

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palestine

Tuesday 22nd November 2022 6pm-7:30pm

AGM Minutes

Chair: Pauline McNeil MSP

Present

MSPs

Pauline McNeil MSP

Mercedes Alba MSP

MSP Apologies

James Dornan MSP

Maggie Chapman MSP

Sarah Boyack MSP

Katy Clark MSP

Shiela Trachler (On behalf of Foysol Choudhury MSP)

Non MSP Attendance

There were 22 Non-MSP Group Members in attendance

Welcome from Chair

Chair reflected on the work of the group over the last year; noting the need to raise awareness of this good work more widely, particularly amongst other MSPs in order to encourage future participation and indicated that directly after election of office bearers the meeting would focus on facilitating open discussion around the future work of the group.

Chair also noted that Parliamentary Guidance now permitted in person meeting and indicated that the next meeting of the CPG would take place as a Hybrid session.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer noted that the Group's finances remained largely unchanged due to meetings taking place virtually under COVID regulations.

Treasurer also indicated their intention to step down from the position of Treasurer.

The Group offered its huge thanks and gratitude to Treasurer for their long standing commitment and dedication to the position; which was noted has been invaluable in facilitating the effective running of the Group.

Election of Office Bearers

Group proposed Pauline McNeil MSP as Co-Convener-proposal accepted

Group proposed Maggie Chapman MSP as Co-Convener-proposal accepted

Group proposed James Dornan MSP as Co-Convener-proposal accepted

Group proposed Chris White as Treasurer/Secretary-proposal accepted

Open Discussion

Jim Malone

Jim informed the group of his recent visit to Palestine and the Firebrigade Union's planned future delivery of a new Fire Appliance.

Phil Chetwynd

Noted the need for a detailed action plan going forward and for the next meeting to provide a comprehensive outcome that reflects the Group's stated aims and purpose.

The group agreed that Secretariat would draw together past agreed outcome objectives and working frameworks for next meeting.

Further noted the breadth of knowledge and expertise within the group; asked how this could be brought together to raise awareness more widely and suggested a monthly CPG communique be sent to Members, MSPs, etc. providing a variety of information such as news, analysis, opinion and events related to Palestine.

The group welcomed this proposal and agreed that Secretariat would collate Member's contributions and sent to above mentioned on a monthly basis.

Sophiah MacLeod

Expressed agreement with proposals to encourage wider participation particularly amongst MSPs; to produce a comprehensive action plan that reflects the aims and objectives of the group and to raise awareness of issues as widely as possible.

Noted the worsening situation in Palestine drawing particular attention to the actions being taken against rights groups suggesting the group may wish to explore this issue at a future meeting.

END