

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> November 2001

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Venue:** Room A3.13

**Present:** John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer (Chair)  
Andrew Davies, Minister for Assembly Business  
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager  
Jonathan Morgan, Conservative Business Manager  
Peter Black, Liberal Democrats

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, PS/Minister for Assembly Business  
Adrian Green, Chamber Secretariat  
Alun Gruffudd, PS/Deputy Presiding Officer  
Alan Jenkins, Office of the Counsel General (agenda item 4)

**1. Apologies & announcements**

None.

**2. Minutes of the previous meetings**

**(i) 6<sup>th</sup> November 2001 - BC318-01 (Final)**

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) 13<sup>th</sup> November 2001 - BC326-01 (Final)**

2.2 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**

**(iii) 20<sup>th</sup> November 2001 - BC339-01 (Draft)**

The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Some minor amendments were suggested which would be incorporated into the final version and presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

**Action: Chamber Secretariat**

### **3. Matters Arising (20<sup>th</sup> November 2001- BC339-01)**

3.1 **Paragraph 1.1** The Deputy Presiding Officer said that he had written to William Graham thanking him for his contribution to the work of the Committee.

3.2 **Paragraph 4.2** The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the revised guidance on regulatory appraisals prepared by the Office of the Counsel General had been circulated to Business Managers.

3.3 **Paragraph 5.2** It was agreed to consider the preferred option for recess arrangements for 2002 under item 5.

3.4 **Paragraph 5.5** Andrew George said that he had prepared a motion to enable oral questions for answer on 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January to be tabled on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. He would liaise with Cabinet Secretariat about a convenient time for it to be considered in Plenary.

### **4. Subordinate Legislation**

4.1 The Business Committee considered papers BC341-01 and BC342-01 that provided advice on the handling of the following two items of draft subordinate legislation:

- ❑ **The Financing of Maintained Schools (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC341-01)**
- ❑ **The Education (Budget Statements) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC342-01)**

4.2 The Committee considered the recommendations that these two items need not be referred to a subject committee and that they should follow the accelerated procedure.

4.3 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that a statement in the Explanatory Memorandum that the draft regulations had the support of local authorities did not necessarily mean that subject committee consideration was unnecessary. The Minister for Assembly Business agreed.

4.4 Jocelyn Davies and Jonathan Morgan said that their preference was for these orders to be referred to a subject committee. The Minister for Assembly Business said that he always maintained that subject committees should become more involved in the process of Assembly subordinate legislation and was content to support these requests whenever time permitted. **The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that the orders should be referred to the Education & Lifelong Learning Committee and prescribed three weeks as the period within which the Committee should report to the Assembly.**

### **5. Advice to Assembly on procedures**

- Recess Arrangements 2002 (BC306-01)
- Recess Arrangements 2002 - Revised Paper (BC337-01)

5.1 The Committee considered the recess options for 2002. The Minister for Assembly Business said that the majority of his group favoured Option 1 (BC306-01), which meant maintaining a recess pattern similar to this year. However, he personally felt that this might give rise to presentational difficulties. Peter Black and Jonathan Morgan said that their groups' preference was also for Option 1. Jocelyn Davies said that her party's preference remained Option 3. There was support for a recess of four weeks at Christmas if at all possible, however as unanimity could not be achieved, Option 1, which included 3 weeks for Christmas, was the preferred option.

**Action: Chamber Secretariat to make the announcement.**

## **6. Committees**

6.1 Marie Knox said that the Labour Party changes to committee membership meant that she had been able to adjust the Committee Timetable so that it would not be necessary to hold subject committee meetings on Thursday afternoons. However, slots would remain for optional meetings on those afternoons if required.

6.2 Marie Knox also reported that the Audit Committee had decided to hold an evidence session at its 6<sup>th</sup> December meeting but prospective witnesses felt that this did not give them enough notice. Therefore the Committee proposed to re-schedule the meeting for 13<sup>th</sup> December. Members of the Business Committee had no objection to this proposal.

## **7. Forthcoming business**

### **This Week's Business**

7.1 The Committee considered paper BC344-01 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

7.2 The Minister for Assembly Business said that the only addition proposed for business that day was a statement from the Minister for Education & Lifelong Learning (Jane Davidson) on the provisions of the Education Bill which was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2001. Fifteen minutes would be allocated for this. He said that the Report of the Task and Finish Group on Workforce issues would be moved to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

7.3 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that timing for that day was extremely tight and that the time allocated to the statement would depend upon the number of Members that wanted to speak. Jonathan Morgan said that the Education Bill was a substantial piece of legislation and fifteen minutes was unrealistic. Jocelyn Davies said that a number of Members would want to speak on the Special Education Needs Code of Practice. The Minister for

Assembly Business undertook to discuss the Committee's comments with Jane Davidson

### **Draft Business Statement**

7.4 The Minister for Assembly Business said that he had no changes to make to his Draft Business Statement.

7.5 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that it was unlikely that the report of the Assembly Review of Procedure group would be available in time for the debate proposed for 8<sup>th</sup> January.

7.6 Jonathan Morgan asked if there were any plans for a statement about the Cabinet's Economic portfolio. The end of the year was approaching and the First Minister had originally announced that he would be holding the two posts as a temporary measure. Jocelyn Davies said that she supported this request and also asked for consideration to be given to her request made in Plenary for a debate about subordinate legislation on devolved matters applicable to Wales being passed in Westminster. The Minister for Assembly Business said that he would speak to colleagues on these issues. **Action: Minister for Assembly Business**

7.7 The Committee's advice to the Minister for Assembly Business on his proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2002 was that it should proceed as outlined.

### **8. Matters referred from plenary**

None

### **9. Revisions to Standing Orders**

None

### **10. Presiding Officer rulings**

None

### **11. Any other business**

None

**CHAMBER SECRETARIAT**