

**Minutes of meeting of Scottish Showmen's Guild Cross Party Working Group** held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in the Scottish Parliament Edinburgh. Commencing 6pm.

Attending MSPs-

Richard Lyle MSP (Convenor Cross Party Group)  
Mary Fee MSP  
John Mason MSP  
David Torrance MSP

Attending Showmen's Guild Members

Philip Paris ( Junior Vice President )  
Alex James Colquhoun ( Chairman Scottish Section )  
Spencer Hiscoe ( Treasurer Scottish Section )

**Agenda**

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Minutes of Meeting- AGM 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014
- 3) Business arising from Minutes
- 4) West Lothian District Council
- 5) Report from TLC solicitors
- 6) Kirkcaldy Links Market
- 7) AOCB

**APOLOGIES**

Claire Adamson  
Jamie McGregor  
Annabelle Ewing

**Minutes of AGM 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

**Business Arising From Minutes**

Richard Lyle to send Philip Paris an email regarding the Better Regulation Bill.

A J Colquhoun to send Richard Lyle some "words" for his speech.

**West Lothian District Council**

A J Colquhoun advised the meeting that we were getting nowhere with West Lothian Council. That this had been going on for nearly

four years now and that the Council was still insisting on Street Traders Licenses for vendors within the Funfair. Also that they were now asking for perimeter fencing of Funfairs even though this was against H S E guidance given in letters from Mr Melvin Sandle. It was felt that the West Lothian Licensing Dept was now stepping into the area of the HSE. Mr Colquhoun stated that the Guilds Licensing Lawyers were very keen to have a go at West Lothian.

Richard Lyle MSP stated that an individual taking legal action would be sin died but the Showmen's Guild would be a different matter.

**ACTION-R Lyle to arrange a meeting with Gill Imery (Scottish Police) and West Lothian Council.**

**Invite Gill Imery and Melvin Sandle along to the Showmens Debate on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.**

### **Report from TLC Solicitors**

A J Colquhoun advised the meeting that two lawyers had been appointed to create a report on Licensing of Funfairs. They had produced a document that was distributed to the Cross Party Group. It was stated that the opinion of the lawyers was that there is a president set in the Gaming Act that would be helpful. It was further explained that a Prof. Paisley who is a land specialist, commented that if Fairs were held on Common Land it was written into Scottish Law that alternative sites had to be provided by the Local Authority. Mr Lyle MSP- stated that Derek MacKay & Kenny MacAskill had submitted reports too. He asked for permission to circulate the report to the 32 Local Authorities. His view was that Kenny would be happy to take the report and meet with the Licensing Bill Team. He also asked for a copy of Fife Councils Licensing Policy on lettings for Funfairs.

**ACTION-R LYLE MSP to send report to 32 Chief Executives.**

**David Torrance to send a copy of Fife Councils Licensing Policy on Funfairs to Richard Lyle.**

There was further comment relating to the upcoming Air Gun license Bill.

**ACTION- The Showmen's Guild to make both their Lawyers aware of the Bill.**

**A request be made that the Showmen's Guild be called to provide evidence relating to the Bill.**

**Kirkcaldy Links Market 2014**

A J Colquhoun and P Paris both provided statements that the Market had been very well attended this year due to the good weather and Easter Holidays. There had been a slight issue with photography that had been pointed out but the Fair had went well. The National Fairground Investigation Team had been present for several days on the Fair and there were no negative reports. They had been pleased with how well the fair was running and had no issues. He further stated that we need a big summer event too.

David Torrance stated he was down at the Fair on several nights and there were good crowds and he had not seen any problems. He also commented on the model show and that these should be invited along to exhibit at the debate.

Richard Lyle commented on how happy Jim Leishman had looked whilst walking down the Fair handing out the free ride tickets.

**ACTION-investigate if models could be incorporated at the debate.**

#### **AOCB**

##### **Showmen's Debate 19 June 12:30pm**

Richard Lyle MSP stated that he needed a couple of speakers. He, Mary Fee MSP, David Torrance MSP, John Mason MSP all volunteered. There should be a lunch for around 12 guests in the Members Restaurant, all costs to be met by the Showmen's Guild.

Also the Guilds two licensing lawyers, the Showmen's Guild President and an ESU rep should be invited.

**ACTION- P PARIS to provide a briefing for the MSP guests, 2 pages for a briefing for MSPs on heritage etc , but 4 pages if the MSP is speaking.**

**(NOTE-Any person speaking should limit it to 4 minutes except R Lyle who would speak for around 7 minutes.)**

**The Showmen's Guild are to provide some information on the history and traditions of the Guild, also stories of Ambulances and Spitfires during the world wars.**

##### **125 Years Event in the Parliament Building , October.**

Richard Lyle MSP commented that he would try to get a date for the Garden Lobby. Dependent on catering numbers this could be from £2k-£4k and all costs met by the Showmen's Guild. It may be possible

to hold this in a Committee room and he would get his assistant Philip Brown to look into that.

A J Colquhoun commented that it may be possible to arrange an Organ for outside the Parliament Building.

**ACTION – Richard Lyle MSP to get a date of availability.**

**Showmen’s Guild to provide a display (Models or popup signs from Central Council, Wooden Horses or possibly a Dodgem Car)**

**Philip Brown to seek availability of a Committee Room.**

(Garden Terrace costs of £2k-£4k were mentioned dependent on numbers).

### **CLAIRE BAKER MSP**

Mary Fee MSP proposed Claire Baker MSP be elected to the Cross Party Working Group.

Seconded by Richard Lyle MSP.

Vote-Unanimous that Claire Baker MSP is elected.

Meeting Closed at 7:15pm