

RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 25 February 2009

Session 3

£5.00

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body 2009.

Applications for reproduction should be made in writing to the Licensing Division,
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, St Clements House, 2-16 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BQ
Fax 01603 723000, which is administering the copyright on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate
Body.

Produced and published in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body by RR
Donnelley.

CONTENTS

Wednesday 25 February 2009

	Col.
INTERESTS	1473
CONVENER	1474
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE.....	1475

RURAL AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

6th Meeting 2009, Session 3

CONVENER

*Maureen Watt (North East Scotland) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*John Scott (Ayr) (Con)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karen Gillon (Clydesdale) (Lab)

Liam McArthur (Orkney) (LD)

*Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP)

*Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab)

*Peter Peacock (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

*Bill Wilson (West of Scotland) (SNP)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTES

*Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

Jamie Hepburn (Central Scotland) (SNP)

*Jim Hume (South of Scotland) (LD)

Nanette Milne (North East Scotland) (Con)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Peter McGrath

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Roz Wheeler

LOCATION

Committee Room 1

Scottish Parliament

Rural Affairs and Environment Committee

Wednesday 25 February 2009

[THE DEPUTY CONVENER *opened the meeting at 10:00*]

Interests

The Deputy Convener (John Scott): I welcome committee members and members of the public to the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee's sixth meeting of the year. I suggest that mobile phones should be switched off or put on flight mode—whichever seems more appropriate—so let me switch mine off now. Liam McArthur has sent his apologies, so we welcome Jim Hume as his substitute. Karen Gillon is on long-term leave, so we welcome Rhoda Grant, who is substituting for her again today.

Agenda item 1 is declarations of interests. I welcome Maureen Watt, who has replaced Roseanna Cunningham as a Scottish National Party member of the committee. I also welcome Jim Hume, who is making his first appearance as a substitute member. I invite them both to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee.

Maureen Watt (North East Scotland) (SNP): As a farmer's daughter, I obviously have an interest in the workings of the committee and am delighted to be a member of it. I have no pecuniary interest whatsoever in the farm that my brother and father run.

Jim Hume (South of Scotland) (LD): I have a pecuniary interest in farming, although I do not get my hands dirty nowadays, obviously. I am a past director of the National Farmers Union Scotland, a past member of the Forestry Commission south of Scotland regional forestry forum and a past trustee of the Borders Forest Trust. I think that those might be appropriate to mention.

The Deputy Convener: Thank you both. I assume that those declarations are in accordance with section 3 of the "Code of Conduct for MSPs".

Convener

10:02

The Deputy Convener: Following her appointment as Minister for Environment, Roseanna Cunningham has formally resigned her membership of the committee, which means that the position of convener is vacant. The Parliament previously resolved that only members of the SNP are eligible for nomination as convener of the committee. Therefore, I seek nominations from SNP members.

Alasdair Morgan (South of Scotland) (SNP): I nominate Maureen Watt.

The Deputy Convener: Are there any other nominations?

One nomination has been received. Therefore, I ask the committee to agree that Maureen Watt be chosen as convener of the committee.

Maureen Watt was chosen as convener.

The Deputy Convener: I congratulate Maureen Watt on becoming convener of this fantastic committee. I hand over the chairmanship to her for the remainder of our proceedings today.

The Convener (Maureen Watt): I thank John Scott and other members for their welcome. As I said, I am a farmer's daughter so I very much look forward to working with the committee. I have had a brief chat with Roseanna Cunningham, who tells me that this is a very good and hard-working committee that addresses the issues clearly and gets to the heart of the matter. I look forward to continuing that good work in the consensual but nevertheless hard debates that have been the framework for the committee in the past.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

The Convener: As that has been agreed, any members of the public should leave the room now.

10:04

The Convener: As members can see from the agenda, item 3 is consideration of whether to take items 4 and 5 in private. Item 4 is consideration of a draft report on the legislative consent memorandum on the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, which is United Kingdom legislation. Item 5 is the selection of witnesses for our evidence session on the pig industry. Usually, such items are taken in private. Are we agreed to take items 4 and 5 in private?

Members *indicated agreement.*

10:05

Meeting continued in private until 12:07.

Members who would like a printed copy of the *Official Report* to be forwarded to them should give notice at the Document Supply Centre.

No proofs of the *Official Report* can be supplied. Members who want to suggest corrections for the archive edition should mark them clearly in the daily edition, and send it to the Official Report, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. Suggested corrections in any other form cannot be accepted.

The deadline for corrections to this edition is:

Wednesday 4 March 2009

PRICES AND SUBSCRIPTION RATES

OFFICIAL REPORT daily editions

Single copies: £5.00

Meetings of the Parliament annual subscriptions: £350.00

The archive edition of the *Official Report* of meetings of the Parliament, written answers and public meetings of committees will be published on CD-ROM.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS weekly compilation

Single copies: £3.75

Annual subscriptions: £150.00

Standing orders will be accepted at Document Supply.

Published in Edinburgh by RR Donnelley and available from:

Blackwell's Bookshop

**53 South Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1YS
0131 622 8222**

Blackwell's Bookshops:
243-244 High Holborn
London WC1 7DZ
Tel 020 7831 9501

All trade orders for Scottish Parliament documents should be placed through Blackwell's Edinburgh.

Blackwell's Scottish Parliament Documentation
Helpline may be able to assist with additional information on publications of or about the Scottish Parliament, their availability and cost:

Telephone orders and inquiries
0131 622 8283 or
0131 622 8258

Fax orders
0131 557 8149

E-mail orders
business.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk

Subscriptions & Standing Orders
business.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk

Scottish Parliament

RNID TYPETALK calls welcome on
18001 0131 348 5000
Textphone 0845 270 0152

sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk

All documents are available on the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.scottish.parliament.uk

Accredited Agents
(see Yellow Pages)

and through good booksellers