

**SCOTTISH CROSS PARTY GROUP ON TIBET (CPG)  
MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AT 6.00 P.M.**

**Attendees:**

Linda Fabiani MSP (Chair)  
Ross Greer MSP (Deputy Chair)  
Dr Martin A. Mills (Secretary)  
Roger Eames  
Jackie Fordyce  
David Lloyd Hudson  
Tashi Thondup  
Victor Spence

**Apologies**

Kirby Benfield  
Jenni Campbell  
Sonam  
Callum Pearce

**MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

The Minutes of the meeting were approved by Linda Fabiani.

Seventeen members attended. The meeting elected Linda Fabiani MSP as Convenor, Ross Greer MSP as Vice Convenor, Martin Mills as Secretary and David Lloyd Hudson as Treasurer.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Convenor: Linda Fabiani MSP. Nominated by Roger Eames, seconded by Martin Mills  
Vice Chairman: Ross Greer MSP Nominated by Martin Mills seconded by David Lloyd Hudson  
Secretary: Martin Mills Nominated by Ross Greer, seconded by Victor Spence  
Treasurer: Roger Eames. Nominated by Martin Mills, seconded by Victor Spence

**CONVENOR'S REPORT**

The Chair explained that she had, unfortunately, been unable to devote as much time as she wished to Tibet due to the unusually heavy workload resulting from the 'BREXIT' negotiations. She said, however, that the Group had succeeded over the past years in keeping the issue of Tibet on the agenda as an independent nation with its distinct culture. She had tried to engage as far as possible with the Chinese, visiting their Consulate in Edinburgh. She said the Chinese consulate constantly lodge complaints to the Parliament's Presiding Officer including complaints about CPG.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary said that the Group was extremely grateful to Linda Fabiani and Ross Greer in that they came to the Group's meetings and thus allowed the Group to continue, and stressed the vital importance of that continued existence. He also considered that Linda Fabiani had, actually, made a very positive contribution to the Group's work over the past year and drew attention to her letter published by the Herald 'The Facts About China and Tibet', correcting the views expressed on the same subject in an earlier article in the Paper.

The Secretary reported that there had been four meetings held over the previous year.

**SCOTTISH CROSS PARTY GROUP ON TIBET (CPG)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018 (AFTER THE**  
**AGM)**

**Attendees:**

As AGM

**Apologies:**

As AGM

The Chair was taken by the Convenor, Linda Fabiani MSP

**1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

The Minutes were approved by Linda Fabiani MSP

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Item 4 under Matters Arising in the May Minutes: Foreign Affairs Select Committee Inquiry – China and the International rules based system inquiry. This reported that evidence from the CPG briefing paper ‘Mass Relocations and Resettlement on the Tibetan Plateau’ had been accepted by the Inquiry. Martin Mills said he had still to examine the analysis in the Inquiry’s report..

Item 6 in May Minutes: Essay Writing Prize Update (See Full report in May minutes.)

Tashi Thondup said he was going to India in December. He hoped to continue with the very successful essay competitions for schoolchildren in Tibetan language. He said he was very grateful for the money donated towards the prize money for the competitions to date and would welcome any further donations.

**3. OFFICE OF TIBET**

The new Representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama for Northern Europe, the Baltic States and Poland is Sonam Tsering Frasi who took up his post on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. The Secretary attended the reception given in London for the outgoing representative Chonpel Tsering on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018. He had extended an invitation to Mr. Frasi to CPG.

**4. INVITATION TO THE SIKYONG, LOBSANG SANGAY**

The May meeting had discussed inviting Lobsang Sangay to visit the Parliament. The invitation had now been sent, although without mentioning any preferred date. This was followed by a discussion as to the organisation of such a visit and the possibilities and requirements for carrying it to success.

**5. CPG TIBET EXHIBITION AT HOLYROOD**

It has been confirmed that space will be available to hold the exhibition Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the Garden Room. Some funds from the International Council for Tibet (ICT) could be used and funding had also been provisionally offered by the University of Aberdeen. The Secretary displayed a large map of Tibet that he thought could be reproduced as a centre piece of the exhibition, as well as the provision of CPG Briefing Papers to disseminate the Group's work.

It was thought that an event should be arranged at some point in the exhibition week. It was also decided to ask Mr. Frasi to present the four minute ‘Time for Reflection’ which is held weekly.

It was suggested that such an event could be held as part of the Central Tibetan Administration’s ‘Year of Gratitude/Thanksgiving’ marking the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama’s exile to India in 1959. The possibility of such an event somewhere in Edinburgh had been discussed at CPG’s May meeting, and invitations to a reception for in excess of 100 guests from Scotland and present certificates from the Office of Tibet. It was decided that a reception on this scale would be too costly for CPG to fund, although a reception in the City Chambers might attract Council funding. As such, it would be completely separate from any event held by CPG.

A suggestion for a sand mandala was, unfortunately, not thought to be feasible because it was realised that it would be unlikely that there would be any monks with the requisite skills in the UK at that time.

It was decided to book a committee room in the Parliament on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and invite MSPs. The Cross Party Group is, therefore, looking for any ideas for a suitable event for this venue.

Discussion occurred surrounding the 10<sup>th</sup> March commemoration in Edinburgh could occur outside the Parliament on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The Parliament building is open that day. A candlelight vigil could be held the following day, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. CPG ONLINE TIBET NEWS**

The Secretary distributed printed copies of the June – October 2018 News ‘Round Up’, produced by the Scottish Centre for Himalayan Research, together with a number of ICT news reports.

## **7. AOCB**

It was proposed to ask the Edinburgh University Confucius Institute and the Chinese Consulate to a future CPG meeting. Attention was drawn to the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review on China which is to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Tibetan Voices Free Tibet had organised a UK tour of two Tibetans from Dharamsala, Wangden Kyab a researcher for Tibet Watch and Tenzin Tsundeu activist and poet. In Scotland, they gave talks and recitations in Aberdeen and Edinburgh - David Lloyd Hudson said there were about 30 attending at the Himalayan Café in Edinburgh including some students; in Aberdeen there were about twenty.

Edinburgh International Film Festival. Peace Jam, an international youth movement, is showing their latest film, ‘The Dalai Lama: the Scientist’ in June.

**8. NEXT MEETING** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December Talk Tibetan Writers 6.00p.m.

## ***FUTURE MEETINGS***

*27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 It is proposed to show ‘The Road to Peace’ with a talk by the Director Leon Stuparich*

*March 2019 No details*

*24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 The Edinburgh Tibet Collections – Dr. Qin Cao Curator of the Chinese Collections in the National Museum of Scotland including Himalayan and Mongolian regions.*