

Minute of Meeting of Scottish Showmen's Guild Cross Party Group held on Tuesday 23rd April 2013, in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. Commencing 1pm.

Attending MSPs:-

Richard Lyle MSP (Convenor Cross Party Group)  
John Mason MSP  
David Torrance 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)  
Christine Stirling (Scottish Section Committee Member and Education Liaison Officer)  
Jane Rodgers (Secretary Scottish Section and Cross Party Group)

### **Agenda**

- 1) Minutes of Previous Meeting.
- 2) Report on Meeting with Mike Russell MSP - 12/03/2013.
- 3) Report of Meeting with Better Regulation & Industry Engagement Team and COSLA - 12/03/2013.
- 4) West Lothian Council re a) Temporary Public Entertainment Licensing  
b) Street Trader's Licensing.
- 5) Report on Meeting with North Lanarkshire Council - 19/04/2013.
- 6) Any other business

### **Welcome**

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

### **Apologies**

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

### **1) Minutes of Previous Meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

Minutes of the previous meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 having been circulated beforehand were noted and adopted.

### **2) Report on Meeting with Mike Russell MSP - 12/03/2013**

The Meeting was attended by Alex James Colquhoun and Christine Stirling.

Christine Stirling advised:-

- \* This was a good meeting Mike Russell was very supportive when it was explained the SEEMUS form used to say Occupational Travellers, now it states White Gypsy, although ideally it should include Travelling Showchildren.
- \* Mr Russell wanted more information from the various schools. As yet 2 of the schools to date have not responded as far as we are aware.

**Action:-**

***Christine Stirling will check if the 2 schools concerned have responded since the Easter Break. Once all of the information has been received it will be passed to Richard Lyle who will arrange another meeting with the Mike Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education.***

### **3) Report on Meeting with Better Regulation & Industry Engagement Team and COSLA - 12/03/2013**

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The meeting was attended by Alex James Colquhoun.

Mr Colquhoun advised: \_

- \* At the meeting he handed out figures highlighting the difference in fees from the various Local Authorities.
- \* He was not happy with the comments made by the lady from COSLA that Councils subsidise funfairs and the response received from COSLA following the meeting.

Richard Lyle advised:-

- \* As yet he is still waiting on 2 or 3 Councils to respond to the questionnaire.
- \* The Showmen's Guild has met with the Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism regarding the Better Regulation Bill.

**Action:- COSLA to be invited to a future meeting of the Cross Party Group.**

**4) West Lothian Council re: a) Temporary Public Entertainment Licensing  
b) Street Trader's Licence**

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Alex James Colquhoun advised:-

- \* Correspondence has been received from the Council Chief Solicitor refusing to meet with the Showmen's Guild and Richard Lyle MSP, suggesting we take legal advice. However, The Solicitor is prepared to speak to an MSP on the telephone.

**Action:-**

***The Showmen's Guild to lodge a corporate complaint, on behalf of the Scottish Section members, to the Chief Executive of West Lothian Council.***

**5) Report on Meeting with North Lanarkshire Council - 19/04/2013**

The meeting was attended by Alex James Colquhoun.

Mr Colquhoun advised:-

- \* The meeting was with Ian Smith, Depute Council Leader, and Eric Hislop who both did not seem to be aware that the Showmen's Guild had previous meetings with the Council Leader Jim McCabe.
- \* Both Mr Smith and Mr Hislop confirmed there would be a review of the Council policy on Fairgrounds, but he did not hold out much hope as this is what Mr McCabe had also promised previously.

**Action:-**

***Richard Lyle to arrange a meeting with North Lanarkshire Council, Chief Executive, Gavin Whitefield.***

**6) Any other business**

**Air Gun Bill**

**Action:-**

***The Showmen's Guild to send a follow up letter to Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice, following his letter of 11/2/13 asking for confirmation that the air guns used on fairgrounds are exempt from the Bill.***

**6) Any other business (continued)**

**Clyde Gateway**

\* Alex James Colquhoun advised that the Showmen's Guild are keen to purchase a site from Clyde Gateway, for the use of the members, but do not have the funds.

***Action:-***

***\* Funding application to be made to the National Lottery.***

***\* Letters of support to be sought from MSPs, MPs and Local Councillors.***

***\* John Mason will speak with Clyde Gateway regarding the prices***

As there was no further business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2:00pm.