

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 3rd December 2002

Time: 9 a.m.

Venue: Room A3.13

Present: John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer (Chair)
Carwyn Jones, Business Minister
Jonathan Morgan, Conservative Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Liberal Democrats Business Manager
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
David Lambert, Presiding Office Legal Unit
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, Business Committee Secretariat
Catherine Morris, PS to Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC353-02 (Final) Tuesday 19th November 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) BC371-02 (Draft) Tuesday 26th November 2002

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. A minor amendment would be incorporated before they were translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising (BC371-02 Tuesday 26th November 2002)

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Leasehold Reform (Notices) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002
(BC373-02) *Recommended Procedure: Standard*

The Rating Lists (Valuation Date) (Wales) Order 2002 (BC374-02) *Recommended Procedure: Standard*

The Education Act 2002 (Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC375-02) *Recommended Procedure: Standard*

The Air Quality Limit Values (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC376-02)
Recommended Procedure: Accelerated

The Countryside Access (Dedication of Land as Access Land) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (BC377-02) *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*

The Countryside Access (Exclusion or Restriction of Access) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (BC378-02) *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*

4.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the cover sheet and explanatory memorandum accompanying BC375-02 contained conflicting information about the recommended procedure. The Business Minister said that the correct recommendation was for the draft Order to follow the standard procedure.

4.2 Members of the Committee said that it could be difficult for subject committees to make an informed decision about whether or not to select draft Orders for scrutiny. They asked if a brief description of each Order could be included in the lists of forthcoming legislation provided to subject committees. The Business Minister said that this was already occurring but that there seemed to be inconsistencies in the level of detail being provided to different committees. It was agreed that the Panel of Chairs should consider this issue with a view to developing consistent practice in every committee.

4.3 The Business Committee considered papers BC373-02 to BC378-02 which provided advice on the handling of the orders and agreed the recommended procedure.

The Deputy 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.

5. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC379-02

5.1 The Business Committee agreed the paper on delegation of powers to a reconstituted House Committee. A report including a motion would be presented to the Business Committee at its next meeting.

6. Committees

BC380-02

6.1 The Committee agreed the request from the Health and Social services Committee for an additional meeting.

BC381-02

6.2 The Committee agreed the paper from the Panel of Chairs on the handling of Committee reports in the pre-election and post-election periods in 2003. Members of the Committee agreed that there should be a mechanism for the Assembly to consider subject committee reports after the elections if there had not been an opportunity to discuss them prior to that time. The Business Minister said that he would endeavour to ensure that time was made available in Plenary for debates on subject committee reports in the months leading up to the elections.

7. Forthcoming Business

(i) This Week's Business

7.1 The Committee considered paper BC382-02 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

7.2 The Business Minister said that there were no proposed changes to the week's business.

7.3 Jocelyn Davies said that Tuesday's debate on Increasing Participation in Sport cut across the Culture Committee review of sport. The Business Minister said that a Committee report on the subject would take priority for debate before the election.

(ii) Draft Business Statement

7.4 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing Tuesday 10th December, Tuesday 17th December and Tuesday 14th January.

7.5 The Business Minister said there were two proposed changes to the Draft Business Statement. He said that the motions to approve The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) and (General Medical Services) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 and The Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) (Wales) Regulations 2002, which had been scheduled for 10 December, would now be debated on 17 December. He said that the election of a Conservative member to the House Committee and to the Legislation Committee would be scheduled for 10 December.

7.6 Jonathan Morgan asked if a statement could be made on the progress of the Assembly Learning Grants scheme. The Business Minister said he would relay this request to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

7.7 With reference to the motions to elect Chairs of the Equality of Opportunity and the European and External Affairs Committees, scheduled for Tuesday 3 December, Jocelyn Davies and Jonathan Morgan said that according to Standing Order 8.4, motions for the election of members should be tabled following consultation with the Business Committee. Jocelyn Davies said that this consultation had not occurred. The Business Minister said that

he had informed the Business Committee of his intention to table these motions at its meeting on 26 November but had received no representations from Business Managers. Jocelyn Davies said she was not content with these proposals, especially as the position of Chair of the Standards Committee remained vacant. She felt that it was preferable to deal with the vacant Chairs of all of the standing committees at the same time.

7.8 In reference to the debate on The Queen's Speech on 11 December, the Deputy Presiding Officer said that many Members might wish to contribute to the debate and that the allocation of speaking time should be considered. He suggested that the First Minister and Secretary of State should each be allowed 10 minutes; Party Leaders should be allowed 5 minutes each and all other Members would be allowed 3 minutes. The Committee was content with this suggestion. The Business Minister said that more time might become available if few Members wished to speak in the preceding debate.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business

11.1 With reference to the Plenary meeting on 27 November, the Business Minister asked the Deputy Presiding Officer if he would clarify the timetable for the publication of the Plenary agenda. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that he and the Presiding Officer met officials on the morning of a Plenary meeting to discuss the day's business and that it was common for the agenda to be amended following this meeting.

11.2 Kirsty Williams said it was each Member's responsibility to obtain a copy of the latest agenda before attending a Plenary meeting. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the normal practice was to notify members of any amendments which occurred after 1pm on a Plenary day. The Committee agreed that this practice should continue.

11.3 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that following the last House Committee meeting, he had been informed that the Presiding Office budget would need to be amended to account for the purchase of the Pierhead Building. A motion and revised budget table would be made available to Business Managers before the end of the week. The Committee agreed that a slot in Plenary should be scheduled for the 17 December.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT