

Business Committee

BC(2)24-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 26th September 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager
Jonathan Morgan, Welsh Conservatives

John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Adrian Crompton, 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 Lisa Francis. The Chair welcomed Jonathan Morgan

who would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3. The Chair welcomed Leanne Hatcher, from Chamber Services, who was observing the meeting for training purposes.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)22-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 11th July 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)23-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 19th September 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

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Agricultural Holdings (Units of Production) (Wales) Order 2006

– **BC(2)24-06(p1)**

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (Commencement No. 2, Transitional Provisions and Savings) (Wales) Order 2006 – **BC(2)24-06(p2)**

The Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (Wales) Amendment Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)24-06(p3)**

& Report of the Health and Social Services Committee – **BC(2)24-06(p13)**

The Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006

– **BC(2)24-06(p4)**

The Sea Fishing (Enforcement of Community Satellite Monitoring Measures) (Wales) Order 2006 – **BC(2)24-06(p5)**

*& Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee – **BC(2)24-06(p12)***

The Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006

– **BC(2)24-06(p6)**

The Housing Renewal Grants (Prescribed Form and Particulars) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)24-06(p7)**

The Fishing Boats (Satellite-Tracking Devices) (Wales) Scheme 2006 - **BC(2)24-06(p8)** *Standing Order 25, Section 2*

*& Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee – **BC(2)24-06(p11)***

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)24-06(p1), BC(2)24-06(p2) and BC(2)24-06(p4) and recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)24-06(p3), BC(2)24-06(p5), BC(2)24-06(p6) and BC(2)24-06(p7). (Following the meeting, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined that none of the draft Orders should be referred to a subject committee.)

BC(2)24-06(p1)

4.1 The Chair noted that parallel legislation had been brought forward in England in 2004 and 2005.

BC(2)24-06(p5) & BC(2)24-06(p8)

4.2 The Chair noted that similar legislation had been brought forward in 2004 in Scotland, and in 2005 in England and Northern Ireland.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

BC(2)24-06(p15)

4.3 The Committee noted the letter about the use of the Executive procedure for The Allocation of Housing (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006, and The Homelessness (Wales) Regulations 2006.

(d) Papers for Information

BC(2)24-06(p14)

4.4 The Committee noted the e-mail about the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services' intention to confirm the Welsh Church (Burial Grounds) Act 1945: Amendment to Fees payable in respect of burials and the right to erect monuments and gravestones.

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

Responses to Requests

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

- A debate on "Design to Deliver" was scheduled for Wednesday 18 October.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a debate on job losses in the manufacturing industry in Wales, as a debate on this issue had been held on the 17 May. In view of the pressure on the plenary programme the Business Minister was not inclined to schedule a second debate this year.
- A debate on the Welsh Assembly Government's proposals for the Tourism Industry in Wales would be scheduled for early in the new year.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on RSA Grants. In view of the pressure on plenary business, it was felt that it was more appropriate to discuss the issue in the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee.
- The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks had answered an urgent question on a reported 100 job losses at the Duracell factory in Wrexham, in Plenary on 19 September.
- The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside had issued a written statement on the Milk Industry on 22 September.
- The issue of the Welsh Assembly Government's press office budget had been covered during the debate on the Government's Forward Work Programme, which had taken place on 20 September.

This Week's Business

BC(2)24-06(p9)

6.2 The Business Minister said that there were no changes to the week's business. She said that a written statement on the "Recall of Certain US Tissue Products" would be issued later that day.

Business Managers' Requests

6.3 Jocelyn Davies asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on job losses in MoD establishments.
- A statement on the report by the Electoral Commission on the Assembly elections.

6.4 Jonathan Morgan asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement or debate on ambulance services.
- A statement on student numbers and their relationship to top up fees.

6.5 Kirsty Williams asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on plans for the future of St. Athan.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)24-06(p10)

6.6 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 3 October, 10 October and 17 October.

6.7 Jonathan Morgan referred to the debate on "Design to Deliver", which had been scheduled for 18 October, and which had been allocated 60 minutes. He said that many Members might wish to speak and suggested that the allocated time might not be sufficient. __

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)24-06(p17)

7.1 The Committee noted the paper about the progress of Standing Order 31 legislation proposed by Huw Lewis.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

11.1 The Chair said that, according to the Government of Wales Act 2006, the Government was required to bring forward a statutory instrument to set the date of the first meeting. It was noted that the date of the first meeting would have to be within the period of seven days beginning immediately after the day of the election. The Committee agreed to return the issue in its meeting on 10 October.

11.2 The Chair said that the Assembly had agreed that the Easter Recess dates for 2007 would be 26 March to 15 April. She asked if it was the intention that the Assembly should meet in the fortnight before the Assembly elections. The Business Minister said that there had been some initial consultation on this and it had been suggested that the date of the recess could be put back. The Committee agreed to return to this issue in its next meeting.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT