

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

Minutes EPC(2) 14-06

Meeting date: 26 October 2006

Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.55pm

Meeting venue: National Assembly for Wales, North Wales Visitor Centre, Colwyn Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Glyn Davies, Chair	Mid and West Wales
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Tamsin Dunwoody	Preseli Pembrokeshire
Alun Ffred Jones	Caernarfon
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
Rosemary Thomas	Head of Planning Division, Welsh Assembly Government
Rory O'Sullivan	Head of Countryside Policy Division
Christianne Glossop	Chief Veterinary Officer

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Dan Collier	Deputy Committee Clerk
Graham Winter	Members' Research Service

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 Apologies were received from Jocelyn Davies, for whom Alun Ffred Jones was substituting.

Item 2: Minutes of the last meeting

Paper: EPC(2) 13-06(mins)

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 11 October meeting.

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: EPC(2) 14-06(p1)

3.1 In addition to his written report, the Minister made the following announcements:

- Planning rules would be amended with the intention of reducing carbon emissions from new developments by at least 10%.
- A decision on the Hafod Quarry in Wrexham would be made in early November.
- Legal advice on the recovery of assets from the Dairy Gold factory was being sought.
- Future plans for the funding of the Tir Mynydd scheme.
- The examination of 8 badger carcasses found showing evidence of persecution.

Action point:

The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with the following:

- A written note and briefing on the breakdown of the Tir Cymru BEL within budget years and funding streams of the Tir Mynydd budget.

Item 4: Scrutiny of draft budget

Paper: EPC(2) 14-06(p2)

4.1 The Minister introduced the Environment, Planning and Countryside draft budget 2007-08 to 2008-09.

4.2 The Committee scrutinised the draft budget.

Action point:

The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with the following:

- A detailed breakdown of the projected expenditure of Tir Cymru taking into account the levels of applications received.
- Further information on the budget for Landfill tax credit and the use made of income from the tax.
- The Chair would write to the Minister highlighting issues raised by the Committee on the EPC draft budget.

Item 5: Report of CAP simplification conference and action plan on CAP simplification Paper: EPC(2) 14-06(p3)

5.1 The Minister introduced his report of CAP simplification conference and action plan on CAP simplification.

5.2 The Committee questioned the Minister on his report.

5.3 The Committee agreed to hold a video conferencing session with DG Agriculture and Rural Development at the next Committee meeting to discuss the Commissioner's priorities for 2007 and 2008 and the CAP health check with Mr Klaus Dieter Borchardt, Deputy Head of Commissioner Fischer Boel's Cabinet.

Item 6: Subordinate Legislation

The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2006

Paper: EPC (2) 14-06(p4)

6.1 The Committee recommended approval of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2006 without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006

Paper: EPC (2) 14-06(p5)

6.2 The Committee recommended approval of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

The Emissions Trading Scheme (Wales) Directions 2006

Paper: EPC (2) 14-06(p6)

6.3 The Committee recommended approval of the Emissions Trading Scheme (Wales) Directions 2006 without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

Item 7: Preparation and Progress of local development plans

Paper: EPC(2) 14-06(p7), EPC(2) 14-06(p8), EPC(2) 14-06(p9), EPC(2) 14-06(p10)

7.1 The Committee welcomed Stan Yates of Conwy County Borough Council, Jim Woodcock of Anglesey County Council, Cath Ranson of Snowdonia National Park and Rosemary Thomas and Bob Newton of the Welsh Assembly Government to the meeting. Representatives outlined the key points in their respective papers.

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

Evidence Session:

Item 8: ASPB Scrutiny – Countryside Council for Wales

Paper: EPC (2) 14-06(p11)

8.1 The Committee welcomed Roger Thomas and John Lloyd Jones OBE of Countryside Council for Wales. The Chief Executive outlined the key points in the organisation's paper.

8.2 The Committee scrutinised the witnesses on the performance of the Countryside Council for Wales

Members' Research and Committee Services

October 2006