

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Pakistan

Minutes of the meeting/AGM on 17 April 17.30, Committee Room 2

Present:

MSP'S

Michael McMahon MSP (Convenor and Chair)

Willie Rennie, MSP (Vice Convenor)

Murdo Fraser, MSP (Vice Convenor) not in attendance but represented by Graeme Rose Researcher and Press Officer

Apologies MSP'S

Murdo Fraser (Vice-convenor) -represented

Siobhan McMahon

Apologies non MSP'S

Masood Malik

Hassan Shah Bukhari

Muhammed Imran

Parveen Khalid

Dr Amjad

Liz Cameron (Scottish Chamber of Commerce)

Chardeep Singh (Scottish Chamber of Commerce)

Deputy Chief Constable Steve Allan of Police Service of Scotland

Jane McCartney NHS 24

Khalida Hussain

None MSP'S attendees

Mehmood Hussain

Mohammed Mohsin

Zeeshan Saeed

Amer Masood

Fatima Bajwa

Tashueef Warrich

Nadeem Ashraf

Zahira Hussain

Mehboob Ditta

Ehtansham Awam

Willie McArthur

1. Welcome

Michael McMahon (Convenor) and Willie Rennie MSP (Vice Convenor) welcomed everyone to the meeting/AGM.

2. Minutes of the last CPG meeting which was held on 27 March 2013 were distributed and discussed. Members appreciated the CPG meeting which was held on 27 March to mark the Pakistan Day was a great success with excellent turnout along with the representatives of the Consulate of Pakistan, Glasgow and Consulate General of Pakistan Manchester.

3. There is clear adequate support from the Pakistani diaspora in Scotland and organisations Public and Private in Scotland for the Cross Party Group on Pakistan and great support also in Pakistan.

4. Election/Appointment of Officer Bearers. Michael McMahon, MSP confirmed that he was prepared to act as a Convenor. Michael was proposed by Amer Masood, seconded by Willie Rennie and it was agreed by all in attendance. Willie Rennie, MSP confirmed that he is willing to act as a Vice Convenor. Michael McMahon, MSP proposed the name of Willie Rennie, seconded by Amer Masood and agreed by all in attendance. Michael McMahon proposed the name of Murdo Fraser, MSP to act as the Vice Convenor (Murdo Fraser was absent but represented by Graeme Rose Researcher and Press Officer) who informed the room that Murdo Fraser would be prepared to act as the Vice Convenor, this was seconded by Amer Masood and all in the room agreed. Michael McMahon Proposed Amer Masood as to act as the Secretary CPG, this was seconded by Willie Rennie and agreed by in attendance, Amer confirmed that he is willing to become Secretary CPG. All appointments were agreed. Amjad Butt would act as the liaison person in Pakistan for the CPG and floor were asked for their suggestions on this and it was agreed by all that they had no objections to Amjad Butt acting as the liaison for the CPG in Pakistan and it was agreed.

5. Willie McArthur informed the convenor and the floor that Debbie Miller has taken over Head of Business at the Robert Gordon University Aberdeen and Debbie Miller would be interested to join the CPG on Pakistan on behalf of Robert Gordon University.

6. AOB- The floor appreciated the work which the CPG has done so far and Mohammed Mohsin proposed that since Scotland is intending to give 40 scholarships to Pakistan as mentioned in the last CPG by the Consulate of Pakistan then CPG on Pakistan should have role in this regard to ensure the mechanism of awarding the scholarship since CPG on Pakistan was set up to act as a platform for Scotland and Pakistan. This was seconded by Fatima Bajwa and it was agreed by all that this would be a good step to get the CPG involved if possible. The Convenor said we will write a letter to the Scottish Government in this regard.

7. Michael McMahon MSP thanked attendees and the meeting closed