

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Cross Party Caribbean Group on the Commonwealth Caribbean**

**Meeting date:** 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Attendees:** Margaret Mitchell MSP ( Chair) , Annabelle Ewing MSP, Felicity Hollands, Duncan Turnbull, Ian Gittens, Vicki Lee, Robin Irvine, Carol Anderson (secretary) Sir Geoff Palmer, Rachel (work experience student)

**Apologies:** Michael Kane, Janice Hogarth, Catherine Hickey (Caribbean Council) Dianne Stein, Siobhan, SCDI.

### **1. Welcome**

Margaret Mitchell welcomed everyone and ran through the apologies. The group introduced themselves to each other.

### **2. AGM – The group went through elections of office bearers:**

Margaret Mitchell MSP was re- elected as Convenor . Proposed by Ian Gittens , Seconded by Sir Geoff.

Annabelle Ewing was elected as Vice Convenor – Proposed by Carol Anderson, Seconded by Ian Gittens.

Carol Anderson was re-elected as Secretary. Proposed by Margaret Mitchell, Seconded by Duncan Turnbull.

Sir Geoff Palmer was re-elected as Treasurer - Proposed by Ian Gittens, Seconded by Margaret Mitchell.

### **2. Minutes of last meeting – these were circulated and proposed by Carol Anderson, Seconded by Ian Gittens.**

Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> November were confirmed as correct by Ian Gittens and Sir Geoff Palmer.

**3. Matters arising:** Vicki Lee outlined everything that was going well for her Caribbean festival on Millport on 18<sup>th</sup> July, as reported in April. She confirmed that Twinning between Oistins (Barbados) with Millport would happen in 2015. She reported that Virgin Atlantic had helped her deliver 22 boxes of stoma bags to help at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Bridgetown, Barbados, as part of her Glitter Bay Foundation to help stoma patients.

Scottish cricket and rugby teams are planning to do an exchange with Barbados in 2015 – to play tournaments.

Empire Café Louise Welsh had been invited to speak at this meeting and was keen but not available. Margaret suggested we ask her for a written report that can be shared with members. Louise and Sir Geoff will be speaking at the Edinburgh Book Festival.

Margaret explained that Strathclyde would be supporting the campaign to reduce APD and this information should be shared with Janice Hogarth.

Sir Geoffrey outlined plans from Joy McLusky agency for events at Club 29, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July Glasgow with Levi Roots from Jamaica from 4pm ( he has since found out there are no tickets left for this event)

Sir Geoffrey also reported that ELREC had been helping Commonwealth visitors to be assured of the arrivals process at Glasgow Airport for the Commonwealth Games.

Ian Gittens reported that he was working with a group, importing Rum from Guyana to a pub chain of 44 outlets in England.

#### **4. High Commissioners event 4th March 2015**

A sub committee of Duncan Turnbull, Michael Kane, Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Carol Anderson which was formed at the last CPG meeting. Its first meeting will be to plan the High Commissioners' event on 4th March 2015. The committee promised to complete its feedback in time for next meeting in November.

Ian Gittens to forward a list of the High Commissioners to Sir Geoff. The team will invite the Commissioners now that a date has been set. It was suggested that we could have a whisky tasting event with support from a leading whisky company.

#### **5. Treasurer**

Sir Geoff reported that everyone is due £10 into the fund for coffees. Ian Gittens reported he had donations of £45 and would present this sum at the next meeting. Margaret volunteered to pick up the tab for the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **6. Next meeting date:**

5<sup>th</sup> November, 1pm, Scottish Parliament .