

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 2nd May 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats
John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Karin Phillips, Members' Research and Committee Service
Peter Jones, Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary Service
Alun Jenkins, DLS (Agenda Item 4)
Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee Secretariat
Catherine Morris, PS to the Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams. The Chair welcomed Peter Black who would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3. The Committee extended its congratulations to Kirsty Williams on the recent birth of her child.

1.2 The Committee noted that Peter Law had died on 25 April. The Committee extended its sympathies to his family.

1.3 The Chair said that Gareth Williams, from Chamber Services, would be attending for Item 9.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)11-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 28th March 2006

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their final format. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC(2)12-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 4th April 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. As there were no comments, they would be translated before being submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

BC(2)12-06 (draft minutes)

3.1 **Paragraph 4.5** The Chair referred to issues relating to Gwenda Thomas' Standing Order 31 proposal and asked if there had been developments in satisfying the requirements of Standing Order 31. The Business Minister said that the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills would be issuing a written statement to update on progress shortly. Business Managers noted that Standing Order 31.5 said that a motion would need to be debated in Plenary. The Business Minister said she would consult with the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and report back to the Committee in its next meeting.

3.2 **Paragraph 6.2** Peter Black said that he had raised a point of order in Plenary about whether or not Plenary approval was required for the allocation of additional funding, arising from the Budget, to Local Education Authorities. The Business Minister said that it was intended to allocate the funding by MEG to MEG transfer. Peter Black asked if a Special Grant Report would be required. The Business Minister said she would write to Business Managers to outline the process. The Committee agreed to return to this issue in its next meeting.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Transport (Wales) Act 2006 (Commencement) Order 2006 - **BC(2)13-06 (p1)**

& Report by the Economic Development and Transport Committee – **BC(2)13-06(p5)**

The National Health Service (Travelling Expenses and Remission of Charges) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)13-06 (p2)**

& Report by the Health and Social Services Committee – **BC(2)13-06(p6)**

The Cattle Compensation (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)13-06 (p3)**

& Report by the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee – **BC(2)13-06(p7)**

The Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers and Designation of Fish Auction Sites (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)13-06 (p4)**

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for all of the draft Orders. (Following the meeting, the Presiding Officer determined that none of these draft Orders need be referred to a Subject

Committee.)

4.1 The Chair noted that the Explanatory Memorandums accompanying the draft Orders contained information about which procedure it was anticipated that the legislation would follow under the post-2007 arrangements. The Committee welcomed this.

BC(2)13-06 (p3)

4.2 The Committee noted the Report by the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee accompanying this draft Order, which said that a motion had been proposed and approved by the Committee. It was noted that the Minister had decided not to incorporate the amendment into the draft Order.

BC(2)13-06(p4)

4.3 The Chair referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, and said that it did not refer to whether or not similar legislation had been introduced in England or Scotland. Marion Stapleton said that the supporting documents would be amended to include this information.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

(c) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

BC(2)13-06(p8)

4.4 The Committee noted the letter about the use of the Executive procedure for The Public Service Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2005 (Consequential Amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 1997 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2006.

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)13-06(p13)

5.1 The Committee noted the Report by the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee on the Commons Bill.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)13-06(p9)

6.1 The Committee noted the Business Minister's responses to requests for items of business.

This Week's Business

BC(2)13-06(p9)

6.3 The Chair referred to the Procedures for Tributes and Expressions of Condolence in Plenary, which had been agreed on 1 November 2005, and which had been circulated in the meeting. She said that the Procedures said that, following the death of a serving Assembly Member, *“The Minister for Assembly Business will normally propose that the Assembly’s scheduled business, or non-essential items of business, be postponed for the day.”* The Committee agreed that the procedures should be applied and that all items of business in the meeting on Tuesday 2 March should be postponed, immediately after the obituary tributes to Peter Law. The Business Minister said that it might be necessary to extend Wednesday’s meeting to accommodate the additional business.

6.4 Jocelyn Davies referred to The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Wales) Regulations 2006, which had been scheduled for debate on Tuesday. She said she was content with the proposal to make the Regulations under the Executive procedure, but asked if an oral statement could be made in Plenary so that Members would have the opportunity to raise any issues.

Business Managers’ Requests

6.4 Jocelyn Davies asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A debate on NHS Funding
- A statement on the amalgamation of LHBs and NHS Trusts

6.6 Peter Black asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

- An updating statement on the dental contract

6.7 Lisa Francis asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

- A debate on Designed to Deliver
- A statement on the numbers of foreign prisoners released in Wales not considered for deportation
- A statement on the strike by job centre workers and any implications.

Draft Business Statement - **BC(2)12-06(p7)**

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 9 May, 16 May and 23 May.

6.9 The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to the debate on the Report of the Railway Infrastructure Committee, which had been scheduled for 17th May. He said that the Committee would not be in a position to report to the Assembly

on that date and the debate would have to be postponed. He added that the Committee's lifetime might have to be extended.

6.10 The Chair asked if there had been any progress in establishing a committee to prepare Standing Orders for the next Assembly. The Business Minister said she hoped that progress could be made by next week.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

BC(2)13-06(p12)

9.1 The Committee agreed draft changes to Standing Order 23. It was noted that a Report of the Business Committee would be laid later that day, for consideration in Plenary on 9 May.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT