly Members in Attendance

Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Presiding Officer (Chair)

Carwyn Jones, Leader of the House

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager

William Graham, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager

Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats Manager

Officials in Attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business

Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House

Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant

Sulafa Halstead, Head of Committee Service

Sian Wilkins, Head of Legislation and Chamber Services

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 The Chair welcomed Peter Black to his first meeting as Business Manager.

2.1 The Chair also welcomed Angela Burns, the Chair of the Finance Committee who had attending the meeting to discuss the request for weekly Finance meeting slots.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)01-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 13 January 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

Matters Arising

Note from the Chair of the Finance Committee - Frequency of Finance Committee meetings - BC(3)02-09(p1)

2.2 At its last meeting on 9 January, the Business Committee considered the request from the Chair of the Finance Committee asking for weekly meeting slots. The Chair attended the meeting to discuss the request. Business Managers asked for a further paper outlining any logistical issues in relation to the weekly meeting slots.

3. Forthcoming Business

This Week's Business - BC(3)02-09(p2)

3.1 The Presiding Officer referred to the debate on Gaza, which had been scheduled for Wednesday. He said that he would not select the amendments which had been tabled to the motion.

3.2 The Committee noted that Voting Time on Tuesday and Wednesday would take place no earlier than 5pm.

3.3 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 20 and 21 January 2009.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)02-09(p3)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)01-09(p3)

3.5 The Presiding Officer said that a No Named Day Motion (NNDM) to annul the Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2008 had been tabled. The Committee noted that the motion to annul would need to be considered within 40 days from the date on which it was laid. In relation to this specific Statutory Instrument, that 40 day deadline would expire on Saturday 14th February. Therefore a debate would need to be scheduled before Wednesday 11th February. Business Managers agreed in principle that a debate would be scheduled before this date.

3.6 The Business Committee agreed to schedule the following items of non-government business:

Debate on the Sustainability Committee's Report into Carrier Bags (60 mins); and

Debate on the Communities and Culture Committee's Report into Domestic Abuse (60 mins)

3.7 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

4. Legislation

Letter from the Chair of Legislation Committee No. 2 requesting an extension to the Stage 2 deadline on the proposed Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure and request for additional meetings outside the timetabled committee slot - BC(3)02-09(p5);" and"

Paper from the Legislation Office - BC(3)02-09(p5a)

4.1 The Business Committee agreed the requests from Legislation Committee No.2 for:

a two week extension to the Stage 2 deadline to 13 February; and

two additional meeting slots on the afternoons of Thursday 22 and 29 January 2009.

4.2 The Business Committee noted that the extension to the Stage 2 deadline would not impact on the approval of the Measure by Privy Council in May.

Update on Progress of Legislation in the National Assembly - January 2009 - BC(3)02-09(p6)

4.3 The Business Committee noted the update paper on Legislation in the Assembly.

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