Parliamentary procedure: how can MPs do justice to hybrid bills?

Liam Laurence Smyth
Clerk of the Journals
Types of Bills

- **Public Bills**
  - deal with matters of general public interest

- **Private Bills**
  - for the particular interest of any person or body

- **Hybrid Bills**
  - public bills which may in certain respects affect private rights
AN ACT

FOR

Dividing, Allotting, and Inclosing the Open and Common Fields, Common Meadows, and other Open and Commonable Lands and Wafte Grounds, lying in the Parishes of Grantchester and Coton, in the County of Cambridge.

WHEREAS the several Parishes of Grantchester and Coton, in the County of Cambridge, adjoin, and some parts thereof are intermixed with each other, and

whereas there are within the said Parishes several Open and Common Fields, Common Meadows, Commonable Lands, and Wafte Grounds;

And whereas there are in the said Parishes of Grantchester and Coton, or One of them, certain Open and Common Fields, Commonable Lands, and Wafte Grounds, lying within certain Fields called Down Field and Clint Field, and also a certain Common called Grantchester Hard Green, over which the Commoners of both the said Parishes exercise a mixed Right of Common in proportion to their respective Interests therein:

A

AND
Stages of Hybrid Bills

- First Reading (presentation)
- Second Reading
- Select Committee
- Public Bill Committee
- Consideration (Report)
- Third Reading
- Lords Amendments
Tom Bradley MP
Chair of the Transport Select Committee
Channel Tunnel
Channel Tunnel

“We are certain that many Petitioners would have been spared annoyance and inconvenience if it had been made plain to then in advance that the powers of a Select Committee do not extend to reconsidering the fundamental purpose of a Bill.”
Dartford Thurrock Crossing
Dartford–Thurrock Crossing

“This Committee is almost unique both in the detail and the complexity of the technical evidence given and in the depth of the disagreement between the expert witnesses”.
Cardiff Bay Barrage
Cardiff Bay Barrage

• “We decided, with some reluctance, that it would be wrong to make special provision in this case to give greater protection than that afforded to other people in other parts of the country where public work affects private interest.”
Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Channel Tunnel Rail Link

“probably the very last railway bill to be promoted through Parliament”
“I want to be completely clear: I consider this battle far from over, and I intend to continue fighting it on behalf of Buckingham constituency residents. My aim is to persuade the Government to drop this wretched project or, failing that, to protect and compensate my constituents.”
High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill

“We are ecstatic that the committee will now hear the arguments which thousands affected by HS2 want us to make on their behalf.”—Joe Rukin, Stop HS2 Campaign Manager
High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Bill

“The Committee will take time to hear and understand petitioners’ arguments. However, unnecessarily lengthy argument on either side will be deprecated, as will reading out of speeches without good reason.”
Thank you

http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/high-speed-rail-london-west-midlands-bill-select-committee-commons/

http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/highspeedraillondonwestmidlands.html