



Legislation Committee No. 1
Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth Rhif 1

Cofnod y Trafodion
The Record of Proceedings

Dydd Mawrth, 9 Rhagfyr 2008
Tuesday, 9 December 2008

Cynnwys
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Gwaredu) (Cymru)
Proposed Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions) (Wales)
Measure

Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Eleanor Burnham	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Rosemary Butler	Llafur Labour
Jeff Cuthbert	Llafur Labour
Ann Jones	Llafur Labour
Nick Ramsay	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Janet Ryder	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales

Swyddogion Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad yn bresennol
Assembly Parliamentary Service officials in attendance

Claire Griffiths	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Sue Morgan	Cynghorydd Cyfreithiol y Pwyllgor Legal Adviser to the Committee
Liz Wilkinson	Clerc Clerk
Graham Winter	Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau Members' Research Service

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 10.29 a.m.
The meeting began at 10.29 a.m.

Ethol Cadeirydd
Election of Chair

[1] **Ms Wilkinson:** Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the first meeting of Legislation Committee No. 1. The first item on today's agenda is the election of the Chair. Therefore, under Standing Order No. 10.18, I call for nominations for the Chair.

[2] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I nominate Rosemary Butler.

[3] **Ms Wilkinson:** Are there any other nominations? I see that there are not, therefore I declare that Rosemary Butler has been duly elected Chair of the committee.

[4] **Rosemary Butler:** Thank you very much, everyone.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[5] **Rosemary Butler:** Good morning. This is the first permanent legislation committee to be established by the Assembly, so we are officially Legislation Committee No. 1. The committee's main role is to consider and report on Member proposed and committee proposed legislation. I would like to introduce our team. On my right is Liz Wilkinson, who is the clerk to the committee, and Claire Griffiths, who is the deputy clerk. On my left is Sue Morgan, who will give us legal advice. Again, on my right, is Graham Winter, who will give

us policy advice. We also have the Record of Proceedings' representative at the end of the table.

10.30 a.m.

[6] Next, I have to do the usual housekeeping—but I do not do housekeeping, so I will just do business management. There are no fire alarm practices scheduled for today, so if an alarm sounds, it will be the real thing and you will need to leave the room by the marked fire exits.

[7] All mobile phones, pagers and BlackBerrys should be switched off, as they interfere with the broadcasting equipment. As you know, we operate through the media of Welsh and English, so headphones are provided for instantaneous translation and for the amplification of sound for anyone who is hard of hearing. Interpretation is available on channel 1 and amplification of the verbatim proceedings is on channel 0.

[8] We have no apologies as we have a full complement this morning.

10.31 a.m.

**Mesur Arfaethedig Caeau Chwarae (Ymgysylltiad Cymunedau â
Phenderfyniadau Gwaredu) (Cymru)
Proposed Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decisions)
(Wales) Measure**

[9] **Rosemary Butler:** This is the first piece of Member proposed legislation that this committee is tasked with considering, and it was introduced to the Assembly by Dai Lloyd in July 2008.

[10] The proposed Measure has been referred to this committee by the Business Committee, in accordance with Standing Order No. 23.21. The role of this committee, as set out in Standing Orders, is to consider and report on the general principles of the proposed Measure. The committee must report to the Assembly no later than 5 May 2009, in line with the deadline set by the Business Committee.

[11] The purpose of the proposed Measure is to strengthen arrangements relating to the disposal of playing fields by local authorities, by providing an additional safeguard in the form of a duty on local authorities to assess the impact of the disposal on the local community and to consult with specified groups before deciding whether to dispose. The underlying aim of the proposed Measure, which has been set out in the accompanying explanatory memorandum, is,

[12] 'to ensure that full consideration is given to the impact of the sale of playing fields on the health and well-being of local communities.'

[13] The purpose of this item is for the committee to formally agree its approach to Stage 1 scrutiny of this proposed Measure. In our informal meeting, we had a discussion about our approach in dealing with the proposed Measure. I will just recap on that, so that we have that on formal record. We need to consider, first, the need for a Measure in relation to community involvement in decisions by local authorities on disposing of playing fields. So, we must establish the need for this Measure in the first place. Secondly, we must look at the key provisions that will be set out in the proposed Assembly Measure. Thirdly, we must look at the practical and financial implications of putting in place the provisions in the proposed Measure and, fourthly, we must consider whether the proposed Measure achieves its overall

purpose and aim. Do Members have any comments on that? I see that they do not.

[14] If Members are content with that course of action, we need to issue a general call for evidence. There is quite a long list in the appendix, but if anyone has any additional organisations that they wish us to write to, please let the clerk know. This call for evidence will be notified to the media and published on the Assembly's website. We also need to decide whom to invite to come to give oral evidence to the committee in the spring term, and there are lists in the appendix. I will not read the list of people or organisations that we propose to write to, because there is something like 80 or 90 organisations, but we will obviously need to speak to Dai Lloyd, who is the Member who has proposed this Measure, and a relevant Minister, probably Dr Brian Gibbons. We will ask the Welsh Local Government Association, the Planning Officers' Society in Wales, the Sports Council for Wales, Fields in Trust, the Open Spaces Society and One Voice Wales, which is the association of community and town councils. So, those are the proposals with regard to oral evidence. Does anyone have any suggestions for any additions to that list?

[15] **Janet Ryder:** Could we also include a group such as Tenant Participation Advisory Service Cymru, to represent residents?

[16] **Rosemary Butler:** Yes, okay—that is a resident association. Again, the list is not closed, and we can add to it at any time. We need to get those invitation letters out quite soon. Therefore, if you are happy, the clerk will draft a letter. I will agree that letter and then it will be circulated to you for your comments before it is sent out. We need to get those out now, because, if we wait until Dai Lloyd has come to committee to give us evidence, we will have lost a month, and we only have 12 weeks from today in which to deal with this. Are there any comments on that? I see that there are not.

[17] The only other thing that we need to do is to decide on the date of the next meeting. The proposal is for it to be on Thursday, 22 January 2009. However, that is subject to the availability of witnesses. We need to have the primary witness, and we are hopeful that Dai Lloyd is available on that day. We will confirm those arrangements, along with the details of future meetings, with you during the first week of the spring term, because it is important that we are all able to clear our diaries to ensure that we can get this important work concluded.

[18] There are no other points that we need to deal with this morning. Do Members have any other comments? I see that you do not. Therefore, that concludes the business of the first meeting of this committee. I warn you that the next meetings will not be this short. [*Laughter.*] Thank you very much.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 10.36 a.m.

The meeting ended at 10.36 a.m.