

THE NEW NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Monday 20 July 1998 at 10.30 am
in the Private Dining Room, Room 120
Parliament Buildings

Present:

Mr P Weir	Mr N Dodds
Mr D S Dalton	Mr G Campbell
Mr F Cobain	Mr C Murphy
Dr E Birnie*	Mr J Kelly
Mr D Haughey	Mr A Maskey*
Ms B Rodgers	Mr S Neeson*
Mr M Durkan*	Mr N Boyd*
Mr A Attwood*	Ms J Morrice
Rev Dr I Paisley MP MEP	Mr W Hutchinson*

*Members acting as substitutes.

In the Chair: Mr N Carson

In Attendance: Mr M Barnes

1. ROLL-CALL

The Chairman called the roll and marked members present, noting those who were acting as substitutes in accordance with the agreement on this issue made at the first meeting.

2. OBSERVER STATUS ON THE COMMITTEE FOR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

The Chairman confirmed that as requested, the Secretariat had written to the independent members seeking views on this issue. He reported that no response had been received. It was unanimously agreed to postpone this topic until the next meeting.

3. SUBSTITUTION

Before proceeding to the next item on the Agenda, Mr Haughey raised a point of order relating to the previous meeting, particularly the nomination of Dr Paisley by a member who had been acting as a substitute before the Committee had agreed on the use of substitutes.

Following discussion during which Dr Paisley indicated that he did not wish to stand for the office of Chairman of the Committee because of other business commitments.

Agreed: that in future there should be a roll call prior to the commencement of business.

4. CHAIRMAN'S CASTING VOTE

Dr Birnie raised the question of the Chairman having a casting vote in the event of a tie. Following Discussion:

Agreed: that the Chairman should not have a casting vote, the Committee reconsidering its stance on an issue in the event of a tie.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Mr Carson called for nominations for the office of Chairperson. The following proposals were made:

Mr F Cobain - proposed by Rev Dr I Paisley MP MEP
seconded by Mr P Weir

Mr D Haughey - proposed by Ms B Rodgers
seconded by Mr M Durkan

Mr Carson then put the Question regarding the proposal that Mr Cobain should be Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee divided: Ayes 9 Noes 9

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>
Mr P Weir	Mr A Attwood
Mr D S Dalton	Mr D Haughey
Mr F Cobain	Ms B Rodgers
Dr E Birnie	Mr M Durkan
Rev Dr I Paisley MP MEP	Mr C Murphy
Mr N Dodds	Mr A Maskey
Mr G Campbell	Mr J Kelly
Mr N Boyd	Mr S Neeson
Mr W Hutchinson	Ms J Morrice

Mr Carson then put the Question regarding the proposal that Mr Haughey should be Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee divided: Ayes 9 Noes 9

Ayes

Mr A Attwood
Mr D Haughey
Ms B Rodgers
Mr M Durkan
M C Murphy
Mr A Maskey
Mr J Kelly
Mr S Neeson
Ms J Morrice

Noes

Mr P Weir
Mr D S Dalton
Mr F Cobain
Dr E Birnie
Rev Dr I Paisley MP MEP
Mr N Dodds
Mr G Campbell
Mr N Boyd
Mr W Hutchinson

- Agreed:
- that in the circumstances, Mr Carson should continue in the Chair;
 - that parties would consider the issue prior to the next meeting when the election of a Chairman would appear on the Agenda.

6. CONSIDERATION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr Carson referred to the material circulated by the Secretariat for the information of Members and asked how the Committee wished to proceed. He suggested that the Secretariat could, with reference to the 1973 Assembly Standing Order, prepare a list of non-contentious and more difficult Standing Orders. In addition, he read to the Committee a letter dated 9 July 1998 from Mr Paul Murphy MP, Minister of State (copy attached for information).

Following discussion —

- Agreed:
- that the Secretariat should produce a working draft of non-contentious rules, based on the 1973 Assembly Standing Orders;
 - that the working draft should also address the more contentious orders, indicating options where possible;
 - that the Committee would address additional Standing Orders proposed by the Secretary of State (advised in the letter from Mr Murphy) in due course;
 - that the requirements for Standing Orders outlined in the Northern Ireland Bill should also be addressed in due course.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Press Issues

Agreed: - that if the Presiding Officer is content, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee to assist the Presiding Officer should be circulated to members of the Committee on Standing Orders to ensure that press issues are properly addressed;

(ii) Copies of minutes, papers et cetera to members acting as substitutes.

Following discussion.

Agreed: - that members attending a meeting of the Committee on Standing Orders should receive the minutes of that meeting and any papers requested or forwarded as a result of discussion at that meeting;

- that these papers should be passed on if necessary to the members attending the next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

Agreed: that the next meeting of the Committee should take place at 10.30 am on Monday 27 July 1998.

Noted: that Dr Paisley could not attend and would be represented by a substitute.

cc Committee Members
Initial Presiding Officer
Party Whips
Deputy Clerk (Business)
Second Clerk (Business)

FROM: NIGEL CARSON
ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
21 JULY 1998

CC: Presiding Officer
Party Whips

UUP

Mr P Weir
Mr D S Dalton
Mr F Cobain
Dr E Birnie*

SDLP

Mr M Durkan*
Mr D Haughey
Ms B Rodgers
Mr A Attwood*

DUP

Rev Dr I Paisley MP MEP
Mr N Dodds
Mr G Campbell

Sinn Fein

Mr C Murphy
Mr A Maskey*
Mr J Kelly

Alliance Party

Mr S Neeson*

UKUP

Mr N Boyd*

NIWC

Ms J Morrice

PUP

Mr W Hutchinson*

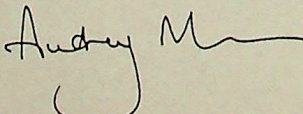
* Member acting as a substitute

COMMITTEE ON STANDING ORDERS

This is to confirm that the next meeting of the Committee on Standing Orders will be held on Monday 27 July 1998 at 10.30 am in Room 120, the Private Dining Room, Parliament Buildings.

A G E N D A

1. Observer Status on Committee for a Representative of the Independent Members.
2. Election of Chairperson.
3. Consideration of Standing Orders.
4. Any Other Business.
5. Date, Time, Venue of Next Meeting.



R NIGEL CARSON