

Minutes of Meeting

Cross Party Group on Women in Enterprise

6th November 2018

ATTENDEES:

NAME	ORGANISATION
CATRIONA STEWART	SCOTTISH AUTISM
CAROL COOKE	BUSINESS OWNER/ SCRUMPTIOUS PRODUCTIONS
JOYCE CAMPBELL	FARMER
SARAH RONALD	BUSINESS OWNER/NILE HQ
ROSIE GARRIGAN	BUSINESS OWNER/EFFICAX LTD
GILL LAWRIE	FARMER
JANE MARTIN	SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE
JUNE M GEYER	WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE SCOTLAND
RHIANNON SIMS	OXFAM SCOTLAND
LYNN MANN	BUSINESS OWNER/SUPERNATURE OILS/WES AMBASSADOR
GAIL BRYDEN	BUSINESS OWNER/JUSTBE BOTANICALS/WES AMBASSADOR
CLAIRE DEA	PERSONAL CAPACITY
CRIONA COURTNEY	RBS
HERMINE KINKELA	BUSINESS OWNER/MBIKUDI LTD
LAURA GALLOWAY	HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY
CHRISSEY MACKAY	BUSINESS OWNER/BEYONDER/WES AMBASSADOR
ASHLEY GRACZYK	COUNCILLOR, EDINBURGH CITY
EILIS MURRAY	STENOGRAPHER
BILL BOWMAN MSP	SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
CAROLYN CURRIE	WES
LYNNE CADENHEAD	WES
MAGGIE ANDERSON	EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY
NORIN ARSHED	UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE
ANNIE WELLS MSP	SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
MARY JANE BROUWERS	LINC
MANDY BAILEY	BUSINESS OWNER/PLANT-N-GROW
WENDY CRAWFORD	BUSINESS OWNER / HOUSE OF BLUEBELL
JULIE ASHWORTH	BUSINESS OWNER/BROAD REACH
JANE QUEENAN	HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY
REBECCA STIRZAKER	HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

APOLOGIES	
ANNE MEIKLE	WES
JACKIE BRIERTON	WES / GROWBIZ
BETH BELL	BUSINESS OWNER
MAIRI DAMER	WORD UP COMMUNICATIONS
JOCK MILLICAN	EQUITY GAP

LOUISE MACDONALD	YOUNG SCOT/NACWG
SUSAN GRIEVE	RURAL DEVELOPMENT
JO MC SWEEN	BUSINESS OWNER/WES AMBASSADOR
YVONNE GREAVES	RBS
LISA THOMSON	PURPOSE HR
GORDON MCDONALD MSP	SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
DANIEL JOHNSON MSP	SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
MONICA YOUNG	PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
WENDY EDIE	ECOM SCOTLAND
Dr LYN BATCHELOR	NAPIER UNIVERSITY
RUTH McGUIRE MSP	SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
KAREN MOORE	BUSINESS OWNER/LEADERSHIP COACH
KIRSTY LIVINGSTONE	IOD
SUSAN HARKINS	BUSINESS GATEWAY
JENNIFER NICOL	HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE
SARA FERREIRA-JEFFRIES	PURPOSE HR

1. The meeting was opened by Gillian Martin MSP, Convenor and the Minutes from the previous meeting in September were approved by Lynne Cadenhead and Lynn Mann on behalf of the Group.
2. Criona Courtney of RBS spoke of the sponsorship of the Group by the Royal Bank of Scotland and commented on the amount of work covered by the group. Alison Rose, Deputy MD of the bank, is leading a review into the challenges faced by female entrepreneurs when starting and growing a business. This will involve round table events with women owned businesses to capture their views and experiences. The bank has 60 women in business specialist staff in Scotland and there are entrepreneurship hubs in Edinburgh and Glasgow where 40% of businesses are owned by women. The bank is delighted to sponsor the Women in Enterprise Cross Party Group and the launch of the Annual Report.
3. Ann Johnson, Finance Director of Blaze Manufacturing Solutions presented on diversifying into new international markets to survive the oil and gas sector downturn in the North East of Scotland. Issues with Brexit mean that business from European markets will be lost and the company have targeted new markets in Africa including Zambia. In Zambia they successfully gained new business and part of the success was a mutual focus and interest in supporting women owned businesses. During this period, networking was critical, and the business received great support from Scottish Enterprise (SE). It was an extremely difficult time and at each session of an Executive Masterclass programme with 11 other oil and gas sector businesses, someone would be in tears. The group formed a close bond of support.

4. Jane Martin of SE commented on existing attitudes to failure in business in Scotland. Skyscanner are focussing on sharing failures as part of learning and progressing. At first it was daunting but now it is becoming one of the best things they have done.

Gillian Martin thanked everyone for attending and the bank for their ongoing support of the Group. Ms Martin encouraged attendees to let their MSP know when they were attending the group so as to encourage more MSP's to come along themselves. The meeting was then brought to a close so attendees could network and discuss the meeting and the Annual Report.

WES

Approved March 2019