

Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Group on the Caribbean

Meeting date: 19th March 2015 in the Scottish Parliament

Attendees: Margaret Mitchell MSP (Chair) , Felicity Hollands (SP), Marianne Paton, (SP), Duncan Turnbull, Ian Gittens, Gerry McKenna, Carol Anderson (Secretary), Vicki Lee, Robin Irvine, Stewart Maxwell MSP (part)

Apologies: Janice Hogarth, SPTA, Sir Geoff Palmer.

1. Welcome

Margaret Mitchell welcomed everyone and ran through the apologies.

2. Apologies - as above

3. Election

Stewart Maxwell MSP was elected to the Group as Vice Convenor – proposed by Margaret Mitchell, and seconded by Carol Anderson.

4. Minutes of last meeting

These were circulated and approved by Ian Gittens and Duncan Turnbull.

5. Business arising from minutes – none.

6. Meeting of the High Commissioners

MM explained that few HCs were able to take up our invitation to an event. Also that the overheads of the evening event were prohibitive. Despite the fact that Paul Wedgwood had offered to provide Caribbean themed food,(as sponsorship) the Parliament caterers Sodexo were not able to allow external catering in. A whisky tasting had been offered by the Scotch Whisky Society and Edrington distillers. Ian Gittens offered to host a dinner for them in future if this is required. MM suggested maybe a less ambitious agenda for us to organise next time if this event is repeated. MP Diane Abbott had been interested to attend.

7. Gerry McKenna gave a short presentation on his building business in Jamaica. He credited Jampro at the last HC event as being pivotal in how this project to build social housing had developed.

8. AGM

It was agreed to have the AGM on 10th June at 1pm in SP.

Before that time the group to come up with suggestions for the future agenda of this CPG to be presented at the AGM.

6. Next meeting date:

10th June 2015, 1pm. AGM.