

Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

27 June 6pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Michelle Thomson

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Joe Goldblatt, Callum MacLeod, Michael Veitch, Dennis Canavan
Ela Kossakowska*, Christopher Thomson*, Tanveer Parneez*, Rev. Neil Galbraith*,
Christina Hendry*, Councillor Maurice Corry*
(*Indicates presence on-line)

Apologies

Philip Bale, Alex Rowley MSP, David Lonsdale, Councillor Gerry McGarvey, Pat Kelly,
Liza Boffen-Yordanov

Agenda item 1

Minutes of EGM of 31 May approved. No matters arising

Agenda item 2

Minutes of ordinary meeting of 31 May approved. No matters arising.

Agenda item 3

Event at Scottish Parliament on 29 November 2023

MT reported that she had met with Roy Devon, Head of Events in the Scottish Parliament who informed her that this year's event would be "owned" by the Scottish Parliament with the

Parliaments Events team taking responsibility for organising and funding event. However, the CPG could make recommendations based on our experience of organising last year's event.

Suggestions from resultant discussion included: A 3 year plan- (1) Last year's launch (2) Establish the brand (3) promote throughout the country and internationally.

Event should be multi-cultural and multi-faith, involving people of different traditions, e.g. Jewish community

Involvement of voluntary sector, e.g. BEMIS, which has previous involvement in multi-cultural events and would like to continue such involvement.

Involvement of young people in schools etc.

Tackle problems of discrimination. Bring people together.

Importance of international dimension

Spread appreciation of the biblical story of St. Andrew and its relevance in today's world.

Promotion of values associated with St. Andrew ,e.g. caring for others.

St. Andrew took his message out to other countries. Importance of spreading message internationally.

Possible link with Iona, island of St. Columba, who brought St. Andrew's message to Scotland,

Link with town of St. Andrews, which is on the Fife Pilgrim Way.

Agenda item 4

Consultation on future strategy for celebration of St. Andrew's Day

DC drew members' attention to four documents previously circulated: (1) A strategy for celebration of St. Andrew's Day (2) Questionnaire to organisations (3) List of organisations (4) Submission from David Lonsdale of SRC

Points arising from discussion included:

As a cross-party group, we should embrace people of differing political persuasions, irrespective of their views on Scotland's constitutional future.

Important to focus on volunteerism. Possible link with UN International Volunteer Day.

Involvement of Higher Education.

MT to meet up with EK to take matters forward with aim of sending out questionnaire during recess.

Responses to questionnaire will have to be analysed, perhaps as a project for a university student.

JG, as Treasurer, emphasised importance of funding and will forward to MT info on budget for last year's event.

Agenda item 5

Date and time of next meeting and AGM : Wed. 20 September 6pm