

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 12th March 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
Jonathan Morgan, Conservative Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Liberal Democrat 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
Marc Wyn Jones, Chamber Secretariat
Andrew Weeks, PS/Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements**2. Minutes of the previous meetings****(i) BC72-02 (Final) Tuesday 26th February 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) BC78-02 (Draft) Tuesday 5th March 2002

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Since there were no comments, they would be presented at the next meeting in their final format. **Action: Chamber Secretariat**

3. Matters Arising (BC78-02 Tuesday 5th March 2002)

3.1 **Paragraph 3.1** Marion Stapleton said that electronic copies of the letter on the use of the Executive Procedure for various agriculture orders had been sent to members of the Committee. However, the letter had not been received in time to be included on the agenda for the meeting. It was agreed that the letter would be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

3.2 **Paragraph 11.1** Business Managers had been asked to discuss, with their respective groups, the possibility of Plenary meetings being held between 2pm and 6pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The Committee

exchanged views and agreed to return to the matter at its first meeting after the Easter recess.

4. Subordinate legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

None

(b) Orders made under the Executive Procedure

BC80-02

4.1 In reference to an e-mail from Cabinet Secretariat to members about two agriculture orders made under the Executive Procedure, the Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business said that these orders required immediate implementation. He said that a written explanation would follow. The Committee welcomed this.

4.2 The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if, in future, an explanation could be included with all e-mails noting the use of the Executive Procedure. It would also be helpful if all e-mails on the use of the Executive Procedure were sent under the same heading. The Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business said that he would consider these suggestions in detail over the Easter Recess.

5. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC81-02

5.1 The Business Committee agreed the paper on Tabling Days for Easter Recess.

6. Committees

7. Forthcoming Business

(i) This Week's Business

7.1 The Committee considered paper BC84-02 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

7.2 The Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business said that the debate on NHS Estates, scheduled for that day, would be postponed because the matter was still being considered by the Audit Committee. In its place, Jenny Randerson, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport would be making a statement on Racism in Sport. Jane Hutt, the Minister for Health and Social Services, would also be making a statement on Successful Voluntary Sector Health Promotion Scheme Bids.

7.3 The Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business said that in addition to the business scheduled for Thursday, Andrew Davies, the Minister for Economic Development, would be making a statement on Capital Funding for a New Waste Paper Reprocessing Capacity at Shotton.

(ii) Draft Business Statement

7.4 The Minister for Assembly Business said that business for 16th April would also include a motion to delegate the functions of the Homelessness Act to the First Minister. The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if Members could receive a clear and easy to understand explanation of the powers that were being delegated as soon as possible. He said that David Lambert had previously prepared a model. Marion Stapleton said that the model had been used in the past and that an explanation would be provided as soon as possible.

7.5 Jonathan Morgan asked if a Statement would be made about the recent accusations made against Andrew Davies, the Minister for Economic Development. The Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business said that as the Presiding Officer was considering whether to refer the matter to the Standards Committee, it would be inappropriate for a statement to be made in Plenary.

7.6 Jonathan Morgan commented on the unusual way funding for chamber orchestras in Wales had been announced and asked if a Statement could be made. The Minister for Rural Affairs and Assembly Business said that the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities had clarified the issue in a meeting of the Culture Committee on 5th of December.

7.7 Jocelyn Davies said that she too would have made a request for both these statements to be made in Plenary and that she had noted the Minister's answers.

7.8 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 19th March, Tuesday 16th April and Tuesday 23rd April was that, subject to the preceding paragraphs, it should proceed as outlined.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

BC83-02

9.1 The Business Committee agreed the paper on a revision to Standing Orders to remove the provision for Oral Questions to the House Committee.

Action: Secretariat

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business

11.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that a paper had been produced outlining two different options for removing the slot in Plenary for questions to

the Minister for Assembly Business on his responsibilities other than for business. The Business Committee agreed that both options would be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Secretariat

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT