

Business Committee BC(2)30-05 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 15th November 2005

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

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

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business
Manager

David Melding, Welsh Conservatives
Business Manager

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal
Democrats Business Manager

Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Presiding Officer
(Agenda Item 5 (i))

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 Service

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 Sian Wilkins of Committee Services and Gareth Williams of Chamber Services who were observing the meeting for training purposes. The Chair also welcomed the Presiding Officer, who had been invited to introduce a paper to the Committee.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)28-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 1st November 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)29-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 8th November 2005

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. An amendment was suggested which would be incorporated before the minutes were submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

3.1 **Paragraph 3.2** Marion Stapleton said that a list of functions to be transferred under The Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (Transfer of Functions to the National Assembly for Wales and Abolition) Order 2005 would be circulated to Assembly Members later that day.

3.2 **Paragraph 5.4** Karin Phillips said that she was preparing a draft committee timetable and was waiting for a list of members for each committee. Business Managers said that names would be submitted to Karin Phillips shortly.

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Bovine Products (Restriction on Placing on the Market) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)30-05(p1)**

The Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment and Support Schemes (Cross Compliance) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)30-05(p2)**

The National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) (Amendment No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)30-05(p3)**

The Tir Cynnal (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)30-05(p4)** *These Regulations were withdrawn during the meeting*

The Adoption Information and Intermediary Services (Pre-Commencement Adoptions) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2005- **BC(2)30-05(p5)**

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)30-05 (p1), BC(2)30-05(p3) and BC(2)30-05(p5). The Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)30-05(p2). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of the draft Orders need be referred to Subject Committee.

BC(2)30-05(p1)

4.1 The Chair referred to paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said that these Regulations revoked and re-enacted, with certain changes, Regulations which had only come into force on the 7th November. Alun Jenkins said that the original Regulations had revoked the Over Thirty Months rule. He said that the Regulations needed to be revoked and re-enacted to take into account EU food hygiene legislation coming into force on 1st January. He said that the Government had been aware that the Regulations would need to be revoked and re-enacted but had decided that it was desirable to introduce the legislation as soon as possible. The Chair said that it would be helpful if the background information could be included in the Explanatory Memorandum.

BC(2)30-05(p2)

4.2 The Committee considered this draft Order and noted the Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee. David Melding and Kirsty Williams said that their groups wanted to debate this draft Order.

BC(2)39-05(p5)

4.3 In response to a query, Alun Jenkins confirmed that these amending Regulations and the original draft Order required the Chancellor of the Exchequer's approval in order to be made and, as such, would be made under Standing Order 25, Section 2.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)30-05(p7)

5.1 The Chair invited the Presiding Officer to introduce a paper on Committee Structure post 2007, which had previously been considered by the Panel of Subject Committee Chairs. The Presiding Officer said that the paper outlined two options - a mixture of select committees and measure committees; and multi-functional subject committees - which would be subject to further exploration in the next Panel of Chairs meeting. Business Managers welcomed the paper which gave an indication of the changes which were possible and could inform future consideration of the issue.

BC(2)30-05(p8)

5.2 The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee about committee consideration of the Children and Adoption Bill.

BC(2)30-05(p13)

5.3 The Committee considered a request for an additional meeting on 7th December from the Committee on School Funding. The Chair noted that the request was not unanimous. She said that the proposed meeting would clash with a timetabled meeting of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee and that one Assembly Member was a member of both committees. The Committee decided not to approve the request for the additional meeting. However, they asked Karin Phillips to look for a suitable slot for the meeting early in the new term.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)29-05(p15)

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

A written statement on the E.coli outbreak and the closure of Abercynon Infants School had been issued on 8th November.

A written statement on the formation of Ffilm had been issued on 14th November.

There was currently no intention of making an oral statement on NHS Trusts funding. The Minister for Health and Social Services had made an announcement about the NHS trust finances to the Health and Social Services committee on 3 November. A paper outlining the issues had been circulated to committee members and the Minister would issue that paper to Members as a written statement.

This Week's Business

BC(2)29-05(p14)

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

6.3 The Business Minister said that the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration would be making a statement on proposed changes to the police forces in Wales later that day. She said that the motion under Standing Order 24.25 to approve The Education (Recognised Bodies) (Wales) Order 2005 and The Fishery Products (Official Controls Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2005, which had been scheduled for later that day, would be postponed until 29th November.

Business Manager's Requests

6.4 Business Managers welcomed the scheduling of a statement on proposed changes to the police forces in Wales, but added that they felt that a debate on an amendable motion in Government time was necessary.

6.5 David Melding asked if a statement or a debate could be scheduled on school discipline, with particular reference to school bullying.

6.6 Kirsty Williams asked if statements could be scheduled on GP services in Wales and E-Coli. Business Managers supported the latter request. The Business Minister said that the Minister for Health and Social Services had issued a written statement on the recent cases of E-Coli earlier that morning.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)30-05(p11)

6.7 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 22 November, 29 November and 6 December.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)30-05(p14)

7.1 Andrew George introduced a paper on a draft Seating Plan for the Siambur. He said that the Committee on Seating Arrangements, in its report to the Assembly on 21 October 2003, had made recommendations on the allocation of seats in the new Chamber. He said that the draft plan reflected changes to the numbers in party groups since October 2003, whilst maintaining the principles agreed by the Committee. Business Managers agreed to return to the issue in its next meeting following consultation with groups.

BC(2)30-05(p15)

7.2 The Committee noted the draft Annual Report of the Business Committee.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT