

Business Committee

BC(2)20-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 27th June 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.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)17-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 13th June 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)18-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 20th June 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. Some amendments were suggested which would be incorporated before the minutes were translated and submitted to the Committee in final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Kava-kava in Food (Wales) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)20-06 (p1) *Recommended Procedure: Standard*

The Contaminants in Food (Wales) (No. 2) Regulations 2006 - BC(2)20-06 (p2) *Recommended Procedure: Standard*

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)20-06(p1) and BC(2)20-06(p2). (Following the meeting, the Deputy Presiding Officer determined that neither of the draft Orders should be referred to a subject committee.)

BC(2)20-06(p1)

4.1 The Chair referred to paragraph 28 of the Explanatory Memorandum, which said that the Regulations had been notified to the Health and Social Services Committee on 2 March 2005, and asked why there had been a delay in bringing the legislation forward. Alun Jenkins said that the delay had been caused by a legal challenge to the implementation of the Regulations. It was agreed that this information should be made clear in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)20-06(p3)

6.1 The Committee noted the Business Minister's responses to requests for items of business:

- There was no intention of scheduling a debate on the Government's forward work programme, as any issues could be raised during the debate on the First Minister's Annual report scheduled for the end of term.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on multi-agency risk assessments of offenders. However, the Minister would consider with her colleagues the best way in which information could be provided to Members.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on the comments made by Terrence Grange and the implications of future Home Office policies for the Children's Commissioner for Wales.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on Welsh medium school places. However, she encouraged Members who had specific concerns to write to the ELL Minister directly.
- A written statement had been issued on the quality of bathing waters around Wales.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on the future of IGER as responsibility for this rested with DEFRA. However, the Minister for Environment, Planning

and Countryside would continue to update the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee on this issue.

- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the Severn barrage as there was nothing new to add following the written statement which had been issued in response to the UK Government's Energy Review.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the future of the Tir Mynydd scheme, as the issue had been discussed at length in the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee over the past month.
- A written statement had been issued on licensing for oil and gas exploration in Cardigan Bay.
- There was no intention of scheduling a debate on No Named Day Motion 3075 on the Music Development Fund.
- There was currently no intention of making a statement on the Welsh Language Board merger as the process was still ongoing and the Minister would bring forward a statement in due course.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the new structures within the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Group as information on the structure and personnel of the Group was available on the Assembly's intranet site.
- There was currently no intention of scheduling a statement on financial aid for businesses hit by the closure of the A5. However, the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks would be providing an update on this issue at an appropriate time and certainly before the summer recess.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the regulation of buses.

6.2 Lisa Francis referred to the statement on the Welsh Language Boards Merger and asked if it could be scheduled to take place before the forthcoming debate on the Annual Report of Iaith Pawb, which was scheduled for 11 July.

6.3 Jocelyn Davies referred to the debate on the Government's forward work programme, and noted that the Minister had said that "*any issues could be raised during the debate on the First Minister's Annual report scheduled for the end of term.*" She said that the debate on the First Minister's Annual Report was, by definition, retrospective and that she was seeking a debate on the Government's plans

for the future.

This Week's Business

BC(2)18-06(p11)

6.4 The Business Minister said that no motion had been tabled for the election of a Planning Decision Committee, which had been scheduled for Tuesday.

Business Managers' Requests

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

- A statement on the oil spill off the coast of North Wales.
- A statement on ambulance cover.
- An updating statement on the recommendations of the Clywch Inquiry.
- A statement on overcrowding in prisons and the implications for Welsh families.

6.6 Lisa Francis supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the recent disturbances in Criccieth.
- A statement on the Government's intentions regarding holding an inquiry into the ambulance service.

6.7 Peter Black supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the funding of Community Radio.
- A statement on playing fields.
- A debate on the No Named Day Motion on the music development fund.

6.8 Jocelyn Davies referred to the Assembly's resolution of 20 June to hold an inquiry into ambulance services in Wales, and asked if the Business Minister could clarify the Government's intentions. The Business Minister said that the Minister for Health and Social Services had discussed the issue with the Health and Social Services Committee and said that the Minister and the Committee would be seeking to take the issue forward. Jocelyn Davies said that the Assembly's resolution had called for a panel to be established to recommend a chair for the inquiry to the Assembly and asked if this could be included on the draft Business Statement.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)20-06(p5)

6.9 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 4 July, 11 July and 19 September.

6.10 The Chair referred to the debate on Mike German's Standing Order 31 proposal, which had been scheduled as the final debate on 4 July. She said that the debate should be held on that day in order to comply with the requirements of Standing Order 31 and asked if the Business Minister could give a commitment that she would move a motion to extend the meeting, if there was not sufficient time. The Business Minister said that she would move a motion to extend the meeting, if necessary.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

BC(2)20-06(p6)

7.1 The Business Committee considered and agreed a paper on the notification of the Deputy Presiding Officer's determinations on consideration of draft Orders. The Chair said that the proposed new procedure for notification meant that the determinations would not be read out by the Business Minister but would be included in the draft Business Statement, which was made available on the Plenary agenda. She said that the full text of the determinations would also be included in the Record of Proceedings. Jocelyn Davies asked if the Business Minister, in her speech on the draft Business Statement, could refer to the determinations, so that Members would have the opportunity to raise an objection, if they so wished.

BC(2)20-06(p7)

7.2 The Committee noted the letter from the Conservative group, which said that it felt that the use of the technology in the Chamber for a PowerPoint presentation during Mick Bates' short debate on 21 June was inappropriate. Business Managers said that they thought that the experiment had generally worked well, but that some issues required further thought, including broadcasting and accessibility. Peter Black suggested that any technical issues should be referred to the House Committee and that the procedural issues should be considered by officials and the Standing Orders Committee. Peter Black and Jocelyn Davies said that they would not want to see PowerPoint presentations being used outside the Short Debate. The Business Minister said she would consult her group on its view and report back on the issue in its next meeting.

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT