



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Tuesday 14 June 2016

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Tuesday 14 June 2016

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ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND REFORM COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2016, Session 5

CONVENER

*Graeme Dey (Angus South) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Con)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Lab)

Alexander Burnett (Aberdeenshire West) (Con)

*Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Con)

*Kate Forbes (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) (SNP)

*Emma Harper (South Scotland) (SNP)

*Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (SNP)

*Gail Ross (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (SNP)

*Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Green)

*David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Lynn Tullis

LOCATION

The Robert Burns Room (CR1)

Scottish Parliament

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Tuesday 14 June 2016

[Claudia Beamish opened the meeting at 10:01]

Decision on Taking Business in Private

Claudia Beamish (South Scotland) (Lab):
Good morning, everybody, and welcome to the first meeting in 2016 of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee. I am an MSP for South Scotland. As the oldest member of the committee—or, as I prefer to call it, the most senior member of the committee—I have the pleasure of convening the meeting for the first three items of business. I welcome all members to their new roles.

This new committee has an incredible responsibility and a precious opportunity in relation to climate change to scrutinise and support the step change that is needed at all levels of society if we are to protect our planet and communities and develop a new quality of life for everyone in Scotland and across the world for today and tomorrow. Our responsibilities as custodians of Scotland's magnificent environment range across land, sea and air. Helping to guide sustainable development is a complex challenge that I am sure we will all rise to. Our Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 will bring much significant secondary legislation to our committee and enable people in rural and urban Scotland greater opportunities to better control their own destiny. I very much look forward to working with everyone in a productive and effective manner.

Before we move to the first item on the agenda, I remind everyone present to please switch off mobile phones et cetera, as they may affect the broadcasting system. However, you may notice some committee members consulting tablets rather than using paper during the meeting because we provide meeting papers electronically. As the committee deals with climate change and the environment, I hope that members will consult their tablets; that is a shift for me, but there we go.

It is important to note that we have received apologies from Alexander Burnett MSP.

The first item on the committee's agenda is to consider whether to take item 5, on the development of the work programme, in private. Do members agree to do so?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Interests

10:03

Claudia Beamish: The second item on the agenda is to allow committee members to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's work. Background information has been provided in a note from the clerk.

I declare that I am a member of the Campaign for Borders Rail.

Maurice Golden (West Scotland) (Con): I refer members to the register of interests, in which I have listed Zero Waste Scotland, until the point when I ceased working for it on 20 May.

I also refer members to a project that I conducted for the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management that looked at the application of the circular economy in other European nations. The bulk of the work was conducted prior to my being elected, but it must be registered, as the publication of the article and associated presentation will take place in the summer.

I also refer members to my membership of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management and to the fact that I am a WasteSmart trainer for the United Kingdom. I am happy to offer any members training as required on that.

Claudia Beamish: Thank you, Maurice, particularly for that offer of help.

Graeme Dey (Angus South) (SNP): I am not aware of any interests that I require to declare.

Mark Ruskell (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Green): I declare that I am a councillor for the Dunblane and Bridge of Allan ward in Stirling Council. I am also on the board of the Strathallan Community Rail Partnership.

Kate Forbes (Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) (SNP): I am not aware of any interests that I have to declare.

Emma Harper (South Scotland) (SNP): Gail Ross asked about such interests before the meeting. I am a member of the Dogs Trust.

Angus MacDonald (Falkirk East) (SNP): I own a property in the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar authority area on an island that is subject to a current community buyout attempt, which might be of relevance to this committee during this session of Parliament. Otherwise, I have nothing to declare.

Finlay Carson (Galloway and West Dumfries) (Con): I declare that I am a councillor on Dumfries and Galloway Council and currently a member of NFU Scotland. In the interests of transparency, I declare that I am a partner who owns 20 acres in

south-west Scotland, but I have been advised that that is not a registrable interest.

Gail Ross (Caithness, Sutherland and Ross) (SNP): I am a councillor for the Wick ward in Highland Council. I am a member of the Scottish Rural Parliament. I am member of the board of management of North Highland College. I am a member of the Dogs Trust, Cats Protection and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I am also vice-president of the Friends of the Far North Line.

David Stewart (Highlands and Islands) (Lab): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Claudia Beamish: Thank you. As you see, we have a particular wealth of experience and we will not be wanting for people to go to when it comes to animal welfare, which is reassuring.

Convener

10:07

Claudia Beamish: We move to agenda item 3 and the committee's next task, which is to choose a convener. The procedure is explained in paper 2. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as convener of this committee. I understand that Graeme Dey is the party's nominee for the post, and I invite an SNP member to nominate him.

Kate Forbes: I nominate Graeme Dey.

Graeme Dey was chosen as convener.

Claudia Beamish: I know that Graeme will bring so much wisdom and experience as convener. As long as we promise not to fight about who is asking questions about behaviour change, convener, we will be in very safe hands. I now vacate the chair. Thank you. [*Applause.*]

Deputy Convener

10:09

The Convener (Graeme Dey): Thank you, Claudia, and the committee. The committee's next task is to choose a deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of this committee, and I understand that the nominee is Maurice Golden. I invite a member of his party to nominate him for the post.

Finlay Carson: I nominate Maurice Golden.

Maurice Golden was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations to Maurice Golden. [*Applause.*]

I now close the public part of the meeting and the committee will move into private session, as agreed earlier, to discuss its future work programme.

10:09

Meeting continued in private until 11:05.

This is the final edition of the *Official Report* of this meeting. It is part of the Scottish Parliament *Official Report* archive and has been sent for legal deposit.

Published in Edinburgh by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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