

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

Minutes EPC(2) 12-06

Meeting date: 28 September 2006

Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd

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
Gareth Jones	Department for Environment, Planning and Countryside
Christianne Glossop	Chief Veterinary Officer
Rory O'Sullivan	Head of Countryside Policy Division
Mike Pender	Head of Agriculture Branch, Food Standards Agency
Diana Reynolds	Environment – Conservation & Management Division

Rosemary Thomas	Head of Planning Division
Matthew Quinn	Head Of Environment, Protection and Quality Division

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Dan Collier	Deputy Committee Clerk
Gwyn Griffiths	Legal Adviser

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 Mick Bates declared an interest as he is a part of Farmers Business Plus and has mobile telecommunications apparatus on his land.

Item 2: Minutes of the last meeting

Paper: EPC(2) 11-06(mins)

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 13 July meeting.

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: EPC(2) 12-06(p1)

3.1 In addition to his written report, the Minister updated the Committee on the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 and Voluntary Modulation; the recovery of resources from Dairy Gold in Felin Fach; and Sustainable Development Indicators.

3.2 With regard to the collection of dead birds with avian influenza, the Severn Estuary would not be considered an area of risk.

3.3 The Minister updated the Committee on the Ceredigion County Council Unitary Development Plan (UDP)

3.4 The Committee identified the Sheep and Goat (Records, Identification and Movements) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2006 for scrutiny.

Action points:

The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with the following:

- An update at the next Committee meeting regarding the recovery proceedings against Dairy Gold.
- The new Sustainable Development Indicators produced by the Sustainable Development Working Group.
- Details of the numbers of sheep with sheep scab being taken through abattoirs.
- A response to the recommendations made by CoRWM on the options for managing the UK's high level radioactive waste. The Committee would scrutinise the Minister on his response at a future meeting.
- Possible amendments to TAN 15 on 15 November, when the Committee will be considering this TAN.

Item 4: Report on Badger Found Dead Survey

Paper: EPC(2) 12-06(p2)

4.1 The Minister introduced the report on Badger Found Dead Survey.

4.2 The Committee questioned the Minister on his report.

Item 5: Subordinate Legislation Forward Look

Paper: EPC(2) 12-06(p3) & Annex

5.1 The Committee considered the Subordinate Legislation Forward Look and selected the following items for detailed scrutiny:

6. Guidance in Respect of Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Commencement No.9) (Wales) Order 2006.

12. Agricultural Wages Committees and Agricultural Dwelling House Committees Amendments.

20. The Emissions Trading Scheme (Wales) Directions 2006.

29. Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalty) (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2007.

34. Control of Dogs Order

35. The Dog Control Orders (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2007

90. Amending SI: The Agricultural Processing and Marketing Grant (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006.

Item 6: Subordinate Legislation

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

Paper: EPC (2) 12-06(p4)

6.1 The Committee recommended approval of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

The Feeding Stuffs (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

Paper: EPC (2) 12-06(p5)

6.2 Following discussion, the Committee recommended approval of the Feeding Stuffs (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

Item 7: EU Biodiversity document

Paper: EPC (2) 12-06(p6)

7.1 The Minister introduced the paper on the EU Biodiversity document.

7.2 The Committee questioned the Minister on his paper.

7.3 The Committee agreed to hold a video conference with DG Environment, Brussels, when it would be possible to programme such an item.

Item 8: Committee Paper

Draft report of Committee's consideration of the planning aspects of mobile telecommunications apparatus

Paper: EPC (2) 12-06(p7)

8.1 The Committee requested amendments to the report including an addition to paragraph 16 on permitted development rights and an amendment to paragraph 23 changing "health and safety" to "health impact assessment".

8.2 The Committee agreed to lay the report and that the report would be handled using the Business Committee protocol for subject committee reports and thus a debate would be held in Plenary when it could be arranged.

Action point:

The Clerk would make the necessary amendments to the report and circulate to Committee.

Item 9: Environment Strategy Action Plan – outcomes and funding; management of

designated sites

Paper: EPC (2) 12-06(p8), EPC (2) 12-06(p9), EPC (2) 12-06(p10)

9.1 The Committee welcomed Chris Mills of Environment Agency Wales, Dr David Parker and Hazel Drewett of the Countryside Council for Wales and Matthew Quinn of the Welsh Assembly Government to the meeting. External witnesses outlined the key points in their respective papers.

9.2 The Committee questioned witnesses on their written and oral evidence.

Papers to note:

- The Committee considered the consultation on EU convergence
- The Committee considered the report of Committee's visit to Brussels

Members' Research and Committee Services
September 2006