

Petitions Committee

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

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 21 June 2011**

Meeting time: **09:30 – 10:00**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

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http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_200005_21_06_2011&t=0



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Christine Chapman (Chair)
Russell George
Bethan Jenkins
William Powell

Witnesses:

Committee Staff:

Naomi Stocks (Clerk)
Sarita Marshall (Deputy Clerk)
Joanest Jackson (Legal Advisor)

1. Introduction, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.2 No apologies had been received.

2. Petitions Committee Procedures and Working Practices

2.1 The Committee discussed the future procedures of the Committee, along with the working practices it will follow.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Allow petitioners a maximum of 10 minutes in which to present their views to Committee in future evidence sessions, allowing 20 minutes for the Committee to ask questions.

- Make more use of social networking to improve engagement with the public.

3. New petitions

3.1 P-04-319 Newtown traffic petition

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.
Russell George declared an interest in the petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Local Government and Communities seeking his views on the issues raised by the petition.

3.2 P-04-320 Social Housing Policy

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage seeking his views on the issues raised by the petition.

3.3 P-04-322 A call to revise Cadw's hold upon churches

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage seeking his views on the issues raised by the petition and asking for further information on how the planned Heritage Protection Bill would impact on this petition.

3.4 P-04-323 Save our Small Schools from closure

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.
William Powell declared an interest in the subject of the petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the issues raised by the petition.
- Write to the Children's Commissioner for Wales to make them aware of the petition and seek their views on the issues raised by the petition.
- Write to Funky Dragon to seek their views on this issue.

3.5 P-04-324 Say No to Tan 8 – Windfarms & High Voltage Power Lines Spoiling our Community

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.
Russell George declared an interest in this petition, and William Powell declared an interest in the subject area.
The Chair reminded the Committee that a Welsh Conservative debate on the subject would be held in Plenary on 22 June 2011.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development seeking his views on the issues raised by the petition.
- Write to the UK Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to seek his views on the issues raised by the petition.
- Write to Friends of the Earth to seek their views on the petition.

3.6 P-04-325 Funding for people with a learning disability to access mainstream post-16 education

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

3.7 P-04-326 No to Incineration

The Committee considered this petition for the first time.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Environment and Sustainability seeking his views on the petition.

4. Updates to previous petitions

4.1 P-03-136 Parking in Heath and Birchgrove

The Committee considered an update to this petition.
The Chair told Committee that the petitioner had asked for further consideration of this petition to be deferred, as he had requested a meeting with the First Minister and his local Assembly Member on the subject.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Defer consideration of the petition until a further update had been received.

4.2 P-03-162 Road Safety in Llanspyddid

The Committee considered an update to this petition.
William Powell declared an interest in the subject of the petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Local Government and Communities seeking an update on when the work will be completed and highlighting concerns about the length of time taken to complete the works.

4.3 P-03-236 The Charter for Grandchildren

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Seek the petitioner's views on the interim report of the Family Justice Review and ask whether this will address the concerns raised in the petition.
- Write to Families Need Fathers seeking its views on the petition.
- Write to the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services to request information on the evidence she fed in to the Family Justice Review.

4.4 P-03-256 Additional trains to Fishguard

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Close the petition and produce a closure report.

4.5 P-03-263 List Stradey Park

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage to seek his views on the petition and to clarify whether the planned Heritage Protection Bill will address some of the broader issues that have arisen during consideration of this petition related to the protection of sites and buildings of local and national interest.

4.6 P-03-271 Business Rates in Narberth

4.7 P-03-286 Ceredigion Business Rates

The Committee considered an update to these petitions.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Federation of Small Businesses to ask its views on the petition.
- Write to the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science asking whether, in her response to the Committee, she can state whether she would be willing for an analysis to be undertaken as outlined in the petitioner's correspondence

4.8 P-03-288 National Strategy on Independent Living

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Invite the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services to give oral evidence to the Committee.

4.9 P-03-292 Public Toilet Provision

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the relevant Committee once the structures have been agreed and ask whether it will consider undertaking an inquiry into this issue.

4.10 P-03-293 Review of Schools Admissions Code

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Close the petition and produce a summary closure report.

4.11 P-03-294 Wales Women's National Coalition – Representation of Women

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the petitioners seeking their views on the response received from the Minister for Finance and asking whether they plan to submit a bid for funding.

4.12 P-03-295 Kyle Beere – Paediatric Neuro Rehabilitation

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee seeking an update on the 2011/12 plan and asking whether neuro-rehabilitation services have been included in this plan.

4.13 P-03-298 Financing the provision of Welsh-language resources for people with dyslexia

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Education and Skills to ask how consideration will be given to making Welsh language materials available, highlighting the concerns of the petitioners and asking that this be taken forward as a matter of priority.

4.14 P-03-301 Equality for the transgender community

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Seek the views of the petitioner on the information gathered so far.
- Write to the relevant Committee once the structures have been agreed and asking whether they will consider undertaking an inquiry into this issue.

4.15 P-03-302 Compost processing plant

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Seek the views of the petitioner on the correspondence from the Environment Agency Wales and asking whether there have been improvements in odour levels.

4.16 P-03-308 Save Gwent Theatre

4.17 P-03-311 Spectacle Theatre

4.18 P-03-314 Save Theatr Powys & Mid Powys Youth

The Committee considered an update to these petitions.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Seek the views of the petitioner on the correspondence from the Arts Council of Wales.
- Write to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage for his view on the petition, the robustness of ACW's Investment Review on this particular issue and whether any consideration has been given to reviewing the process and decisions made in relation to theatre-in-education.
- Press ACW for a copy of the business plan Assessment Reports for each of the eight theatre-in-education companies.

4.19 P-03-316 Make maintenance of existing School Crossing Patrols a non-negotiable part of WAG Transport Grant to local councils

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Seek the views of the Minister for Local Government and Communities on the petition.

4.20 P-03-318 Cross Border Maternity Services

The Committee considered an update to this petition.
William Powell declared an interest in the associated subject of ambulance response times.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to Powys Local Health Board and Montgomeryshire Community Health Council to ask for their views on the issues raised by the petition and for details of their involvement in the consultation process.

4.21 P-03-317 Hijinx Funding for Arts

The Committee considered an update to this petition.

Action

The Committee agreed to:

- Write to the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage for his views on the petition.
- Invite the petitioners to present oral evidence.

Transcript

To view the meeting transcript, click [here](#).