

Minute
Annual General Meeting
Cross Party Group on Pakistan in the Scottish Parliament
Wednesday 28th June 2017
Committee Room 6
17:30

Present

Mr Amer Masood
Mr Devin Scobie
Mr James Dornan MSP
Mr Murdo Fraser MSP
Mr Anas Sarwar MSP

In attendance:

Mr Richard Sullivan
Mr Eunis Jassemi-Zargani

1. Welcome

Mr Fraser welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were submitted from Dr Susan McKinnon and Mr Hanzala Malik.

3. Introductions

The group made formal introductions.

4. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were proposed by Mr Sarwar and seconded by Mr Dornan as an accurate and true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

Mr Fraser asked if Mr Rennie MSP had been asked if he wished to re-join the group and accept the position of co convener. The group were advised that he had accepted this position.

Mr Sarwar had confirmed he had approached the Consul General regarding attending a meeting of the CPG. He was delighted to accept but unfortunately, he is out of the country.

Mr Dornan un-dated the group regarding his status with the CPG on Turkey. He is no longer the convener of that group and to the best of his knowledge the group was now defunct.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Mr Fraser noted that the rotational co-convenership appeared to work well and that, if members were willing, that it should continue. He also suggested that Mr Masood should continue as secretary.

This was agreed unanimously.

7. Building the membership of the group

There was a lengthy discussion on how the group could be strengthened. The discussion indicated a focus on trade links, airline and accessibility from Scotland to Pakistan and asking if the Consul General and the High Commissioner would respectively host and attend a reception at the Consulate and also at Parliament.

It was agreed that over the 2017/18 session the group would;

- Ask the Consul General to host a meeting at the Consulate. **Mr Sarwar to action.**
- Ask if the Consul General would host a reception at Parliament, sponsored by an MSP(s) with a view to one, or collection, of pertinent airlines paying catering costs. **Mr Sarwar to action.** It was also agreed that this may take place on, or around, National Day 23rd March 2018. **Mr Fraser to liaise with the Secretary of State for Scotland to ensure that there is no duplication of events, or host joint event at the Scottish Parliament.**
- Ensure one of the CPG sessions would focus on trade links between Scotland and Pakistan. This would involve the Pakistani business community but an invitation would also be sent to Mrs Liz Cameron of the Scottish Chamber of Commerce. **Mr Fraser to action.**
- Allocate a meeting of the CPG to travel between the two countries. This session would invite those airlines with a locus in this field to explore the feasibility of increasing accessibility between Scotland and Pakistan. **Mr Dornan to action.**
- Ask the Pakistani Press Club to join the Group. **Mr Dornan to action.**

8. AOCB

No items were raised.

9. Close and date of the next Meeting

No date was set.

The meeting closed at 17:53 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.