

Business Committee BC(2)21-05 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 5th July 2005

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room E

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business
Manager

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal
Democrats Business Manager

David Melding, Welsh Conservatives
Business Manager

John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business
Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business
Unit

Karin Phillips, Members' Research and
Committee Services Peter Jones,
Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary
Service

Alun Jenkins, DLS (Agenda Item 4)

Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee
Secretariat

Catherine Morris, PS to the Deputy
Presiding Officer

Apologies & announcements

1.1 The Chair welcomed Katherine Hughes, from the Members' Research and Committee Services Co-ordination Unit, who was attending the meeting for training purposes.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)19-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 14th June 2005

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their final format. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC(2)20-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 21th June 2005

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. An amendment was suggested which would be incorporated before the minutes were translated in readiness for publication

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

3.1 **Paragraph 7.1** The Chair said she had communicated the Committee's views about an Advisory Memorandum relating to the Permanent Secretary's responsibilities as the Assembly's Principal Accounting Officer in respect of proceedings in Plenary to the Presiding Officer.

3.2 **Paragraph 4.3** The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to his suggestion that Explanatory Memorandums accompanying draft Orders made jointly with the UK Government should indicate whether the Assembly was required to make the Order jointly or had chosen to do so. Marion Stapleton confirmed that this would be the case.

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (Contingency Planning) (Wales) Order 2005 - **(BC(2)21-05(p1))**

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)20-05 (p1). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that this Order need not be referred to Subject Committee.

4.1 Members of the Committee suggested a number of amendments to clarify the papers accompanying these items of legislation. It was agreed that the papers would be amended accordingly.

BC(2)20-05(p1)

4.2 The Chair referred to paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said that "*there has been no need until now for an Order as, prior to 1 January 2005, avian influenza and Newcastle disease were the responsibility of Defra*" and said that no legislation had been in place in Wales during that time. In response to a query, Alun Jenkins said that he was not aware of any legislation in a similar position. The Business Minister said she was in the process of investigating this issue and would report back to the Committee in its next meeting. Business Managers said they were content for this draft Order to proceed under the accelerated procedure, as long as there would be an opportunity to debate the contingency plan arising from the legislation in Plenary.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

BC(2)21-05(p6)

4.3 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification from the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration about her intention to approve the 'Anti-social Behaviour: Policies and Procedures - Code of Guidance for Local Authorities and Housing Associations'.

(c) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)21-05(p2)

5.1 The Committee noted the letter of notification from the Economic Development and Transport Committee about an additional formal meeting on 14 July 2005.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)21-05(p3)

6.1 The Business Minister responded to various requests from Business Managers and said that:

A debate on affordable housing would be scheduled for after the Summer recess.

The First Minister would be making a statement on "Make Poverty History" on Wednesday 13th July.

A written statement on the non-availability of Welsh language application forms for landlords would be issued shortly.

There was no intention of making a statement on fox control.

There was no intention of making a statement on the Human Rights implications of the proposed changes to the Assembly electoral arrangements.

6.2 David Melding welcomed the Business Minister's commitment to schedule a debate on affordable housing.

This Week's Business

BC(2)21-05(p4)

6.3 The Committee considered this paper, which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

6.4 The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the indicative timings for the week's Plenary meetings showed that they would overrun. The Business Minister said that, if necessary, she would move a procedural motion to extend the meeting.

Business Managers' Requests

6.5 Business Managers asked if a debate could be scheduled before the Summer recess on an Audit and Due Diligence Report on the WDA. They indicated that they would not support the Business Statement unless this request was accommodated.

6.7 Business Managers also asked if a statement could be made on a recent announcement by the Christie Tyler Group relating to job losses.

Draft Business Statement

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 12 July, 20 September and 27 September.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)21-05(p9)

7.1 The Committee considered and agreed a paper from the Table Office about arrangements for tabling business during the Summer recess. It was noted that the proposals would be relayed to Members shortly.

BC(2)21-05(p10)

7.2 The Committee considered and agreed a paper from Table Office on arrangements for tabling Written Assembly Questions during the Summer recess. It was noted that the proposals would be relayed to Members shortly.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

BC(2)21-05(p7)

9.1 The Business Committee considered and agreed a Report of the Business Committee containing proposals to amend the following Standing Orders -

Standing Order 11 - Legislation Committee

Standing Order 8 - Committees (& Consequential Amendments)

Standing Order 9.14 - Substitutions (and other consequential amendments relating to committees.

It was noted that the amendments were scheduled to be debated in Plenary on July 12. The Business Minister asked if the report could also include provision for substitutions on the ad hoc Advisory Committee on School Funding. The Committee agreed this proposal. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that there were grammatical errors in the Welsh version of the proposed amendments to Standing Order 11. The Chair said that these would be corrected before the Report was laid.

BC(2)21-05(p8)

9.2 The Business Committee considered and agreed a draft Report of the Business Committee about proposals to amend Standing Orders in relation to the Freedom of Information Act.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT