

Minute of Meeting of Scottish Showmen's Guild Cross Party Group AGM held on Wednesday 12th March 2014, in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. Commencing 12:30pm.

Attending MSPs:-

Richard Lyle MSP (Convenor Cross Party Group)
Mary Fee MSP
John Mason MSP
Siobhan McMahon MSP
David Torrance MSP
Maureen Watt 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)
Jane Rodgers (Secretary Scottish Section and Cross Party Group)

Agenda

1) Apologies

2) AGM

Election of: - Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary

3) Report on Meeting with Police Scotland

4) Report on Meeting with Scottish Ambulance Service

5) Update on request to meet with the First Minister

6) AOCB

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

1) Apologies

Charles Horne (Vice Chairman Scottish Section)
Christine Stirling (Scottish Section Committee member and Education Liaison Officer)
Spencer Hiscoe (Treasurer Scottish Section and Cross Party Group)
Philip Paris (Jnr Vice President Showmen's Guild)

2) Election of Convenor, Vice Convenors and Secretary

The following nominations were put forward and agreed

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

3) Report on Meeting with Police Scotland - 7th March 2014

Maureen Watt MSP suggested there should be someone dedicated to fairgrounds as they are part of the economy. Richard Lyle advised as a result of the meeting C.S. Nelson Telfer is putting together a report suggesting there should be a national policy to deal with matters relating to fairgrounds such as public entertainment licensing. This will be submitted to the Chief Constable, Steven House.

4) Report on Meeting with Scottish Ambulance Service - 19th February 2014

Mr Colquhoun advised the meeting had come about as Scottish Ambulance Service had insisted the ambulance cover at the fair was not adequate as they are of the opinion there should be two ambulances in attendance on the Friday and Saturday. The Showmen's Guild agreed to this at the time to allow the fair to continue. The meeting was a very good meeting. The main concern seemed to be as one of the Emergency Services SAS no longer seemed to be involved in the planning process for the event. Subsequently, SAS were invited to, and attended, the planning meeting for Kirkcaldy Links Market on 27th February 2014. The Showmen's Guild has also invited them to submit a tender for the provision of Ambulance Cover at the fair.

Mr Colquhoun explained that at the planning meeting Police Scotland advised they will be providing 1 Sergeant and 8 police officers on the Friday and Saturday of the Fair at a cost of £3588.

Action: David Torrance MSP to contact Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service asking why they are imposing costs for a free to attend community event.

5) Update on request to meet with the First Minister

It was agreed Richard Lyle MSP will request the First Minister has a short meeting with the Showmen's Guild with a view to receiving some guidance on which direction to take. 9 months ago a survey was carried out with the 32 Local Authorities and it was found with regard to Public Entertainment Licensing there are 32 different fees, and 32 varying conditions. The worst of which is West Lothian Council who insist on fencing around fairgrounds and separate street trader's licence for food kiosk operators within the fair despite their being a public entertainment in place. There is no requirement in England and Wales to have a licence in order to operate a fair.

Action:- The Cross Party Group should be seeking to have the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 amended or ideally done away with.

6) AOCB

North Lanarkshire Council - Sites Available for Fairgrounds

Richard Lyle advised two years ago North Lanarkshire Council decided to ban all fairgrounds from operating on Council Land. A subsequent meeting with the Chief Executive resulted in some of the sites being reinstated as well as some suggested possible new sites

Action: Showmen's Guild to forward to Richard Lyle a list of possible sites as suggested by members who operate in the North Lanarkshire area.

Showmen's Guild 125th Anniversary

Alex James Colquhoun advised to celebrate the 125th Anniversary a reception is to be held in Glasgow City Chambers on Friday 21st November 2014.

John Mason MSP suggested putting forward a members motion on the subject. Mary Fee MSP suggested the Showmen's Guild putting on an informal event at night. Maureen Watt MSP suggested the evening event could co-incide with the motion.

Action:-

**** A motion to be put forward for debate in the Scottish Parliament regarding the Showmen's Guild 125th anniversary and the continuation of the Showmen's Guild.***

**** A evening event to be held in the Scottish Parliament, some time in October, hosted by the Showmen's Guild incorporating the history and culture of travelling showpeople.***

6) AOCB (continued)

Kirkcaldy Links Market - Lease

Alex James Colquhoun advised of the reluctance from Fife Council officials to amend certain parts of the lease which is working against Showmen's Guild members. Since then Councillors Judy Hamilton and Kenny Selbie are trying to have this looked at for the benefit and continuation of the fair.

Action: It was agreed that David Torrance MSP should be invited to all future Meetings with Fife Council regarding the fair.

Meeting closed 1:30pm.