

# CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

From 1.15pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Committee room 1

## Minutes of Meeting

Present

### MSPs

Monica Lennon MSP  
Grahame Simpson MSP  
Gordon MacDonald MSP

### Invited guests

Gordon Reid, Scottish Water

### Non-MSP Group Members Present

Maureen Douglas,	CECA Scotland
Ben Rainger,	Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)
Cameron MacIver,	The Association of Environmental Clerks of Works
Elaine Ellis,	Skills Development Scotland
Fiona Hodgson, (SNIPEF)	Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation
Fiona Stewart,	Skills Development Scotland
Gordon Brown,	Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Gordon Nelson,	FMB Scotland
Graeme Hannah,	Robertson Group
Graham Jackson,	Thorntons Law
James Callender,	DWF LLP
Jocelyne Fleming,	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
John Kane,	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Jonathan Gaskell,	DWF LLP
Robert Toomey,	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Alan Wilson,	SELECT

## Others present

Graham Jackson, Thorntons Law LLP  
Alastair Raitt, HM Raitt & Sons Ltd  
Elizabeth Halliday, Morgan Sindall

## Apologies

Alexander Burnett,	MSP
Foysol Choudry,	MSP
Rhoda Grant,	MSP
Rwayda Al-Hamd	Abertay University
Grahame Barn	CECA Scotland
William Crowe,	ISE
Raymond Baxter,	NHBC
Stephanie Lowe,	Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPEF)
Elliot Robertson	Robertson Group
Anne Galbraith	Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)
Ian Rogers,	Scottish Decorators Federation
John Nelson,	AECOM
Brett Amphlett	Builders Merchant Federation
Andrew Leslie	The Association for Project Safety
Lauren Pennycook	Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
Tim Thomas,	Property Mark
Chris Pateman,	EPIC (Engineered Panels in Construction Limited)

### **1. Welcome from the Convener of the Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Construction.**

Monica Lennon (ML) was re-elected as the Convener at the AGM immediately prior to this meeting. ML had previously welcomed everyone to the meeting, so we moved onto item 2.

### **2. Matters arising. Notes from the last official meeting of the CPG held on 8th February 2023.**

ML noted that whilst she was unable to attend, some CPG members including our new Deputy Convener Gordon MacDonald (GM) MSP, were taken on an informative guided tour of a construction project in Edinburgh in June.

This walking tour on Midsummer's day, was of a major refurbishment programme in Murrayburn, Edinburgh aimed at improving the conditions and energy efficiency of mixed tenure homes.

A.C. Whyte & Co Ltd have been working in partnership with The City of Edinburgh Council on this programme which is designed to help all home owners – both council and private – repair, maintain and improve jointly owned low-rise blocks, to maximise the energy efficiency of their homes and ultimately save money on their fuel bills.

GM added that he is the constituency MSP where this project is taking place and that the impressive works should see some funds spent on improving the landscaping in the area. New children's playgrounds are also needed.

ML thanked FMB member & main contractor A.C. Whyte & Co Ltd for planning and hosting this tour.

ML confirmed that our previous official meeting was on 8th February 2023 in the Parliament. We received a presentation from Maureen Douglas on Scotland's shared apprenticeship programme and also from Stephanie Lowe from Scotland and Northern Ireland Plumbers Employers Federation (SNIPEF) and from Anne Galbraith of the Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT).

There was also robust discussion on the funding of Scotland's apprenticeship system for the construction sector.

The notes from this meeting were circulated in advance of today. No comments raised. The notes were approved by Maureen Douglas (MD) and John Kane (JK).

### **3. Presentation from Gordon Reid, General Manager Zero Emissions Scottish Water**

ML welcomed Gordon Reid (GR), General Manager Zero Emissions at Scottish Water. ML confirmed that Scottish Water have a highly ambitious target of reaching net zero by 2040 - before both the UK & Scottish Government targets.

Gordon's presentation showed and explained real-life examples of how Scottish Water has reduced or removed carbon from the construction process, along with the challenges and costs in

achieving this. Key points from the presentation:

- The close co-operation and involvement of contractors (CECA Scotland members) in achieving carbon reductions for Scottish Water's construction programmes.
- The importance of measuring and knowing what is driving Scottish Water's operational carbon emissions.
- Materials. In 2022, steel, concrete and plastics represented 74% of the CO2e emissions share. With Diesel accounting for 19%.
- Technical, behavioural and commercial factors all need to be addressed when looking to deliver carbon reductions.
- A quarterly net-zero heroes meeting to share best practice within Scottish Water.
- Gordon explained how the use of alternative concrete, low carbon plant, modular steel, and Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil, (HVO) replacing diesel are all contributing to carbon reductions.

A Q&A session followed with questions from Alan Wilson, Robbie Toomey, Alastair Raitt, Fiona Hodgson (FH) and GN.

ML thanked GR for his insightful presentation.

#### **4. Any other business.**

ML noted that our secretary GN, was approached by the Passivhaus Trust about setting up a visit today to Scottish Passivhaus projects for the CPG.

Owing to timings and practicalities, we decided to stick with having the planned AGM and ordinary meeting today in the Scottish Parliament.

With International Passivhaus Open Days on the 10th and 11th of November, there is potential for the Scottish Passivhaus Trust to host an informal and unofficial visit to Scottish Passivhaus projects by CPG members.

Gordon will follow up with the Passivhaus Trust as previously we were looking at a visit to projects in Midlothian. Gordon will email CPG members with further details anon.

## **5. Date of Next Meeting.**

ML: this is to be advised but we are looking at late January or early February & we will aim to be in the Parliament for the meeting.

ML thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

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