

Business Committee

BC(2)12-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 4th April 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

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

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats
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

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams. The Chair welcomed Peter Black who would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3. The Chair welcomed Katherine Potter, from the Members' Research Service, who was observing the meeting for training purposes.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)09-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 14th March 2006

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)10-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 21st March 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. As there were no comments, they would be translated before being submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

BC(2)11-06 (draft minutes)

3.1 Paragraph 4.2 Marion Stapleton reported back on issues relating to The Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2006 (BC(2)10-06(p7)). Jocelyn Davies had asked if the delay meant that an untested animal could be transported across borders during this period. Marion Stapleton said that she had been informed by officials that Animals would be moved in the period until the implementation of this Order in Wales on 2 May 2006. Existing Government advice was for farmers to voluntarily arrange for animals from high risk areas to be Pre-Movement Tested. She said that a more detailed explanation had been circulated out of Committee.

3.2 Paragraph 4.5 The Chair asked if there had been any progress with arrangements for a debate on Gwenda Thomas' Standing Order 31 proposal. The Business Minister said that the consultation process for the proposed guidance was ongoing and that a motion would be timetabled when the process had ended. The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if an interim solution could be found which would satisfy the outstanding requirements of Standing Order 31.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Plant Health (Phytophthora ramorum) (Wales) Order 2006 - BC(2)12-06 (p1)

The Plant Protection Products (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)12-06 (p2)

The Protection of Water Against Agricultural Nitrate Pollution (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)12-06 (p3)

The Education Act 2005 (Commencement No. 1) (Wales) Order 2006 - BC(2)12-06 (p4)

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)12-06(p1) and the Standard procedure for BC(2)12-06(p3). (Following the meeting, the Presiding Officer determined that none of these draft Orders need be referred to a Subject Committee.)

BC(2)12-06 (p4)

4.1 Jocelyn Davies referred to paragraph 69 in the Explanatory Memorandum, which said that the Minister had recommended the Accelerated procedure “because it is a technical Commencement Order and the provisions of the Education Act 2005 were debated in Plenary on 7 June 2005 when Members voted unanimously to delegate the functions to the First Minister.” She said that this was not a valid reason for recommending the Accelerated procedure and said that her group wanted to debate the draft Order.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

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

- A debate on the Government's environment strategy and action plan would be scheduled when they were published.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the implications of the Public Sector strike and its impact on services for the elderly as pensions were a non-devolved matter.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on proposals to change political registration as this was not a Government matter.
- There was currently no intention for scheduling a debate on John Furlong's report on Initial Teacher Training. The issue had been discussed in the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee on 29 March.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on a report in the media about predicted NHS job losses in Wales
- A statement on progress towards introducing the smoking ban in Wales would be made in due course.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the review of health services in Mid and West Wales until the public consultation on proposals set out in "Designed to Deliver", which contained the proposals for Mid and West Wales, has concluded and the responses collated.

- A written statement on the funding of child mental health services had been issued.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on "Supporting People" as the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration regularly updated the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on the issue.
- A written statement had been issued on the Government's intentions for the allocation for further money made available by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's budget. The Government would be tabling an in-year motion to seek approval for the budget allocations.

6.2 Peter Black said that the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills had indicated in a meeting of the School Funding Committee that Plenary approval would not be required for the allocation of additional funding, arising from the Budget, to Local Education Authorities. The Business Minister said that the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning would be consulting Business Managers on the proposals shortly. The Business Minister said that she would consult and report back on whether or not Assembly approval was required.

This Week's Business

BC(2)12-06(p6)

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

6.4 The Business Minister said that a statement on the Safeguarding Vulnerable Children Review, which had been scheduled for Tuesday, would be postponed until 3rd May. She said that it would be replaced by a Statement on Accessible Venues Guidance, which had been scheduled for Wednesday.

Business Managers' Requests

6.5 Jocelyn Davies asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on additional funding arising from the Chancellor's budget.
- A statement on a proposed consultation on the Welsh Language Board.
- A statement on projects and organisations previously funded by the WDA.
- A debate on the Legislative Reform Bill.

6.6 Peter Black asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the level of deregation in relation to former WDA staff.
- A statement on the Football Association of Wales and Welsh Language issues.

6.7 Lisa Francis asked if the following item of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the Welsh Screen Commission.
- A statement on the Turner Report.
- A statement on the rebranding of the merged ASPBs.
- A debate on epilepsy services.
- A debate on Designed to Deliver.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)12-06(p7)

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 2 May, 9 May and 16 May.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)12-06(p8)

7.1 The Committee noted the paper on Tabling Days following the Easter recess.

BC(2)12-06(p9)

7.2 The Committee noted the report on the Parliamentary progress of Bills of relevance to the Assembly.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

BC(2)12-06(p10)

9.1 The Committee noted the paper from the Business Minister on proposals to amend Standing Order 23. It was agreed that APS officials, in consultation with Government officials, would prepare draft amendments for the Committee's consideration.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT