

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 1 - Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 4 December 2012**

Meeting time: **09:00 - 10:00**

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_800000_04_12_2012&t=0&l=en

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

William Powell (Chair)
Russell George
Elin Jones
Joyce Watson

Witnesses:

Committee Staff:

Naomi Stocks (Clerk)
Sarita Marshall (Deputy Clerk)
Victoria Paris (Researcher)
Helen Roberts (Legal Advisor)

1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions

There were no apologies.

2. P-03-150 National Cancer Standards - discussion of ministerial evidence

The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the transcript to the petitioners for comment.

3. New petitions

3.1 P-04-439 : Ancient veteran and heritage trees of Wales to be given greater protection

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development to seek his views.

3.2 P-04-440 : Say NO to Asset Stripping Bronllys Hospital

The Committee considered the petition for the first time.

The Chair placed on record the fact that he personally knows some of the petitioners and that members of his family have signed the petition.

The Chair told the Committee that he had recently received correspondence stating that the consultation period on the health board proposals has been extended by two weeks.

The Committee agreed to write to Powys Teaching Health Board, copying in the Minister for Health and Social Services as well as the Health and Social Care Committee, to seek views on the petition and to ask when the final decision on the proposals will be made.

3.3 P-04-441 : Gwaith i Gymru - Work for Wales

The Committee considered the petition for the first time, and discussed the principle of the National Assembly accepting petitions from political parties, or sub-sets of political parties. The Committee agreed to discuss the wider issue of petition admissibility in the new year.

The Committee agreed to write to the Deputy Minister for Skills to seek his views on the subject of the petition.

3.4 P-04-442 : Guarantee good support close to home for disabled children and their families

The Committee discussed the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills to seek his views on the petition and to ask whether the draft Bill could include a 'provide local' principle.

The Committee also agreed to give the Minister notice that it may wish to invite him to give oral evidence in a future meeting. It was noted that if this was the case, Scope Cymru would also be invited to give evidence.

4. Updates to previous petitions

4.1 P-04-424: Retain services at Neath Port Talbot Hospital

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to write to the Deanery to ask whether staffing issues are acting as a driver for service reconfiguration, and what consideration was given to the impact on the hospital of withdrawing Core Trainee 2 Doctors.

4.2 P-04-346 Free Childcare for 3-4 Year Olds in Wales

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to seek clarity as soon as possible from the Welsh Government on the timeframe for further investigation into early-years provision across local authorities.

4.3 P-04-427: A New Welsh Language Law for Wales

The Committee considered ministerial correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to formally seek the petitioner's views on the correspondence.

4.4 P-04-383 Against NVZ Designation for Llangorse Lake

The Committee considered ministerial correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to forward it to the petitioners for comment.

4.5 P-04-417 Save Morfa Beach and Prevent the Closure of Public Footpaths 92 and 93

The Committee considered ministerial correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to forward it to the petitioners for comment.

4.6 P-04-422: Fracking

The Committee received correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to:

Write to the Welsh Local Government Association to ask whether local planning authorities feel that existing planning guidance is clear enough on the issue of fracking;

Share the petitioners' response with the Minister;

Write to the Environment and Sustainability Committee to ask whether it intends to undertake any further work in relation to fracking, following on from its inquiry into energy planning and policy.

4.7 P-04-423: Brooklands Nursing Home

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition.

The Chair and Joyce Watson placed on record the fact that they oppose the proposals for the civic amenity site and that they or their staff have visited Brooklands Nursing Home to talk to residents and staff about the issue.

Joyce Watson stated that she has received correspondence on the matter from Pembrokeshire County Council, which she will share with the Committee.

The Committee agreed to share the correspondence received from the petitioners with Pembrokeshire County Council and to request a response to the concerns raised in that correspondence.

4.8 P-03-263 List Stradey Park

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to await the publication of the report on protecting Wales' sporting heritage.

4.9 P-04-322 A Call to Revise Cadw's Hold upon Churches in Wales

The Committee considered ministerial correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to write to the Minister to ask when a decision will be made on the establishment of a Task and Finish Group, and to request that the Committee be kept informed of the development of that group.

4.10 P-04-403 Saving Plas Cwrt yn Dre/Old Parliament

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to formally seek the petitioner's views on it.

4.11 P-04-420 Construct an Owain Glyndwr Monument

The Committee considered correspondence in relation to the petition and agreed to seek the petitioner's views on it, including whether the petitioners have considered funding such a monument through private donation.

4.12 P-03-301 Equality for the Transgender Community

The Committee considered a Welsh Government update on the review of the Wales Gender Dysphoria policy and agreed to seek the petitioners' views on the final report.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Clerk for her work on the Petitions Committee.

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).