

Cross-Party Group on St. Andrew's Day

7 February 2023 at 6pm

Minute

Present (*after name denotes attendance on-line)

MSPs

Paul McLennan, Craig Hoy*,Michelle Thomson

Invited guests

None

Non-MSP Group Members

Rev. Neil Galbraith*,Jalal Chaudry,Joe Goldblatt,Dennis Canavan,Christina Hendry*,Maureen Sier*,Michael Veitch*,David Lonsdale*, Faser Thompson.*

Apologies

Ian Sirrell, Anthony Horan, Callum MacLeod

Agenda item 1

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 November 2022were approved.

Agenda item 2

Decisions taken at previous inquorate meetings were ratified, including appointment of Michelle Thomson MSP as Deputy Convener and Joe Goldblatt as Treasurer.

Agenda item 3

Any matters arising from previous minutes to be dealt with in subsequent agenda items below

Agenda item 4

A very successful St. Andrew's Day Event was held in Scottish Parliament on 30 November 2022. Participants and sponsors thanked. Bills paid.

Agenda item 5

The St. Andrew's Day Event on 29 November 2023 will be organised by the Scottish Parliament Events Team, in consultation with our CPG. DC has booked the Garden Lobby. PM, MT, JG and DC agreed to consult with Roy Devon, Head of Scottish Parliament Events Team.

Agenda item 6

DC reported that only 16 out of 32 local councils had replied to questionnaire asking councils how they celebrated St. Andrew's Day. In general, there was a lack of enthusiasm in replies. Several councils replied that it was left to individual schools to decide if and how St. Andrew's Day should be celebrated. It would appear that only three councils have a school holiday (Angus, Scottish Borders and Renfrewshire) with Angus and Scottish Borders extending the holiday to other council employees.

Agenda item 7

Agreed that PM and MT would produce a draft paper for the next meeting with the aim of issuing a call for evidence re. opportunities offered by St. Andrew's Day.

Strategy to include opportunities in areas such as inter-faith, culture, education, retail, entertainment, wider recognition of holiday etc.

Suggested contacts with COSLA, VisitScotland, Scottish Tourism Alliance, STUC, SPICE, Scottish Youth Parliament, Universities, Broadcasting organisations, Scottish Diaspora etc

Investigate setting up website or possibly using Scottish Parliament website (?) to issue call for evidence and collate responses.

DC to contact all CPG members inviting them to submit ideas for draft paper to MT and PM.

Agenda item 8

Next meeting will be a hybrid meeting on Wednesday 26 April at 6pm

