

PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 June 2022 at midday

Present:

Lord Ashton of Hyde	Lord Kennedy of Southwark
Lord Bew	Lord McFall of Alcluith
Lord Collins of Highbury	Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall
Lord Eames	Lord Mancroft
Baroness Evans of Bowes Park	Lord Newby
Lord Faulkner of Worcester	Baroness Sanderson of Welton
Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Chair)	Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury
Baroness Harris of Richmond	Baroness Smith of Basildon
Baroness Humphreys	Lord Stoneham of Droxford
Lord Judge	

with the Clerk of the Parliaments.

The Chair welcomed Lord Collins of Highbury to the meeting as the Labour Alternate, because of the vacancy caused by Baroness Quin taking leave of absence.

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were *agreed*.

3. Matters arising from the Committee's 7th Report of session 2021-22

The Chair introduced the paper (PPC/22-23/01).

The paper set out the background to the Committee's 7th report of the last session, and the Chair's decision to withdraw the approval motion from the Order Paper ahead of the planned debate on Monday 16 May.

The Committee *agreed* to the proposed new *Companion* wording for the Lord's Speaker's leave of absence and taking children through the division lobbies. The Committee *noted* that the new wording would be contained in a report to the House, which would in other respects be identical to the 7th report of the last session.

4. Sitting times of the House

The Chair introduced the paper (PPC/22-23/02), and the draft report, which had been circulated by email.

The paper summarised the results of the consultation, which suggested that the responses were relatively evenly split on the merits of adopting earlier sitting times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. A draft report had been circulated to the Committee, which summarised the arguments for and against any changes. The Committee would facilitate a debate on this matter, but it was for the House to reach a view. The matter was likely to be debated on 5 July, so members of the House would have several weeks to reflect after the Committee's report was published. The Chair intended to move a take note motion to facilitate the debate, followed by a motion (on which he would take no formal position) that the House should sit at 1pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The Committee *discussed* the paper and *noted* the importance of adopting a neutral position on the merits of changing the House's sitting times, as well as the role of self-regulation in keeping any changes under review.

The Committee *agreed* the draft report.

5. Any other Business

The Government Chief Whip reported that the party chief whips and the Convenor had written to all members that day reminding them of the House's conventions.

The Chair noted that the first use of the pass-reader voting system was imminent. He added that by the end of May 673 members had registered their passes on the pass-reader system. Of the 142 members with unregistered passes, it was estimated the number of 'active' members was well below 50. The details had been shared with the parties and groups, and staff were also proactively contacting unregistered members.

The Committee *noted* its next meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 30 June, but *agreed* that if there were no pressing matters to discuss on that date the next meeting could wait until the House returned in October.

The Committee *noted* that, subject to the House's agreement of the Committee's report, an updated version of the *Companion* would be published online before the summer recess. A hard copy version of the new *Companion* would not be published until after the House has reached a decision on sitting times, with copies available in September.

Christopher Johnson
Clerk of the Journals