

**Minute of Scottish Showmen's Guild Cross Party Group AGM,  
held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015, In the Scottish Parliament, commencing  
6pm.**

**Attending MSP's**

David Torrance MSP (acting Chair)  
John Mason MSP

**Attending Showmen's Guild**

George Henry Codona (Chairman Scottish Section)  
Spencer Hiscoe (Treasurer Scottish Section)  
Christine Stirling (E.L.O Scottish Section)  
Andrea Salvona (Researcher)

**Agenda**

Apologies  
Minutes of previous Meeting  
Funfairs in Dumbarton, Renfrew and North Lanarkshire  
AOCB

**Apologies-**

Richard Lyle MSP (Convenor CPG)  
Mary Fee MSP (co Convenor CPG)  
Norman Thomas (Vice Chairman Scottish Section)  
Philip Paris (Showmen's Guild National Jnr Vice President)

**Election of CPG Officials-**

Mr Torrance was elected acting chair for this meeting.

**Minutes of previous meeting.**

No minutes of the previous meeting were present.

Minutes were also taken by Mr Lyles assistant, instructed by David Torrance for this meeting.

**Funfairs**

It was discussed how Dumbarton had lost its Guild run fair and now only have fairs for a single day at events.

North Lanarkshire council has a policy of no funfairs on council land unless coupled to another event. The Council did state they would allocate designated areas to hold fairs on, but they were few in number and some sites were rescinded after being named. There is no headway here.

It was felt this was discrimination.

SH explained how Renfrew were implementing their own policy with relation to PE license applications, they did not make readily available temporary application forms, they still put temp applications out to consultation in breach of the 1982 act, they asked applicants to prove their citizenship by way of a passport and they insisted on another full application for a move of 300yds from a site where a full license was already held.

**Licensing**

The European Showmen's meeting in Glasgow was discussed. We explained that we were approaching The European Commission with a question on Licensing. It was felt by the MSP Mr Mason that the attitude may well be that Scotland is doing it right and everywhere else is wrong. He was supporting us but reading Justice Minister Mr Mathesons letter felt that there was no support from him at all.

SH mentioned about a different licensing similar to a driving license ie would enable a showman to operate anywhere in the UK. It was felt that centralizing the license would not be a good idea and if the license was revoked the that showman may not be able to operate anywhere at all.

Ms Salvona mentioned that there had been two reports from Westminster that licensing Fairs was not essential, and this may help our cause.

The Guidance note was discussed and seemed to be our best way forward at the moment to help with the license situation.

**ACTION-** write to Mr Matheson and push for a meeting to start the guidance notes. To prepare a list of items to be included in these notes for consideration.

### **AOCB**

Mr Hiscoe asked if adding another subject along with licensing would attract more MSP's to the CPWG.

Mr Torrance advised that we should put a display at the Members Block to engage the MSP's in conversation. They would sponsor it (get permission) but we would have to supply materials (media such as signage, horse etc) and someone to be there to answer questions.

It was mentioned that we could approach other groups with similar objectives like the equal opportunities group and possibly attend one of their meetings.

To Discuss the future of the CPWG in Jan/Feb.

It was mentioned that if the CPWG was failing we could try through a public petitions committee.

**Meeting Closed 7:30pm**