

Business Committee BC(2)24-05 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 27th September 2005

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room E

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

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 Virginia Hawkins, who was observing the meeting for training purposes.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)22-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 12th July 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)23-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 20th September 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

BC(2)23-05(draft Minutes)

3.1 **Paragraph 4.6** - Marion Stapleton reported back on issues relating to The Notification to and Co-operation with the NHS Business Services Authority (Awdurdod Gwasanaethau Busnes y GIG) Wales Directions 2005 (the Co-operation Directions) (BC(2)23-05(p13)) and the NHS Blood and Transplant (Gwaed a Thrawsblaniadau'r GIG) (Wales) Directions 2005 (BC(2)23-05(p14)). She said that it was intended to translate the Directions into Welsh before they were made.

3.2 **Paragraph 4.4** The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to the e-mail of notification about the North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee Byelaw 9. In response to a query, Marion Stapleton confirmed that a Welsh version of the Byelaw had not been prepared by the Environment Agency. She said that the Government encouraged outside bodies to provide Welsh versions of legislation. The Committee agreed that the Chair should write to the Environment Agency to express its dissatisfaction at the lack of a Welsh version of the Byelaw.

Action: Secretariat

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Change of Category of Maintained Schools (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p1)**

The New Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p2)**

The Annual Parents' Meeting (Exemptions) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p3)**

The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulation 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p4)**

The Governor Allowances (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p5)**

The Education Act 2002 (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p6)**

The Education Act 2002 (Commencement No. 7) (Wales) Order 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p7)**

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (Consequential Amendments)(Wales) Order 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p8)**

The TSE (Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)24-05(p9)**

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)24-05(p1) to BC(2)24-05(p6) and BC(2)24-05(p9). The Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)24-05(p7). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of these Orders need 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)24-05 (p8)

4.2 The Chair referred to the Annex to the Regulatory Appraisal accompanying this draft Order, which had been circulated in the meeting. The Business Minister said that the Annex contained a response to the consultation process for this draft Order, and suggested that consideration of the draft Order could be deferred until the next meeting to allow time for the Committee to consider the contents of the Annex. The Committee welcomed this suggestion.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

BC(2)24-05(p10)

4.3 The Business Committee noted the letter about the use of the Executive procedure for The Housing (Right of First Refusal) (Wales) Regulations 2005, and The Housing (Right to

Buy) (Information to Secure Tenants) (Wales) Order 2005.

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)24-05(p11)

5.1 The Committee noted the letter of notification from the Social Justice and Regeneration about an additional formal meeting on Thursday 6 October 2005.

BC(2)24-05(p15)

5.2 The Committee noted the letter of notification from the Economic Development and Transport Committee about additional formal meetings on Thursday 6 October and the Wednesday 2 November 2005.

BC(2)24-05(p16)

5.3 Karin Phillips introduced the paper on a review of Subject Committees. She said that the data which informed the review had been collected retrospectively and that she had some concerns about its reliability. She said that the paper would also be submitted to the Panel of Chairs shortly for consideration. The Chair referred to statistics in the review which said that Welsh versions of 50% of Subject Committee papers had not been distributed to Members within the 4 day deadline. Karin Phillips said that she had drawn this to the attention of the Government's translation unit. Members of the Business Committee welcomed the paper and said that it would form a good basis for future discussions. It was agreed that the Committee would return to this paper on 18 October, following consultation with groups, so that Karin Phillips would have time to prepare a timetable of Committee meetings for the next Periodic Timetable Statement.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)24-05(p12)

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

The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration would be making a statement on the proposed reduction in the number of police forces in England and Wales on 28 September.

There was no intention of making a statement on the postponement of the Council Tax Revaluation in England.

There was no intention of making a statement on recent reports in the media on the Barnett Formula. The Minister for Finance, Government and Public Services would be issuing a written statement on the issue shortly.

The Minister for Health and Social Service had responded to an urgent question on the e-coli outbreak in schools in South Wales on 20 September.

There was no intention of making a statement on the funding of NHS Community Hospitals as the issue would be covered in the "Designed for Life - 10 year Strategy for Health and Social Care" debate, which would take place in due course.

This Week's Business

BC(2)24-05(p13)

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 Health and Social Services would be making a statement on the recent e-coli outbreaks in South Wales. Business Managers said that a debate on this issue would be preferable. Jocelyn Davies said that it was intended to propose to hold an emergency debate on this issue. She said that consideration should be given to setting up an inquiry into the outbreaks and asked if Paul Silk could prepare a paper providing advice on this issue.

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

Business Manager's Requests

6.5 David Melding asked if a debate could be scheduled on Council Tax in Wales. Business Managers supported this request.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)24-05(p14)

6.6 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 4 October, 11 October and 18 October.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

9.1 Paul Silk introduced a paper on proposed amendments to Standing Order 23.2. He said that the proposed amendments would mean that the duty for publishing complaints codes for Welsh Assembly Government and Assembly Parliamentary Service staff would rest with the Permanent Secretary. It was noted that the Permanent Secretary would retain responsibility for APS until legal separation in 2007, and it was therefore appropriate for him to have this duty in respect of both parts of the Assembly's civil service. It was agreed that a Report of the Business Committee would be prepared and submitted to the Committee in its next meeting.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT