

Cross Party Group on Tibet - minutes

6th March 2013 – Holyrood CR4

Attendees: Linda Fabiani, Anne McTaggart, Willie Rennie, Richard Lyle and 26 members of the public.

Apologies: Elaine Smith, Alison McInnes, Maureen Watt, Rod Campbell, Annabelle Ewing, Kevin Stewart, Alison Johnstone.

Agenda

Talk by Mr Thubten Samdup, The Dalai Lama's representative for northern Europe

Minutes and matters arising from last meeting

AGM

Tibetan Uprising Day announcements

AoB / DoNM

Talk by Mr Thubten Samdup, The Dalai Lama's representative for northern Europe

Mr Samdup addressed MSPs and the group on the parliamentary and other support the Tibetan struggle requires to achieve successes. He addressed the need to build a movement with peace organisations, the urgency of taking action while HHDL is alive, the importance building links with Chinese students in the UK, the investments the Tibetan exile community have made in democracy and how international support for non-violence and the Tibetan community must not fail Tibetans.

Minutes and matters arising

The minutes from last meeting were confirmed with one amendment – 'Authority' changed to 'Administration' as the proper title of the Central Tibetan Administration.

A letter has been sent from the CPG conveners to Norman Baker MP and Tim Loughton MP. No response as yet as only sent recently.

A motion on Tibetan Independence Day was lodged by Marco Biagi MSP and the group noted its thanks to him -

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-05565>

AGM

The Annual report was approved unanimously with one amendment to correct the Convener's room number.

Elections:

- Linda Fabiani was proposed as convener by Richard Lyle, seconded Anne McTaggart
- Anne McTaggart was proposed as deputy convener by Richard Lyle, seconded Linda Fabiani.
- Iain Thom was proposed as secretary by Kirsteen Currie, seconded Fiona Lindsay.

Tibetan Uprising Day – March 10th

Edinburgh University Tibet Society shared details of March 10th plans. Meet at The Mound, Edinburgh at 1:30pm for a mass 'die-in' marking the self-immolations, rally speeches and march to the Chinese consulate. <http://www.facebook.com/events/573513312661803/> MSPs can send messages of support to be read out at this event.

Roger Eames shared details of the petition to politicians he hoped to have signed by people in Edinburgh following a successful collection of 250+ signatures from Aberdeen.

AoB

A forum for the group to communicate through was discussed. Secretary and David Hudson to explore.

DoNM

Next meeting is **22nd May 2013**. Further meetings are then planned for 2nd Oct 2013.