

Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 5th February 2002

The Session commenced at 2.00pm

Oral Questions to the First Minister

The first 10 questions were answered.

2.45pm

The Presiding Officer welcomed the Right Hon Robin Cook MP, Leader of the House of Commons, who was present in the public gallery.

2.46pm

Sue Essex, the Minister for Environment, answered an urgent question from Nicholas Bourne on the co-ordination of measures to tackle the flood crisis that has occurred in Mid Wales.

3.16pm

Statement: The Minister for Health & Social Services on Palliative Care

3.42pm

Statement: The Minister for Health & Social Services on the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales Legislative Programme

4.06pm

Business Statement: the Assembly Business Minister

The business statement was agreed

4.09pm

Points of Order

Rhodri Glyn Thomas under Standing Order 6.12A about documents supporting the debate on Sustainable Development under Item 8.

Gwenda Thomas under Standing Order 16.1 about complaints about Members. **The Presiding Officer** confirmed that under the Complaints Procedure all complaints about Members have to be made to the Presiding Officer in the first instance. He decides, in the light of advice from Richard Penn, the Independent Adviser on Standards, whether a complaint is within the Standards Committee's remit.

Glyn Davies about the confidentiality of the House Committee in view of recent announcements to the press. **The Presiding Officer** confirmed he would be referring the matter to the Standards Committee.

Richard Edwards regarding references to the "London Government". The **Presiding Officer** agreed that such references were confusing.

4.20pm

Approval under SO22.25:

The Miscellaneous Food Additives (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002

NDM945 - To propose that the National Assembly, acting under Standing Order 22.25:

Approves:

1. The Miscellaneous Food Additives (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 laid in the Table Office on 8 January 2002; and
2. Considers the report of the Legislation Committee which has not identified any matters for concern in the draft order The Miscellaneous Food Additives (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, laid in the Table Office on 22 January 2002

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 46; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 46

The motion was carried

4.21pm

The Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair

Approval of the Special Grant Report on reducing class sizes and raising standards in poorly performing schools

NDM944 - To propose that the National Assembly:

Under S88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No 23) (Wales) 2001 which was laid in the Table Office on 28 January 2002.

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 48; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 48

The motion was carried

4.46pm

Revision to Standing Order 4 - alterations to the Registration & Declaration of Members' Interests

NDM943 - To propose that the National Assembly acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act and Standing Order 34:

1. considers the report of the Standards Committee and the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 28 January 2002; and

2. approve the following revision of standing orders:

Delete Standing Order 4 ANNEX in its entirety and replace with the following:

"Standing Order 4 ANNEX

The interests which are to be registered in the Register of Interests of Assembly Members and which are to be declared before speaking in any Assembly proceedings

[Note: Members should, in listing their registrable interests, have regard to any relevant resolutions, Codes of Practice or Guidance Notes which the Assembly may have adopted on this matter.]

General

I. Any remunerated activity in the areas of public relations, and political advice and consultancy relating to the functions of the Assembly shall be included in that part of the register relating to remunerated employment, office or profession. Such activity includes any action connected with any proceedings in the Assembly, or a committee or sub-committee of the Assembly, the sponsoring of functions in the Assembly buildings, and making representations to the Assembly Cabinet or any of its Members.

II. The majority of the interests specified in the Categories below include a reference to interests independently possessed by or given to the partner or any dependent child of the Member, and these must also be registered if such interests are known to the Member.

III. For the purposes of the registration and declaration of interests specified in the categories:-

a) a Member's partner means a spouse or one of a couple whether of the same sex or of the opposite sex who although not married to each other are living together and treat each other as spouses; and

b) a dependent child is any person who, at the time of registration is under the age of sixteen or is under the age of nineteen and receiving fulltime education by attendance at a recognised educational establishment and is:-

(a) a child of the Member; or

(b) a step-child of the Member by marriage; or

(c) a child legally adopted by the Member, or

(d) a child who, the Member intends to legally adopt; or

(e) a child who, for at least the previous 6 calendar months has been financially supported by the Member.

The Registrable Interests

The registrable interests are:

1. Directorships held by the Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, in public and private companies including directorships which are individually unremunerated but where remuneration is paid through another company in the same group.
2. Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation (apart from membership of the Assembly) for which the Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, is remunerated, or in which the Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, has any pecuniary interest.
3. The names of clients when the interests referred to above include services by the Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, which arise out of, or are related in any manner to, his or her membership of the Assembly.
4. Gifts, hospitality, material benefits or advantage above a value specified in any resolution of the Assembly received by the Member or, to the Member's knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, from any company, organisation or person and relating to or arising out of membership of the Assembly.
5. Any remuneration or other material benefit which a Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, receives from any public or private company or other body which has tendered for, is tendering for, or has, a contract with the Assembly.
6. Financial sponsorship (i) as a candidate for election to the Assembly, where to the knowledge of the Member the sponsorship in any case exceeds 25 per cent of the candidate's election expenses, or (ii) as a Member of the Assembly by any person or organisation, stating whether any such sponsorship includes any payment to the Member or any material benefit or advantage.
7. Subject to any resolution of the Assembly, overseas visits made by the Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, relating to or arising out of membership of the Assembly where the cost of any such visit has not been wholly borne by the Member or by public funds.
8. Any land and property, of the Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, which has a substantial value as specified in any resolution of the Assembly or from which a substantial income is derived other than any home used for the personal residential purposes of the Member or the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member.
9. The names of companies or other bodies in which the Member has, either alone or with or on behalf of the Member's partner or any dependent child, a beneficial interest or in which, to the

Members knowledge, the Member's partner or a dependent child has a beneficial interest in shareholdings of a nominal value greater than one per cent of the issued share capital, or less than one per cent but more than an amount specified in any resolution of the Assembly.

10. Paid or unpaid membership or chairmanship by the Member or, to the Members knowledge, the Member's partner or any dependent child of the Member, of any body funded in whole or in part by the Assembly.

11. Membership by the Member of the Freemasons. "

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 42; Abstain 0; Against 6; Total 48

The motion was carried by the required 2/3rds majority

5.07pm

The Assembly Business Minister proposed a procedural motion under Standing Order 6.10 to postpone the following debate.

A vote was taken:

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 46; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 46

The motion was carried

Motion on the Sustainable Development Scheme

NDM946 -To propose that the National Assembly:

1. Welcomes progress being made towards sustainable development in Wales;
2. Calls on the Minister for the Environment to publish a report in the Spring on the implementation of proposals in the Sustainable Development Scheme during the financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02, and to update the Sustainable Development Action Plan in the light of progress to date.

A copy of "Learning to Live Differently - The Sustainable Development Scheme of the National Assembly was laid in Table Office on 9 November 2000.

A copy of the Sustainable Development Action Plan was laid in Table Office on 20 February 2001.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1- Jonathan Morgan (South Wales Central)

Delete points 1 and 2 and add new paragraph:

"Notes with disappointment the lack of progress in implementing the principles of the Sustainable Development Plan."

Amendment 2 - Jocelyn Davies (South East Wales)

In point 1 delete "Welcomes" and insert "Notes".

Amendment 3 - Jocelyn Davies (South East Wales)

At the end of motion add new point.

"Calls on the Business Minister to schedule a full Plenary debate on the report mentioned in paragraph 2, as soon as possible after its publication."

Amendment 4 - Jocelyn Davies (South East Wales)

At the end of motion add new point.

"Calls on the Government to ensure that the First Minister represents Wales at the Johannesburg Earth Summit."

Amendment 5 - Jocelyn Davies (South East Wales)

At the end of motion add new point.

"Asserts that climate change should be a major consideration in the National Assembly's Scheme and calls for the creation of a low carbon economy to be designated as a key objective for Welsh economic development policy."

The session concluded at 5.11pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

9.05 am on Thursday, 7th February 2002

E P Silk

Clerk to the Assembly

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET

Documents laid on 31 January 2002

Resource Accounts for the Forestry Commission in Wales - LD1237

The Forest Enterprise in Wales Accounts for the Year ended 31 March 2001 - LD1236