

Cross-Party Group on Tibet

Thursday 7 October 2021, 6:00pm

Minute – Initial Meeting

Present

MSPs

Ross Greer MSP, Mercedes Villalba MSP

Invited guests

Sonam Tsering Frasi (Office of Tibet), Tsering Tsomo (Office of Tibet)

Non-MSP Group Members

Eleanor Byrne-Rosengren, Victor Spence, Linda Hendry, Mike Lean, Tenzin Choekyi, John Jones, Jill Sudbury, Mark Watson, Roger Eames, Ron Scrimgeour, Martin Mills

Apologies

Apologies were received from Collette Stevenson MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP, Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP and Jenni Campbell.

1. Welcome

EBR welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the group was without either a Chair, Linda Fabiani having retired at the end of the last parliamentary session, or a Secretary, Martin Mills having stepped down at the end of the last parliamentary session. She offered to chair the initial meeting up to the point where a new Chair was elected. This was agreed.

2. Approval of Minutes – 17 March 2021

Minutes of the 2020 AGM were proposed by MM, seconded by LF and approved.

3. Election of Officers

Discussion centred around whether the group should have a Chair and Vice Chair or two Co-Chairs. Both RG and MV indicated that they were happy to serve in whatever role the CPG thought appropriate. MM proposed RG and MV as Co-Chairs. LH

seconded. This was agreed unanimously. RG then took the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

MM proposed EBR as CPG secretary and LH seconded. EBR was appointed unanimously. EBR proposed RE as treasurer and MM seconded. RE was also appointed unanimously.

4. Chair/Secretary's Review

Retiring secretary MM advised that there had been three meetings of the CPG during the previous year. The Climate Change report had been issued in January 2020 and had led to invitations to speak at various events. These included a conference organised by the Office of Tibet and hosted by the Royal Geographical Society in London in June 2021 and a lecture in Geneva in November 2021. A presentation on the climate change report had been made for YouTube. However, Aberdeen University had been unsuccessful in securing display space at COP 26 in Glasgow. There had been 4,000 applications for 50 display spaces.

LF had ensured that the CPG and its members had been active in supporting the Kagyu Samye Ling monastery in opposing the firing range that was planned for the neighbourhood. EBR advised that there now needed to be public consultation included with any reapplication for planning permission. MM volunteered to get an update on the situation.

5. Treasurer's Report

The opening balance for this session is £120.02. RE will circulate details of how members can contribute. The Accounts were passed unanimously with thanks to the treasurer.

6. Re-registration of Cross-Party Group

RG asked whether the registration of the CPG was in hand. EBR had been in touch with the clerks and confirmed the necessary documentation was in hand.

Meeting ended 6:45 pm