

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

Minutes EPC(2) 03-06

Meeting date: 16 February 2006

Meeting time: 9:30am – 12:05pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3, National Assembly Building

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Glyn Davies, Chair	Mid and West Wales
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Tamsin Dunwoody	Preseli Pembrokeshire
Carwyn Jones, Minister	Bridgend
Elin Jones	Ceredigion
Brynle Williams	North Wales

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Dr Christianne Glossop	Chief Veterinary Officer
Sion Aron Jones	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

Jim Norrie	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Fiona Leadbitter	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Alyn Williams	Food and Market Development Division
Mike Dunn	Head of Environment – Conservation & Management Division
Rosemary Thomas	Head of Planning Division
Chris Morgan	Planning Division
Elaine DeBono	Rural Payments Division
Natalie Pearson	Countryside Policy Division
Phil Morgan	Food Standards Agency
Owen Davies	Food Standards Agency

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Liz Wilkinson	Deputy Committee Clerk
Joanest Jackson	Legal Advisor

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee, officials and members of the public to the meeting.

1.2 Brynle Williams declared an interest as a farmer.

Item 2: Minutes of the last meetings

Papers: EPC (2) 02-06(mins)

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 1 February meeting.

Item 3: Minister's report

Paper: EPC (2) 03-06(p1)

In addition to his written report, the Minister informed the Committee that a National Reserve agreement had been reached at a UK level.

The Chief Veterinary Officer gave an update on global developments of Avian Influenza. The latest assessment by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to identify the risk of incursion of the disease into the UK was expected shortly.

Action points

The Minister agreed to provide a paper on lines of inquiry that the Committee may wish to pursue on the land use implications of mobile telecommunications, including permitted development rights.

The Chair agreed to circulate the Scottish Parliaments' Environment and Rural Development Committee Report on Inquiry into Climate Change to Members.

The Committee agreed to scrutinise The Land in Care (Tir Gofal)(Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2006 at an appropriate time.

The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee at an appropriate time on steps taken to safeguard rivers from the dangers of cypermethrin.

The Minister agreed to provide in his next written report to the Committee:

- an update on the outcome of considerations regarding the possible targeting of the Tir Gofal scheme where agri-environmental action would contribute towards the target of ensuring that designated sites in Wales were maintained in favourable condition;
- a note on the appropriateness of the sale of industrial sites in rural areas by the Welsh Development Agency and the resale of those sites, which have benefited from public monies;
- an update on the Dairy Action Plan.

Item 4: Minerals Technical Advice Note 2, Coal (MTAN 2)

Paper: EPC (2) 03-06(p2)

The Minister briefly outlined the objectives of the Coal MTAN and explained the reasoning behind the recommended 350m buffer zone.

The Committee considered the draft Coal MTAN.

Action point

The Minister agreed to provide a paper to the Committee on the responses to the consultation on the draft Coal MTAN.

Item 5: Subordinate legislation

The Official Feed and Food Controls (Wales) Regulations 2006

Paper: EPC(2)-03-06(p3)

5.1 The Committee scrutinised the Regulations.

Members sought clarification on the following issues:

- Right of appeal;
- Powers of entry; and
- Offences by Scottish partnerships.

The Committee recommended approval of the Regulations without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

Action point

The Food Standards Agency agreed to provide an explanatory note on offences by Scottish partnerships.

Item 6: Government of Wales Bill – Transitional provisions (Schedule 11, paragraph 33)

Paper: EPC(2)-03-06(p4)

6.1 The Committee's Legal Adviser gave a brief introduction outlining the provisions within schedule 11, paragraph 33 of the Government of Wales Bill, which related to subordinate legislation.

6.2 The Committee considered the powers relevant to its portfolio as set out in the tables and were content with the proposed allocation of procedures.

Action point

The Committee's Legal Adviser agreed to provide a note outlining the notification period for Members of draft statutory instruments to be made under the affirmative procedure.

Item 7: Rural Development Plan 2007-2013

Paper: EPC(2)-03-06(p5)

7.1 The Committee considered its draft report on the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013.

7.2 Following discussion the Chair informed Members that a revised draft report Plan would be circulated to the Committee for agreement in due course.

Item 8: Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Paper: EPC(2)-03-06(p6)

8.1 The Committee considered the draft Wales' Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Item 9: National Parks Appointments

Paper: EPC(2) 02-06(p7)

9.1 The Committee considered the proposed consultation on the arrangements for appointing members to National Park Authorities.

Members' Research and Committee Services February 2006