

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday 4 December 2001
(*Morning*)

Session 1

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

26th Meeting 2001, Session 1

CONVENER

*Des McNulty (Clydebank and Milngavie) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Elaine Thomson (Aberdeen North) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Brian Adam (North-East Scotland) (SNP)

*Mr David Davidson (North-East Scotland) (Con)

Donald Gorrie (Central Scotland) (LD)

*Tom McCabe (Hamilton South) (Lab)

*Alasdair Morgan (Galloway and Upper Nithsdale) (SNP)

*attended

ACTING CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

David McGill

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Anne Peat

ASSISTANT CLERK

Gerald McNally

LOCATION

Committee Room 2

Scottish Parliament

Finance Committee

Tuesday 4 December 2001

(Morning)

[THE DEPUTY CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:02*]

The Deputy Convener (Elaine Thomson): I welcome everyone to the 26th meeting in 2001 of the Finance Committee. We have received apologies from Donald Gorrie.

We have some changes to make this morning. However, first I acknowledge the work that Mike Watson and Richard Simpson have put into the committee over the past two years. In particular, Mike Watson performed his work as convener of the committee extremely effectively. I am sure that we all wish them well in their new roles as part of the ministerial team.

Interests

The Deputy Convener: Our first agenda item is the declaration of interests by our two new members. I welcome Des McNulty and Tom McCabe to the committee and invite them to declare any interests.

Des McNulty (Clydebank and Milngavie) (Lab): I am a member of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, which I suppose is a relevant interest. I am also the deputy chairman of an organisation called the Wise Group, which receives funding from the Scottish Executive. I do that work in an entirely voluntary and unpaid capacity.

Mr Tom McCabe (Hamilton South) (Lab): I am a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union. As far as I know, and on the basis of surface-level advice that I have taken so far, that is all that I require to declare, other than the fact that Celtic is 12 points ahead in the league.

The Deputy Convener: I am sure that that is all good and that it keeps us happy.

Convener

The Deputy Convener: Under agenda item 2, we must choose a new convener. The standing orders of the Parliament determine that the convener of the Finance Committee will be a member of the Labour party. I invite nominations from members of the committee.

Mr McCabe: I nominate Des McNulty.

The Deputy Convener: I second that.

There is only one nomination. If that nomination is agreed, we can welcome Des McNulty as the new convener of the Finance Committee.

Des McNulty was chosen as convener.

The Convener (Des McNulty): I thank Elaine Thomson and the other members of the committee. I look forward very much to working with them all as convener and as a member of the committee.

I hope that members will be relatively gentle with me, because the committee is engaged in on-going business and, as new members, it will take Tom McCabe and me some time to get up to speed with what the committee has been doing.

It was agreed at a previous meeting that we would take item 3 in private.

10:06

Meeting continued in private until 10:15.

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