

**SCOTTISH CROSS PARTY GROUP ON TIBET (CPG)
MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 6.00 P.M.**

Attendees:

Linda Fabiani MSP
Ross Greer MSP
Richard Lyle MSP
Vita Adair
Oskar Bengtsson
Jenni Campbell
Tenzin Chodak
Roger Eames
Jackie Fordyce
David Lloyd Hudson
Martin Mills
Sam Peterson
Sarah Schroeder
Karma Tendhar
Kelsung Wangdu
Tenzin Wangdu

Apologies

Youdon Lhamo
Victor Spence
Iain Thom

The meeting congratulated Iain Thom on the occasion of his recent marriage.

MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2016

The AGM had been well attended with twenty five members present as well as a guest speaker, Mr. Chonpel Tsering, Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama. The meeting, which was the inaugural meeting of the Group in the new Parliament, had elected Linda Fabiani MSP as Convenor, Ross Greer MSP as Vice Convenor, Martin Mills as Secretary and David Lloyd Hudson as Treasurer.

In the meeting that followed the AGM there had been a statement from Mr. Tsering and, following that, a performance of Tibetan songs by two members of the Group.

CONVENOR'S REPORT

Linda Fabiani reported that there had been four (5/10, 11/1, 19/4, 21/6) meetings during the year which had been very informative and attracted good attendances. A demonstration had been held on Uprising Day March 10th with speeches and a march from The Mound to The Parliament.

TREASURER'S REPORT

£800 had been received from the International Campaign for Tibet of which £325 had been spent to date.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chair was taken by Richard Lyle MSP for the election of officers.

Convenor: Linda Fabiani MSP Nominated by Ross Greer, seconded by David Lloyd Hudson

Vice Convenor: Ross Greer MSP Nominated by Martin Mills; seconded by Linda Fabiani.

Secretary: Martin Mills Nominated by Jenni Campbell, seconded by Richard Lyle

Treasurer: David Lloyd Hudson Nominated by Roger Eames, seconded by Richard Lyle

**SCOTTISH CROSS PARTY GROUP ON TIBET (CPG)
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER 2017 AFTER THE AGM**

Attendees:

As AGM

Apologies:

As AGM

The Chair was taken by the Convenor, Linda Fabiani MSP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST JUNE 2017

The meeting went well with about fifty present including a large group from Samye Ling including twenty two nuns. It was an enjoyable evening with a showing of the film 'Akong: A Remarkable Life' which was much appreciated. During the meeting, there was an enjoyable buffet, funded by International Campaign for Tibet.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 19TH APRIL 2017

As requested, Linda Fabiani tabled a letter she had written on 10th July as Convenor of the Cross Party Group to Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, asking for the UK Government's position if the People's Republic of China attempted to install the next Dalai Lama. .

UPDATE ON EXHIBITION

Martin reported on the exhibition 'Scotland's Relationship with the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau'. This had been planned for 2019 and it was hoped to display it in the reception area of the Scottish Parliament. Co-participation and help had been offered by the Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh, the National Museum of Scotland, National Museum of Liverpool which houses the Younghusband Exhibition and the universities of St Andrews, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen. It was to have been displayed round a 3D centre piece showing the Tibetan Plateau. The exhibition was intended to be shown afterwards at Westminster and the Welsh Assembly.

Unfortunately, the application for permission to show the exhibition in the Reception area had been turned down by the Scottish Parliament's Events Committee, who instead recommended a members exhibit in the Parliament's Garden Foyer instead. This, however, is only open to MSPs and their invited guests and the display area is much smaller. It could not accommodate the 'centre piece'. Although it would be less costly, it was likely that some of the funding bodies would no longer be interested. However, the Group for Tibet agreed that they were still interested, particularly as it had always been intended that the exhibition at Westminster should be smaller as less space was available.

There was discussion about alternative venues including universities in Aberdeen, St Andrews, Glasgow and Edinburgh. This however would entail a considerable amount of work transferring the exhibits. The National Museum was discounted because its rental space was extremely expensive. Edinburgh Council could be approached but it was not thought they had any suitable space. St Augustine's on George IV Bridge was also suggested.

The final decision was to hold the smaller exhibition, without the topographical centre piece, in the Garden Room, setting up on a Monday and holding the display for three days Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. A buffet for up to a hundred could be held on the Wednesday evening to which guests could be invited although this would be expensive as it had to be provided by the Parliament's caterers.

Members present were asked to give their names to Martin if they were willing to help.

UPDATE ON BRIEFING PAPERS

Martin explained that the CPG had so far published five Briefing Papers. Two¹ of these had been submitted to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on Human Rights by Tibet Support Group Grampian and included in the Foreign Affairs Select Committee's Annual Report in 2008.

A sixth report was tabled in draft 'Mass Relocations and Nomad Settlement on the Tibetan Plateau'. Martin requested that any observations, amendments etc. be sent to him by Wednesday 11th October 2017 after which it would be forwarded to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. This was agreed. He emphasised that the contents should not be made public as a briefing paper until after it had been submitted in draft form to the Select Committee.

Martin reported that a Paper on reincarnation with regard to the Dalai Lama was in preparation, but depended on emergent developments in Dharamsala.

Martin stressed that these Papers and the online CPG Tibet News are widely recognised internationally particularly in their treatment of issues which Tibetologists generally do not cover. Previously such news had been covered by Tibet Information Network (TIN), which was no longer in existence.

DISCUSSION: GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Group carries out a range of activities including commemorating anniversaries of significant dates such as The Uprising. It was agreed, however, that, in addition, a focussed approach should be adopted, with goals set and progress towards them monitored. One issue identified concerned the problems experienced by Tibetans in the UK. Martin and Tenzin Wangdu undertook to identify the nature and extent of such problems and report back to the next Committee.

NEXT MEETING Wednesday 6th December 6.00p.m.

¹The 2008 Protests in Tibet: Main Facts and Analysis (2008)

and

The Sino-Tibetan Dispute: Issues of Sovereignty and Legal Status (2009)

The three other papers were

The 2008 Protests Religious Policy and State Control in Tibet (2010) (incorporating an earlier paper by Ron Scrimageour)

Self-Immolation amongst Tibetans, 1998-2012 (2012),

Self-Immolations in Tibet and China, 2013 Update (2013)