

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Date:** 28th May 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 Democrats Business Manager

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly  
David Lambert, Presiding Office Legal Adviser  
Marie Knox (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 Jonathan Morgan said he would be absent from the Business Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June because he would be attending the Queen's visit to Bangor.

**2. Minutes of the previous meetings**

**(i) BC160-02 (Final) Tuesday 14th 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) BC174-02 (Draft) Tuesday 21st May 2002**

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Since there were no comments they would be translated in readiness for publication.

**Action: Chamber Secretariat**

**3. Matters Arising (BC160-02 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2002)**

3.1 A paper detailing the results of the questionnaire on changes to Plenary times was circulated to the Committee. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that over 40 Assembly Members had responded and two of the three options had attracted most support. Some Members were in favour of moving the Thursday Plenary meeting to Wednesday from 2-5.30pm, whereas others had wanted to continue to meet on Thursday between 9.05am and 12.35pm. He

said that a final decision could be taken by Members in Plenary on a motion to move to Wednesdays. The Committee agreed this suggestion.

**Action: Chamber Secretariat to prepare motion.**

#### **4. Subordinate Legislation**

##### **(a) Orders for consideration**

- Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC176-02) *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*
- The Education (Recognised Bodies) (Wales) Order 2002 (BC177-02) *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*
- The Education (Listed Bodies) (Wales) Order 2002 (BC178-02) *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*

4.1 The Business Committee considered papers BC176-02 to BC178-02 which provided advice on the handling of these orders and agreed the recommended procedures.

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

##### **(b) Orders made under the Executive Procedure**

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

##### **BC179-02**

5.1 The Committee considered this paper which suggested a procedure which would enable a Minister to propose that related motions should be debated together. The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that he would notify the Committee of any such proposals when introducing the Draft Business Statement. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that if there was any dissent in the Chamber, the Presiding Officer would not allow the motions to be debated together. He said that it would be courteous to inform the Minister beforehand if there was likely to be dissent as this would allow the Minister to reconsider the proposal.

##### **BC180-02**

5.2 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that this paper set out a proposal for changing the procedure for First Minister's Questions arising from recommendations in the Assembly Review of Procedures. The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that the Assembly Government had sought advice on the paper and the Committee agreed to defer a decision until the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **6. Committees**

#### **7. Forthcoming Business**

##### **(i) This Week's Business**

7.1 The Committee considered paper BC181-02 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

7.2 The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that the statement on the Palliative Care Strategy scheduled for Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May had been postponed. A statement by the Minister for Education on the 14-19 Learning Project had been scheduled in its place. He said that the Motion to adopt the Race Equality Scheme scheduled for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May had been postponed until Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. A statement on the Race Equality Scheme had been scheduled in its place.

7.3 Jonathan Morgan commented on the number of statements being made by Ministers. He referred to the Assembly Review of Procedure recommendation that statements should be used to inform the Assembly of new policy or operational developments. Jocelyn Davies agreed with this and said that it appeared that statements were being made if scheduled business was scarce. Jonathan Morgan noted that a debate on the Race Equality Scheme had been scheduled for Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June and questioned the need for an oral statement by the Minister on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

#### (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 11<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

7.5 The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that there were two changes to the business outlined in the Draft Business Statement. The motion to approve the Youth Support Services Directions 2002, scheduled for Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, had been postponed until 25<sup>th</sup> June and the motion to move Plenary sessions from Thursday mornings to Wednesday afternoons would be given a slot in Plenary on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

7.6 Jonathan Morgan asked the Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs about the allocation of Minority Party debates. He said that it would be useful for Parties if a timetable could be provided so that suitable preparations could be made. The Minister for Assembly Business and Rural Affairs said that he would provide the relevant information.

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

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

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

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

11.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer informed the Committee that the Standards Committee would be looking at a Standing Order change to clarify the procedure for declarations of interest in Assembly proceedings. The

Committee would be notified of any developments. Paul Silk said that Members should be aware that legal advice had confirmed that taking part in Assembly proceedings included voting.

**CHAMBER SECRETARIAT**