

Petitions Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 10 December 2013**

Meeting time: **09:02 – 10:26**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



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Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

William Powell (Chair)
Russell George
Joyce Watson
Lindsay Whittle

Witnesses:

Committee Staff:

Steve George (Clerk)
Kayleigh Driscoll (Deputy Clerk)
Kath Thomas (Deputy Clerk)
Helen Roberts (Legal Advisor)

1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Bethan Jenkins AM. Lyndsay Whittle AM substituted for her.

2 New petitions

2.1P-04-519 Abolition of Park Homes Sales Commission

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to:

- the Minister for Housing and Regeneration seeking his views on the petition; and
- Peter Black AM seeking his views on the petition, given his particular experience with the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

2.2P-04-520 Regarding the Cancellation of All Elective Orthopaedic Surgery by Hywel Dda Health Board During the Winter 2013/14

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to:

- the Minister for Health and Social Services;
- Hywel Dda Health Board, as a matter of urgency; and
- the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee

seeking their views on the petition.

2.3P-04-521 Regulating Caravan Sites

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to:

- the Minister for Housing and Regeneration seeking his views on the petition;
- Darren Millar AM seeking his views on whether the issues raised in the petition could be addressed in the Bill he has been given permission to introduce next year; and
- Peter Black AM seeking his views on the petition, in light of his work on the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013.

2.4P-04-522 Asbestos in Schools

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Skills seeking his views on the petition.

2.5P-04-523 Protect the elderly and vulnerable in care homes

The Committee considered the petition for the first time and agreed to:

- ask the petitioners for their response to the First Minister's announcement and whether this sufficiently addresses their concerns; and
- await the findings of the independent review.

3 Updates to previous petitions

3.1P-03-240 Road safety on the A40 in Llanddewi Velfrey

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- note the Minister's response and that she has promised to update the Committee on developments; and
- ask the petitioners again whether they have any comments on the Minister's letter.

3.2P-04-470 Against the nationalisation of Cardiff Airport

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to close it providing no response had been forthcoming from the petitioner within the last four weeks.

3.3P-04-486 Act Now and Help Save the High Street Shops

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and asked the clerking team to bring forward a proposal for a possible evidence session.

3.4P-04-504 A483 Maerdy bridge Road Junction safety

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to ask the Minister for a more complete explanation of her view that “Lighting is not considered appropriate at this junction”.

3.5P-04-365 Protect buildings of note on the Mid Wales Hospital site

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- ask the Clerk to write to Mr Collins clarifying the role of the Committee; and
- write to the BBNPA asking for an update on the latest position, including the question of local listing, the local development plan and the views of the planning inspector on the need for a development brief.

3.6P-04-487 A Welsh Government deposit loan scheme for first time Welsh home buyers

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek a further response from the Minister on the petitioners’ latest response.

3.7P-04-489 A National affordable and priority housing Act of Wales

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek a further response from the Minister on the petitioners’ latest response.

3.8P-04-402 Council Prayers

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the Minister stating that she is not prepared to legislate.

3.9P-04-422 Fracking

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the petitioners again asking them for any comments they may have on the responses received.

3.10 P-04-439 Ancient veteran and heritage trees of Wales to be given greater protection

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to ask the Minister for Natural Resources and Food whether he would be prepared to consider greater protection for ancient, veteran and heritage trees in forthcoming legislation.

3.11 P-04-444 Dig for Victory

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close the petition in light of the response received from the petitioner.

3.12 P-04-445 Save our Welsh cats & dogs from death on the roads

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- ask the Minister to keep the petitioner informed of the start of and progress on the review due to start in summer 2014; and
- write to the RSPCA asking them for their views on the petitioner's response of 23 November to their letter.

3.13 P-04-432 Stop the Army Recruiting in Schools

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to summarise the Committee's consideration of the petition and the wider issues and bring this to a future meeting of the Committee.

3.14 P-04-441 Gwaith i Gymru – Work for Wales

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close it as there has been no contact from the petitioners for some time.

3.15 P-04-443 Welsh History

The Committee considered the petition and agreed to close it as there has been no contact from the petitioners for some time.

3.16 P-04-484 EMA for all!

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to close it as the petitioner is content with the Minister's response.

3.17 P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to seek the views of the Petitioners again.

3.18 P-04-476 Restructuring in National Museum Wales

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to ask the petitioners again for any comments they may have on the response received.

3.19 P-04-450 Barry & Vale needs a fully functioning hospital

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to ask the petitioner again for his views on the letter from the Health Board.

3.20 P-04-471 Mandatory Welsh legislation to ensure Defibrillators in all public places

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to:

- ask the petitioner to present his proposals to a future meeting of the Committee; and
- seek further comments from the Minister in the light of the responses received.

3.21 P-04-507 A Welsh bill of rights for women and girls: adhering to CEDAW

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to ask the petitioners again whether they have any comments on the Minister's letter.

3.22 P-04-436 Government Expenditure and Revenue Wales

The Committee considered correspondence on the petition and agreed to write to the Minister again to ask whether she specifically would like to address the revenue part of the petition, particularly in the light of recent announcements in relation to the Silk Commission.

Before closing the meeting the Chair reminded Members of a forthcoming petition presentation and that the date of the next meeting would be 21 January.

The Chair also offered the Committee's thanks to Sian Giddins for her work on behalf of the Committee and congratulated her on a recent promotion.

Finally, the Chair wished Members and staff the greetings of the season.