

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

Minutes EPC(2) 05-06

Meeting date: 23 March 2006

Meeting time: 2.15pm – 4.30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Rooms 1 & 2, County Hall, Pembrokeshire County Council, Haverfordwest

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
David Smith	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Jim Norrie	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

Mike Dunn	Environment – Conservation & Management Division
Alyn Williams	Food & Market Development Division
Arwyn Davies	Welsh Development Agency
Sian Roberts-Davies	Welsh Development Agency

Witnesses

Name	Job title
Paul Ashley-Jones	Pembrokeshire County Council
Dr John Valentine	Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research
Dr John Clifton Brown	Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research
Paul Radcliffe	National Farmers' Union
Huw Rhys Thomas	National Farmers' Union
Rebecca Williams	Farmers Union of Wales

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Liz Wilkinson	Deputy Committee Clerk

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. He said how pleased the Committee was to be meeting in Pembrokeshire.

1.2 As Assembly Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire, Tamsin Dunwoody welcomed the Committee to Haverfordwest.

1.3 Brynle Williams declared an interest as a farmer.

Item 2: Minutes of the last meetings

Paper: EPC (2) 04-06(mins)

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 8 March meeting.

Item 3: Minister's report

Paper: EPC (2) 05-06(p1)

3.1 In addition to his written report, the Minister reported on the following:

the impact of the suspension of marketing authorisation for cypermethrin and informed the Committee of the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer setting up a working group to consider how to deal with sheep scab in Wales; and

legislation to allow the export of beef from Scotland and England would be introduced respectively by the Scottish Parliament and UK Government to come into force as soon as European legislation is in place. In order to meet this date, the Minister intended to make the equivalent legislation for Wales by executive procedure.

3.2 The Committee agreed to consider the following legislation at a future meeting:

- Infectious Diseases of Horses Order
- Avian Influenza (Vaccination)(Wales) Regulations 2006

Action points

The Minister agreed to raise with the Minister for Economic Development and Transport the possibility of releasing disused industrial sites in rural Wales which have benefited from public monies for the purpose of affordable housing.

The Minister agreed to provide in his next written report to the Committee environmental considerations of off-shore developments.

Item 4: Public Sector Food Procurement

Paper: EPC (2) 05-06(p2) and EPC (2) 05-06(p3)

4.1 The Chair welcomed Paul Ashley-Jones, Head of Procurement at Pembrokeshire County Council to the meeting.

4.2 Mr Ashley-Jones briefly outlined the work of that the local authority had undertaken to promote public sector procurement in Pembrokeshire.

4.3 The Committee questioned the Minister and Mr Ashley-Jones on the progress made in public sector food procurement in Wales and Pembrokeshire respectively.

Item 5: Biomass and bio-fuels

Paper: EPC (2) 05-06(p4), EPC (2) 05-06(p5), EPC (2) 05-06(p6) and EPC (2) 05-06(p7)

The Chair welcomed Dr John Valentine and Dr John Clifton Brown of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research; Paul Radcliffe and Huw Rhys Thomas of the National farmers' Union and Rebecca Williams of the Farmers Union of Wales to the meeting.

Dr Valentine, Mr Rhys Thomas and Ms Williams outlined the key points raised in their papers. Mr Radcliffe gave an outline of his practical experience as Chair of Pembrokeshire Bioenergy Ltd, a farmer owned co-operative group.

The Committee questioned representatives and agreed to extend an invitation to the RSPB and other interested parties to give evidence at a future meeting.

Members' Research and Committee Services March 2006