

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 11th June 2002

Time: 9 a.m.

Venue: Room A3.13

Present: John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer (Chair)
Carwyn Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Liberal Democrats Business Manager

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
David Lambert, Presiding Office Legal Adviser
Marie Knox, Head of Committee Secretariat (agenda item 6)
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Alun Jenkins, Office of the Counsel General (agenda item 4)
Marc Wyn Jones, Chamber Secretariat/PS to Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Morgan.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC174-02 (Final) Tuesday 21st May 2002

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

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC183-02 (Draft) Tuesday 28th May 2002

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. There was a minor amendment which would be included in the final version to be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising (BC183-02 Tuesday 28th May 2002)

3.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that he had received a letter from an Assembly Member about statements being made in Plenary. The Member had complained that a recent statement had contained "nothing new by way of governmental decision or action". The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the Assembly Review of Procedure had recommended that statements should be used to inform the Assembly of new policy or operational developments. He said that a decision to make a statement was the Government's prerogative. If Members believed that a statement did not conform with the

Assembly Review of Procedure recommendation, they should make this clear to the Minister during the Plenary meeting. Kirsty Williams noted that Committees occasionally asked a Minister to make a statement to Plenary. It was agreed that if that was the case, Ministers be encouraged to make that known in introducing the statement. The Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business said that he would pass on the Committee's views to his Cabinet colleagues.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

- The Wildlife and Countryside (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Appeals) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC185-02)
Recommended Procedure: Accelerated
- The Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC186-02)
Recommended Procedure: Accelerated
- The Plant Health (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2002 (BC187-02)
Recommended Procedure: Accelerated
- The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuff) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (BC188-02)
Standing Order 23, Section 3

4.1 The Business Committee considered papers BC185-02 to BC188-02 which provided advice on the handling of these orders and agreed the recommended procedures. The Deputy Presiding Officer noted that although BC185-02 to BC187-02 had been posted late to the Intranet, the period for which they had been posted included two weekends.

The Presiding Officer subsequently determined that these Orders need not be referred to a subject committee.

(b) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; papers to note.

BC189-02

4.2 The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business to Members on the use of the Executive procedure to revoke the Environmental Protection (Restriction on use of Lead Shot) (Wales) Regulations and to remake the regulations to rectify procedural omissions.

5. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC180-02

5.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that this paper set out a proposal for changing the procedure for First Minister's Questions arising from the Assembly Review of Procedures. The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that the Assembly Government had still not come to a view on the matter. The Committee agreed to defer a decision until the meeting on 18th June.

6. Committees

7. Forthcoming Business

(i) This Week's Business

7.1 The Committee considered paper BC180-02 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

7.2 The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that the First Minister was attending the Cathedral service for the Queen in Bangor. He would be travelling back for the Plenary meeting later that day and the Government would seek to change the order of business by a procedural motion so that he could be present for Question Time. Jocelyn Davies said that the Business Committee had agreed to start plenary at the usual time and Business Managers could have been notified earlier that the Government would be proposing to change the order of business. She asked if the Deputy First Minister could take questions in the First Minister's place. The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that this would be the case if the First Minister did not return from Bangor in time. No other changes were proposed.

7.3 The Deputy Presiding Officer asked Business Managers to remind party groups that Plenary would begin at 1.15pm on Thursday 13th June due to the Queen's visit to the Assembly.

(ii) Draft Business Statement

7.4 The Committee noted the Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs' proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing Tuesday 18th June, Tuesday 25th June and Tuesday 2nd July.

7.5 The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that there were three changes to the business outlined in the Draft Business Statement. A statement on attendance at the British-Irish Council by the Minister for Culture etc. had been scheduled for Tuesday 18th June. The motion to change Plenary meetings from Thursdays to Wednesdays would be scheduled for Thursday 20th June. A statement on the Youth Offending Strategy had also been scheduled for 25th June.

7.6 In accordance with the guidance which the Committee had recently agreed, the Minister notified Members that the Minister for the Environment proposed to debate three related motions together on Thursday 20th June. These were the motions to approve:

- The Town & Country Planning (Fees for Applications & Deemed Applications) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002;
- The Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2002 and

- The Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2002.

7.7 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the schedule for the Plenary session on the 20th June appeared tight. The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said he would consider this and report back in the next meeting.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT