

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 22nd October 2002

Time: 9 a.m.

Venue: Room A3.13

Present: John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer (Chair)
Carwyn Jones, Minister for Assembly Business
Jonathan Morgan, Conservative Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Liberal Democrats Business Manager
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
David Lambert, Presiding Office Legal Unit
Marie Knox, Head of Committee Secretariat (agenda item 6)
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Alun Jenkins, Office of the Counsel General (agenda item 4)
Marc Wyn Jones, Chamber Secretariat/PS to Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC262-02 (Final) Tuesday 16th July 2002

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

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC290-02 (Draft) Tuesday 15th October 2002

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. A minor amendment was suggested which would be incorporated into the final version presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising (BC290-02 Tuesday 15th October 2002)

3.1 Paragraph 3.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer asked the Clerk if a paper on the delegation of powers to a reconstituted House Committee had been prepared. The Clerk said that he hoped to present a paper to the Committee at its next meeting.

3.2 Paragraph 8.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if the list of functions delegated to Ministers under the Government of Wales Act had been updated to include the functions delegated under the Education Act 2002 in Plenary on the 16th October. The Minister for Assembly Business said that the list was available on the Cabinet website and would be kept up to date.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Local Authorities (Operation of Different Executive or Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC292-02) *Recommended Procedure: Standard*

The Abortion (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 (BC293-02)
Recommended Procedure: Standard

4.1 The Business Committee considered papers BC292-02 to BC293-02 which provided advice on the handling of these orders and agreed the recommended procedure in each case.

The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of these Orders need be referred to a subject committee.

(b) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; papers to note.

BC294-02 - BC295-02

4.2 The Committee noted the letters from the Minister for Business to Members about the use of the Executive Procedure for various orders.

(c) Letters from Committees; papers to note.

5. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC296-02

5.1 The Committee considered the paper from the Clerk on the use of Assembly resources during the election campaign. The Deputy Presiding Officer noted that the draft protocol had been agreed by the House Committee and subsequently approved by the Electoral Commission. The members of the committee noted that as there was no period of dissolution, as in Westminster, Members would need to be scrupulous in their use of the Assembly's resources up to the day of the elections. There were still some uncertainties about the position of Assembly Members' support staff. It was agreed that Business Managers should consult with their groups and return to the issue at the Committee's next meeting.

5.2 The Committee also considered the dates for the final Plenary and the first Assembly meeting after the elections. It was agreed that early decisions were required.

6. Committees

BC299-02

6.1 The Business Committee agreed the paper from the Standards Committee on Freemasonry, which would now go forward to Plenary.

7. Forthcoming Business

(i) This Week's Business

7.1 The Committee considered paper BC297-02 which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

Tuesday 22nd October 2002

7.2 The Minister for Assembly Business said that the Minister for Health and Social Services would be making a statement on Play policy on 22nd October. The Minister for Assembly Business said that the motion to elect a new Member to the Health and Social Services Committee, which was scheduled for 22nd October, would not be moved. He wanted to consider the issue of party balance on the Committee before the election took place.

Wednesday 23rd October 2002

7.3 The Minister for Assembly Business said that the Motion to note the Annual Report of the Health Service Commissioner for Wales would be moved to the 30th October. A statement from the First Minister on the Earth Summit in Johannesburg would be scheduled in its place. He also said that the title of the statement by the Minister for Health and Social Services, which was scheduled for 23rd October, had been changed from Physical Punishment of children to Supporting Children and Parents in Wales.

(ii) Draft Business Statement

7.4 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing Tuesday 29th October, Tuesday 5th November and Tuesday 12th November.

7.5 Jocelyn Davies asked if statements would be made on the new Assembly building and on the Police and Criminal Justice Act. The Minister for Assembly Business said that there was no intention of making a statement on the Police and Criminal Justice Act.

7.6 Jocelyn Davies asked why a statement and not a debate on the Assembly Welsh Language Scheme had been scheduled for 29th October. The Minister for Assembly Business said that a statement had been scheduled because the Minister would be giving a progress report. He said that a debate would be scheduled in the future.

7.7 Jonathan Morgan asked if a statement would be made on the money being made available to schools to employ Teaching Assistants. The Minister for Assembly Business said that the Minister for Education might make a written statement.

7.8 Jonathan Morgan reiterated his requests for statements to be made on job losses at Allied Steel and Wire and Dewhurst's; the Cardiff Social Services' report on child services and the new Assembly building. The Minister for Assembly Business said there was presently no intention to make these statements.

7.9 Jocelyn Davies said that the debate on Geraint Davies' proposal for legislation under Standing Order 29 which was proposed for 12th November, would be outside the time period specified in Standing Orders. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the debate should be brought forward if that was the case.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

(a) Standing Orders

BC300-02

9.1 The Committee agreed the report on Standing Order changes arising from the Standard Committee's paper on declarations and voting in Plenary meetings. It was noted that a motion implementing these changes would be considered in Plenary on 5th November.

BC301-02

9.2 The Committee agreed the report on Standing Order changes arising from the Assembly Review of Procedures report. It was noted that motions implementing these changes would be considered in Plenary on 5th November.

BC302-02

9.3 The Committee agreed the paper on the proposed amendment to Standing Order 6.3 to enable Ministers to answer oral questions on their responsibilities. Business Managers agreed to consider a report outside of Committee so that the amendment could be included with the changes arising from the Assembly Review of Procedures report, which would be considered in Plenary on 5th November.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT