

# Business Committee

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Meeting Venue: **Presiding Officer's office, 4th floor – Tŷ Hywel**

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Meeting date: **Tuesday, 17 March 2015**

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Meeting time: **08.30 – 08.40**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



**Minutes:** Private

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**Committee Members:**

**Dame Rosemary Butler (Chair)**  
**Paul Davies**  
**Jane Hutt**  
**Elin Jones**  
**Aled Roberts**

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**Committee Staff:**

**Aled Elwyn Jones (Clerk)**

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**Others in attendance:**

**David Melding AM, Deputy Presiding Officer**  
**Christopher Warner, Head of Policy and Legislation**  
**Committee Service**  
**Siân Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Service**  
**Craig Stephenson, Director of Commission Services**  
**Peter Greening, Welsh Government**

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## 1 Apologies & announcements

## 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were noted by the Committee for publication.

## 3 Organisation of Business

### 3.1 This Week's Business

Business Committee agreed to postpone Leanne Woods's Short Debate until 22 April.

Business Committee agreed that Voting Time would take place after the last item of business on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

### 3.2 Three week timetable of Government Business

Business Committee noted the 3 Week Timetable of Government Business.

### 3.3 Three week timetable of Assembly Business

Business Committee determined the organisation of business and agreed to schedule the following items of business:

#### **Wednesday 29 April 2015 –**

- Debate on the Finance Committee's report on Best Practice Budget Process Part 2 – Planning and implementing new budget procedures (60 mins)
- Time allocated to the Welsh Conservatives (60 mins)
- Time allocated to Plaid Cymru (60 mins)

Business Committee agreed to schedule the following Individual Member debate after the Easter recess and will confirm the date at its next meeting:

#### **After Easter Recess –**

- Debate by Individual Members under Standing Order 11.21(iv) (60 mins)

**NNDM5715**

**Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West)**

**William Graham (South Wales East)**

**Lynne Neagle (Torfaen)**

**William Powell (Mid and West Wales)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Calls upon the Welsh Government to

- a) Instigate a moratorium on opencast mining across Wales, in order to ascertain whether planning law and current guidance provides sufficient protection for communities affected by opencast mining;
- b) Respond to the Research into the Failure to Restore Opencast Coal Sites in South Wales, stating specifically how it might address concerns about the workability of MTAN2 and the 500m buffer zone; and
- c) Support affected local authorities to make legal challenges, where required, when pursuing restoration.

## **4 Assembly Timetable**

### **4.1 Recess Dates 2015–16**

Business Managers considered provisional recess dates up until the end of the Fourth Assembly. Given the timing of Easter in 2016, and the proximity of this to the Assembly's dissolution, the Committee considered various options in respect of that recess.

In light of assurances provided by the Minister for Government Business that sufficient time appeared to be available for the Government's legislative programme, Business Managers agreed to consult with their groups on their preferred option and return to the matter at their meeting of 21 April 2015.

## **5 Plenary**

### **5.1 Easter Recess Tabling Arrangements**

Business Committee approved the proposed tabling arrangements for the Easter recess period.

### **Any Other Business**

The Minister updated the Committee on receiving LCMs due to late amendments being tabled before dissolution of the current UK Parliament on 30 March. There is no expectation of any further late amendments which would require LCMs. In the unlikely event that the UK Government did give notification of another late amendment next week which it would be prudent to apply to Wales, the Minister suggested that there would not be any time to lay a memorandum and hold a debate to agree an LCM.