



The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Parliamentary Year 3, No. 41, Session 6

Meeting of the Parliament

Wednesday 1 November 2023

Note: (DT) signifies a decision taken at Decision Time.

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm.

1. Portfolio Questions: Questions on Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy and then Finance and Parliamentary Business were answered by Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers.

2. Supporting Communities to Mitigate Flooding Impacts and Increase Resilience: Maurice Golden moved S6M-11036—That the Parliament recognises the severe impact of Storm Babet on communities across Scotland, and is greatly saddened by the resulting loss of life and widespread damage to property and infrastructure; further recognises the serious incidents of flooding across many communities, particularly in the north east across Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross, which saw hundreds of people evacuated from their homes; notes the damage that the floods have caused to farming communities, particularly with regard to the loss of crops and livestock; commends the efforts of emergency services, local authorities and others to preserve life, support the most vulnerable and restore services as quickly as possible; expresses concern at reports of limited supplies of anti-flood measures in some areas, and believes that there is a need to review how local government resources are coordinated to support areas most in need; is concerned by the potential for more frequent and more intense extreme weather events fuelled by climate change; acknowledges the need to consider what further adaptation and mitigation options are available to minimise impacts from future extreme weather events, and calls on the Scottish Government to establish a multi-agency taskforce to develop a strategic plan for minimising the impact of flooding and to ensure that affected communities continue to be supported during the clean-up and repair efforts.

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition (Màiri McAllan) moved amendment S6M-11036.2—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11036 in the name of Maurice Golden (Supporting Communities to Mitigate Flooding Impacts and Increase Resilience), leave out from “calls on” to end and insert “notes that the Scottish Government will continue to engage with and support the already well established and effective local mechanisms bringing together key partners to support communities to recover from such events, and will establish a ministerial taskforce to supplement the activities of local mechanisms, as well as continue to engage on and develop a National Flood Resilience Strategy for Scotland.”

After debate, the amendment was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 67, Against 47, Abstentions 0).

Sarah Boyack moved amendment S6M-11036.1—

As an amendment to motion S6M-11036 in the name of Maurice Golden (Supporting Communities to Mitigate Flooding Impacts and Increase Resilience), insert at end “; regrets the Scottish Government's failure to report on progress on flood risk management plans, as required by section 52 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, for the last two years; notes with concern the warnings from the Fire Brigades Union that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will struggle to respond to the increased number of extreme weather events due to Scottish Government funding cuts, and calls on the Scottish Government to set out how it will ensure that communities facing extreme weather will not be impacted by this loss of capacity.”

After debate, the amendment was disagreed to ((DT) by division: For 50, Against 64, Abstentions 0).

The motion, as amended, was agreed to ((DT) by division: For 113, Against 1, Abstentions 0).

Accordingly, the Parliament resolved—

That the Parliament recognises the severe impact of Storm Babet on communities across Scotland, and is greatly saddened by the resulting loss of life and widespread damage to property and infrastructure; further recognises the serious incidents of flooding across many communities, particularly in the north east across Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross, which saw hundreds of people evacuated from their homes; notes the damage that the floods have caused to farming communities, particularly with regard to the loss of crops and livestock; commends the efforts of emergency services, local authorities and others to preserve life, support the most vulnerable and restore services as quickly as possible; expresses concern at reports of limited supplies of anti-flood measures in some areas, and believes that there is a need to review how local government resources are coordinated to support areas most in need; is concerned by the

potential for more frequent and more intense extreme weather events fuelled by climate change; acknowledges the need to consider what further adaptation and mitigation options are available to minimise impacts from future extreme weather events; notes that the Scottish Government will continue to engage with and support the already well established and effective local mechanisms bringing together key partners to support communities to recover from such events, and will establish a ministerial taskforce to supplement the activities of local mechanisms, as well as continue to engage on and develop a National Flood Resilience Strategy for Scotland.

3. Business Programme: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11045—That the Parliament agrees—

(a) the following programme of business—

Tuesday 7 November 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Ministerial Statement: Vision for Scotland's Mental Health

followed by Ministerial Statement: Update on Education and Skills Reform

followed by Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Debate: A Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 8 November 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands; NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care

followed by Ministerial Statement: Scotland's Approach to 2023 Coastal State Fisheries Negotiations: Securing Principled, Sustainable Outcomes

followed by Scottish Government Debate: CashBack for Communities

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 9 November 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Social Justice

followed by Scottish Government Debate: Fair Work in a Wellbeing Economy

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

Tuesday 14 November 2023

2.00 pm Time for Reflection

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Topical Questions (if selected)

followed by Scottish Government Business

followed by Committee Announcements

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Wednesday 15 November 2023

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.00 pm Portfolio Questions: Constitution, External Affairs and Culture; Justice and Home Affairs

followed by Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Business

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Approval of SSIs (if required)

5.10 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business

Thursday 16 November 2023

11.40 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

11.40 am General Questions

12.00 pm First Minister's Questions

followed by Members' Business

2.30 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

2.30 pm Portfolio Questions: Education and Skills

followed by Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee Debate: Culture in Communities: The Challenges and Opportunities in Delivering a Place-based Approach

followed by Business Motions

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

(b) that, for the purposes of Portfolio Questions in the week beginning 6 November 2023, in rule 13.7.3, after the word "except" the words "to the extent to which the Presiding Officer considers that the questions are on the same or similar subject matter or" are inserted.

The motion was agreed to.

4. Stage 1 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11046—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1 be completed by 21 June 2024.

The motion was agreed to.

5. Stage 2 Timetable: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11047—That the Parliament agrees that consideration of the Trusts and Succession (Scotland) Bill at stage 2 be completed by 24 November 2023.

The motion was agreed to.

6. Approval of SSI: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved S6M-11048—That the Parliament agrees that the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 Amendment Regulations 2023 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to (DT).

7. Motion Without Notice: The Minister for Parliamentary Business (George Adam), on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau, moved without notice that, under Rule 11.2.4, Decision Time be brought forward to 5.09 pm.

The motion was agreed to.

8. Decision Time: The Parliament took decisions on items 2 and 6 as noted above.

9. Scottish Games Week 2023: The Parliament debated S6M-10453 in the name of Clare Adamson—That the Parliament marks the second annual Scottish Games Week, which will take place from 30 October to 3 November 2023; understands that Scottish Games Week, organised by the Scottish Games Network, with the Scottish Government's Scottish Tech Ecosystem Review (STER) fund, will focus on videogames and position the games sector as, it believes, a crucial part of Scotland's digital future; notes that Scottish Games Week was launched in 2022 as the first-of-its-kind celebration of what it sees as Scotland's booming games industry, and that the 2023 initiative will showcase what it sees as Scotland's innovative and diverse games ecosystem to act as a catalyst for a more connected and collaborative digital society in Scotland, the UK and internationally; understands that Scottish Games Week will bring together game developers, publishers, educators and policymakers, as well as the broader games ecosystem and media, offering the opportunity to attend in-person or online events to put games created in Scotland in front of a global audience; considers that Scotland has played a pioneering role in the evolution of the games sector since the late 1980s, and continues to produce some of the world's most popular games; understands that Scotland-based games development companies invest £141 million in salaries and overheads, employ 6,400 people, contribute £129 million in tax revenue and are worth around £350 million to the Scottish economy; believes that there is extraordinary potential for growth in the games sector, eclipsing that of traditional entertainment media, and the diverse applications that games technology can have in areas such as education, healthcare, social inclusion, culture, and environmental policy; further believes that Scotland can cement its place as a world leader in gaming by looking to countries such as Finland, where the games sector generates over £2.4 billion for the Finnish economy thanks to a focus on startups, investment and new business; welcomes the return of the Scottish Games Awards, which recognise, reward and highlight what it sees as the incredible creativity, technical expertise and business acumen that the pioneering and rapidly evolving games sector in Scotland has, and wishes everyone involved in Scottish Games Week 2023 the very best with the initiative.

The meeting closed at 5.49 pm.

David McGill
Clerk of the Parliament
1 November 2023

Appendix

(Note: this Appendix does not form part of the Minutes)

Committee Reports

The following reports were published on 1 November 2023—

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 62nd Report, 2023 (Session 6): Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 31 October 2023 (SP Paper 457)

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 63rd Report, 2023 (Session 6): Work of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee 2022-23 (SP Paper 459)

Other Documents

The following documents were laid before the Parliament on 1 November 2023 and are not subject to parliamentary procedure—

Revenue Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 – Devolved Taxes Accounts (RS/2023/02) laid under the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014

Revenue Scotland Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 – Resource Accounts (RS/2023/01) laid under the Revenue Scotland and Tax Powers Act 2014

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