

Minute of the Annual General meeting of the Cross Party Group on Pakistan, The Scottish Parliament

Tuesday, 26th June 2018, 1730hrs

In attendance:

James Dornan MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, Devin Scobie, Teresa Martin

1. James Dornan MSP took the Chair and opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.
2. Apologies had been received from Amer Masood, Anas Sarwar MSP, and Willie Rennie MSP.
3. The Minutes of the 2017 AGM were circulated, and agreed.
4. In matters arising from the Minutes, it was noted that a number of events had taken place in the previous year. A very busy event had taken place with the Community Welfare Attaché from the Consulate General of Pakistan in Manchester, at which a large number of questions had been asked. A successful reception had been hosted by the Scotland Office in Melville Street, with Lord Duncan welcoming guests. This had been timed to coincide with Pakistan National Day in March.
5. It was proposed that the current office bearers should continue, namely James Dornan, Murdo Fraser, Anas Sarwar and Willie Rennie as Co-Convenors, with Amer Masood as Secretary. This was unanimously agreed.
6. There was discussion about future activities for the group and a number of suggestions were made, as follows:
 - a. There is a new Consul General for Pakistan in Glasgow and a meeting with the CG would be of interest. Given the large numbers of the Pakistani community in Scotland being based in and around Glasgow, the group wanted to investigate whether this meeting could be held in the Consulate in Glasgow, which might attract more members from the Glasgow area to attend.

- b. The group would be interested in hearing more about the current political situation in Pakistan. It was suggested that Anas Sarwar could help facilitate this through family links.
 - c. A meeting looking at the links of Scottish charities with Pakistan might be useful. Devin Scobie is a trustee of Starfish Asia, who support education in Pakistan, and would suggest some possible speakers. This could also cover the question of treatment of minority communities in Pakistan in areas such as education.
 - d. Once a new External Affairs Minister is appointed in the Scottish government, it would be interesting to get their perspective on Pakistan. Also a speaker from DFID could be invited who had experience of DFID programmes in the country.
7. There being no other business, the meeting closed.