

Minute of Meeting of Scottish Showmen's Guild Cross Party Group AGM held on Tuesday 19th February 2013, in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. Commencing 1pm.

Attending MSPs:-

Richard Lyle MSP (Convenor Cross Party Group)
John Mason MSP
Chic Brodie MSP
Philip Brown (Parliamentary Assistant to Richard Lyle MSP)

Attending: - Showmen's Guild members of the Cross Party Group

Alex James Colquhoun (Chairman Scottish Section)
Charles Horne (Vice Chairman Scottish Section)
Christine Stirling (Scottish Section Committee Member and Education Liaison Officer)
Jane Rodgers (Secretary Scottish Section and Cross Party Group)

Agenda

1) AGM

Election of: - Convenor, Vice Convenors and Secretary

2) Report on Survey of Councils and meeting with Fergus Ewing

3) Discussion on Air Gun Bill

4) Education Report

5) Any other business

Chairman Richard Lyle declared the meeting opened and welcomed those in attendance.

Apologies

Clare Adamson MSP
Maureen Watt MSP
Spencer Hiscoe (Treasurer Scottish Section and Cross Party Group)
Philip Paris (Jnr Vice President Showmen's Guild)

1) Election of Convenor, Vice Convenors and Secretary

The following nominations were put forward and agreed

Convenor - Richard Lyle MSP
Vice Convenor - Mary Fee MSP
Secretary - Jane Rodgers

2) Report on Survey of Councils and meeting with Fergus Ewing

Report on Survey

- * 26 of the 32 Councils have responded to the questionnaire sent by Richard Lyle. Richard advised it would seem that 32 Councils are doing things 32 different ways with 32 different charges.
- * A J Colquhoun advised out of the 26 responses received only one Council seems to be sticking to the law regarding temporary public entertainment licensing for fairgrounds.

Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism.

- * A J Colquhoun advised that on 3rd September 2012, he and Mr Paris, attended a consultation event for the Better Regulation Bill which was Chaired by Fergus Ewing.
- * Richard Lyle advised that subsequently an excellent meeting was held on Wednesday 23rd January 2013, with Fergus Ewing. The Minister has invited the Showmen's Guild to give evidence.
- * A J Colquhoun advised that he and Jane Rodgers met with Licensing Lawyer, John Batters of Lindsays on 18/2/13, who will put together evidence to put to the Minister along with the Showmen's guild view on how the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 should be amended.

3) Discussion on Air Gun Bill

- * Letter of 11/2/13 from Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice confirming he will be happy to meet to discuss the issues relating to the Showmen's Guild.
- * Richard Lyle advised he was confident that the Showmen's Guild would secure an exemption from the Bill.

4) Education Report

- * Letter of 12/2/13 from Alasdair Allan, on behalf of Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, declining a request for a meeting.
- * Richard Lyle advised he has since spoken with Mike Russell who has confirmed that he will meet as requested.
- * Christine Stirling advised the ELOs have met with Les MacLean, Quality Improvement Officer, City of Glasgow Education following concerns regarding the proposal to abolish Section 444/60 of the Education Act of 1996. Although this does not apply to Scotland Les is happy to give a template letter in support explaining that the system in Scotland is marked as an authorised absence in order to avoid prosecution.

4) Education Report (continued)

* Christine Stirling advised the census form from the schools has no clarification regarding show children. The two options are 1) White Other or 2) White Gypsy. It used to include the term occupational traveller which was not really satisfactory either. The show children need their own classification.

* Agreed matters to be put to the Cabinet Secretary:-

- a) Classification for school show children.
- b) Discrimination.
- c) Clarification on the proposal to abolish Section 444/60 of the Education Act of 1996, and the implications for our members who travel in England and Wales.
- d) What do they do with the information

5) Any other business

Charles Horne

* Agreed to elect Charles Horne, Vice Chairman of the Showmen's Guild Scottish Section, onto the Cross Party Group.

Equal Opportunities Committee

- * Richard Lyle advised a meeting should be arranged as soon as possible with the Equal Opportunities Committee.
- * A J Colquhoun advised that the Showmen's Guild has requested to speak with the Committee. Subsequently, he and Mr Paris had an informal meeting with Mary Fee MSP, on 2/8/12 but as yet have not had the opportunity to address the Committee.
- * Agreed that the Showmen's Guild request a meeting with the Committee regarding the Respect Agenda.

Commonwealth Games 2014

- * A J Colquhoun advised he and Jane Rodgers had an initial meeting with Glasgow Life on 29/11/12. Jill Miller, Director of Cultural Services and Colin Hartley, Events Manager are very keen to include the Showpeople in the event as they deem them to be a very important part of Glasgow's history and culture.
- * Another meeting has been arranged for 26/2/13.

As there was no further business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1:45pm.