

AIRDRIE-BATHGATE RAILWAY AND LINKED IMPROVEMENTS BILL COMMITTEE

Wednesday 28 June 2006

Session 2

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AIRDRIE-BATHGATE RAILWAY AND LINKED IMPROVEMENTS BILL COMMITTEE 1st Meeting 2006, Session 2

OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER

*Phil Gallie (South of Scotland) (Con)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Janis Hughes (Glasgow Rutherglen) (Lab)

*Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)

*Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab)

*Jeremy Purvis (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale) (LD)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Fergus Cochrane

LOCATION

Committee Room 2

Scottish Parliament

Airdrie-Bathgate Railway and Linked Improvements Bill Committee

Wednesday 28 June 2006

[THE OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER *opened the meeting at 13:33*]

Interests

Phil Gallie (Oldest Committee Member): My commiserations, fellow members; we are all in the same boat. I welcome everyone to the first meeting of the Airdrie-Bathgate Railway and Linked Improvements Bill Committee. By dint of age, I will convene the meeting at the outset. No apologies have been received.

Under our first agenda item, I ask all committee members to make a declaration of interests and declaration of impartiality. The declaration of interests is a statutory requirement; I advise members that they should err on the side of caution by declaring any interest that would prejudice, or give the appearance of prejudicing, their ability to participate in a disinterested manner in the proceedings of the committee.

Standing orders require members to declare that they will act impartially in their capacity as members of the committee and that they will base their decisions solely on the evidence and information that is provided to us. It would make sense for members to make that declaration at the same time as they make any declaration of interests.

Cathy Peattie (Falkirk East) (Lab): I have no interests to declare or other declaration to make.

Jeremy Purvis (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale) (LD): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Janis Hughes (Glasgow Rutherglen) (Lab): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP): I have no relevant interests to declare.

Phil Gallie: Neither have I.

Convener

13:34

Phil Gallie: Under agenda item 2, we must make our choice of convener. The basis for that decision is set by bodies other than this committee. I seek nominations for the post of convener.

Alasdair Morgan: I propose yourself as convener, convener.

Phil Gallie: Other than by age? Okay. Is that acceptable to everybody?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener (Phil Gallie): Thank you.

Deputy Convener

13:35

The Convener: Under agenda item 3, we must elect a deputy convener. I believe that Alasdair Morgan is the sole nominee.

Cathy Peattie: We will have Alasdair Morgan.

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: Since there is no dissent, I welcome Alasdair Morgan to the position of deputy convener.

Item in Private

13:35

The Convener: Under agenda item 4, I seek members' agreement to take item 5, which is discussion of an approach paper, in private. That is normal practice with such papers. Are we agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: In keeping with the open and accessible workings of the committee, I seek members' agreement that the clerk will record in the minutes of proceedings, which will be posted on our website, the main decisions that the committee takes in private session with respect to witnesses, the issues on which we will seek written evidence and the provisional timetable for oral evidence-taking meetings. Following the meeting, the clerk will write to the promoter with questions and an invitation to submit further written evidence. I propose that that letter should also be posted on our website, where people who are following the bill's progress can see it.

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: Finally, I seek members' views on the way in which each of us should approach any request by other members of the Parliament, the public, objectors or organisations for an individual meeting. As members are aware, it is important that each member of the committee not only acts impartially but is seen to act impartially. In my view, outwith meetings of the committee, each of us should avoid discussing the bill with others, including members, at individual meetings. Given the importance of impartiality, I propose that all approaches to us as individual members or as a committee, including written communications, should be referred to our clerk. Are we agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

13:38

Meeting continued in private until 13:58.

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