

Cross Party Group on Cuba
Thursday 18th June 2015
Q1.03 1pm

Attendees

Margaret Cameron
Louise Clark
Mhairi Munro
James Brian
Liz Elkind
Kath Campbell
Stephen Wilkinson
Elaine Smith MSP
Councillor Gordon Munro
Neil Findlay MSP
Rev Graham McGeoch

1. Welcome/Introduction

Elaine Smith MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that there would be a fire alarm which may happen in the middle of the meeting.

Apologies

Hugh Henry, Lesley Dobbin, Tommy Kane, Matthew Crighton.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (21/4/15)

Minutes of the last meeting were moved by **Neil Findlay** and seconded by **Kath Campbell**.

3. Matters arising

Elaine Smith informed the group that the Latin American Conference previously discussed has been postponed until after recess. It was suggested that it may fit around the Latin American Conference which is happening on the 21st of October.

4. Guest Speaker: Dr Stephen Wilkinson

Elaine Smith introduced **Dr Wilkinson** as Director of International Institute for the Study of Cuba and former editor of Cuba Si. Dr Wilkinson gave an interesting insight into Cuban relations with Americans. He spoke of the significance of the recent announcement that both Presidents would work towards restoring diplomatic relations and latterly about how markets in Cuba were changing.

Dr Stephen Wilkinson then answered questions from the floor.

5. Update from the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign on matters of interest in the region

Apologies from **Matthew Crighton**, the SVSC Secretary as he had to be in a meeting in Glasgow.

6. AOCB

7. Date of next meeting

Elaine Smith advised that the next meeting would take place after the parliamentary recess.

Elaine thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.