

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Cross-Party Group on Tibet, October 29th 2020

Attendance

- Linda Fabiani MSP (Chair)
- Maureen Watt MSP
- Martin Mills (Secretary)
- Roger Eames (Treasurer)
- Sonam Frasi, Representative to His Holiness the Dalai Lama
- Representative of Free Tibet
- Ron Scrimgeour
- Frederick Hyde-Chambers
- Linda Hendry
- Youdon Lhamo
- Jenni Campbell
- Mark Watson

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Ross Greer MSP
- David Steel
- Victor Spence
- Mike Lean
- Urgyen Wangchuk

Minutes of last AGM.

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on Wednesday, 2nd October 2019, were passed (Proposed by Linda Hendry; Seconded by Linda Fabiani)

Matters Arising

The Chair noted the change in the Consul General of the Chinese Consulate in Edinburgh. She noted that relations with the previous Consul General had always been frank, open and cordial, and regretted the absence of any contact with new Consul General.

Election of Officers.

- Chair: Linda Fabiani MSP (proposed by MM ; seconded by RE - elected unopposed)

- Deputy Chair: Ross Greer MSP (proposed by MM; seconded by Linda Hendry - elected unopposed)
- Secretary: Martin Mills (proposed by Roger Eames; Seconded by LF - elected unopposed)
- Treasurer: Roger Eames (Proposed by LF; seconded by MW - elected unopposed)

Chair and Secretary's Report.

The Chair and Secretary reviewed the last year of business by the Cross-Party Group, covering all that had been achieved, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Group business.

Meetings

2nd October, 2019: Annual General Meeting. Chair: Linda Fabiani MSP (minutes attached).

4th December, 2019: Agenda Items: Talk? *A Unique Tradition – Incarnates Lamas in Tibetan Buddhism*. Possible film presentation – *The Dalai Lama – Scientist*. (VS). Report on International Tibet Support Group Meeting, D’Sala (Eleanor). Tibet in Diaspora Report (?). Climate Change Inquiry Report (MM). Chair: Ross Greer MSP.

22nd January, 2020 First meeting of the Third Pole Climate Change Inquiry: Discussion of Terms of Reference of Inquiry (see

11th March, 2020: Second Meeting of the Climate Change Inquiry: **Hosting Dr David Molden and Eklabya Sharma, Director General and Deputy Director General of The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**. ICIMOD is a major international research centre on mountain development, located in Kathmandu, Nepal. It recently published the [Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment](#), a comprehensive assessment of climate change and development in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya region, that is available open access to the public. **(Meeting cancelled at last moment because of international COVID restrictions).**

21st April, 2020: Third Meeting of the Third Pole Climate Change Inquiry. Meeting with Gabriel Lafitte (rukor.org), author of *Spoiling Tibet*, and Michael Buckley, author of *Meltdown in Tibet*. **(Meeting Cancelled due to COVID Restrictions).**

19th May, 2020: Hosting members of the Environment Policy Unit of the Tibet Policy Institute, Central Tibetan Administration, Dharamsala. **(Meeting Cancelled due to COVID Restrictions).**

Other Events:

6th December 2019: CPG Secretary attended and spoke at the 6th *Global China Dialogue Meeting*, British Academy – UK Parliament.

7th December 2019: CPG Secretary attended and spoke at the 2nd *Climate Action for Tibet* panel discussion in Madrid, coinciding with the COP 25 UN Climate Summit.

8th May 2020: CPG Secretary to speak in Amsterdam to EU Parliamentarians and Tibet Groups (Cancelled due to COVID restrictions).

The Chair and Secretary's report was accepted by the Group with thanks.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided a brief overview of the Group's present financial situation:

There were no items of expenditure in the year ending October 2020. It is necessary to have some transactions to keep the account open and the Convenor has kindly agreed to donate £10.00 monthly by standing order as from 15th September 2020.

Accounts for year ending 1st October 2020

Opening Balance 1st October 2019 £ 0.00

Expenditure 2019/20

£0.00

Income 2019/20

Donation 15th September 2020 £10.00

Closing Balance Clydesdale Bank 1st October 2020 £10.00

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the Group with thanks.

MAIN MEETING

The Year Ahead (discussion).

The Group discussed the recent events on the Sino-Indian border and considered the possibility of hearing directly from individuals within the effected area in Ladakh.

Sonam Frasi, Representative to His Holiness the Dalai Lama expressed his thanks to the Chair and Deputy Chair for their work and spoke on the subject of the Panchen Lama Campaign, the postponement due to COVID of the new book on Tibet's history and the appointment of the new US Special Rapporteur on Tibet.

The Group discussed the possibilities of enhancing UK internal co-operation on matters related to Tibet, and the question of the UK's position vis-a-vis China regarding this.

Future Meetings

The timing of the next meeting was left open at present, depending on the possibility of getting individuals to speak from Ladakh.