

**Minutes of
CPG on USA meeting
25.06.21
Virtual**

Attendees

Alexia Haramis (AH)

Daniel Johnson MSP (DJ)

Dean Lockhart MSP (DL)

Gillian Sandie (GS)

Harriet Mortimer (HM)

Lesley-Anne Campbell (LC)

Lola Nicolas (LN)

Apologies

Ellen Wong (EW)

Kate Nowakowska (KN)

Agenda

1. Welcome remarks
2. Confirmation of the name and purpose of the CPG USA
3. Election of office bearers
4. Convener
5. Deputy Convener(s)
6. Secretariat
7. Plans going forward
8. AOB

Minutes

Dean Lockhart (DL) opens the meeting

Alexia Haramis (AH) advises that Lola Nicolas (LN) will be leaving Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and AH introduces Harriet Mortimer (HM) to replace LN in assisting with the Secretariat role for CPG USA.

DL welcomes all attendees and introduces Daniel Johnson MSP (DJ). DL presents the agenda. DL notes that 12 MSPs across different parties want to get involved in the group. DL begins by announcing the items on the agenda to allow the continuation of the CPG USA group.

Confirmation of the name and purpose of the CPG USA and Election of office bearers

DN confirms the name and the purpose of the CPG USA will remain as before and proceeds on to the election of the office bearers.

DL remains the Convener of the CPG USA and DJ to become the Deputy Convener. The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce to continue to act as Secretariat.

Gillian Sandie (GS) explains that Ellen Wong's successor will be in place the third week of August 2021. DL recommends having an informal meeting with the new US Principal Officer on the 13th September and a formal meeting with the CPG USA on the 20th September.

Format of the CPG USA meetings

DJ suggests adopting a hybrid model for future meetings; DL recommends the first group meeting to be held virtually.

Plans going forward

DL asks if the US Ambassador will be able to join the next September meeting. GS responds that no arrival date has been agreed for the new Ambassador to arrive in the UK. DL agrees to invite the new Ambassador to join a meeting during 2022.

DL highlights that COP26 will be a topic to focus on over the next couple of months. DL announces that he is now the chair of the NetZero Committee. DJ suggests arranging an informal meeting in advance of COP26 and invite US companies to take part. AH agrees to follow up and contact Scottish Enterprise and SDI to see if they are able to help invite US companies to attend a meeting on the 20th October to encourage future collaboration. DL also suggests discussing trade missions at future group meetings.

GS suggests holding a small reception for MSPs at EW's residence during July or August during recess; DL will check with MSPs their availability and liaise with GS.

DL gives a final thanks to all the participants and closes the meeting.