

Cross-Party Group on the Wood Panel Industry

Monday 19th May 2025 at 11am - Via Zoom

AGM - Minute

Present

MSPs

Fergus Ewing MSP - *Convener*
Sharon Dowey MSP - *Deputy Convener*
Emma Harper MSP - *Registered Member*
Maurice Golden MSP - *Registered Member*
Stephen Kerr MSP - *Registered Member*
Beatrice Wishart MSP

Fraser Raeburn - Office of Stephen Kerr MSP

Non-MSPs

Alastair Kerr - Director General, Wood Panel Industries Federation
John Paterson - Public Affairs Manager
Mark Cummings - Managing Director, Invicta Public Affairs
Iona Yule - Account Manager, Invicta Public Affairs

Apologies

Colin Smyth MSP (Lab, South Scotland) - *Deputy Convener*
Finlay Carson MSP (Con, Galloway and West Dumfries) - *Registered Member*
Michael Marra MSP (Lab, North East)
Sarah Boyack MSP (Lab, Lothian)
Willie Rennie MSP (Lib Dem, North East Fife)
Murdo Fraser MSP (Con, Mid Scotland and Fife)
Liz Smith MSP (Con, Mid Scotland and Fife)
Edward Mountain MSP (Con, Highlands and Islands)
Emma Roddick MSP (SNP, Highlands and Islands) - *Registered Member*
Ariane Burgess MSP (Green, Highlands and Islands)
Elena Whitham MSP (SNP, Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley)

1. Welcome from the Chair

Fergus Ewing MSP opened the meeting as Chair of the Cross Party Group. He welcomed attendees and noted apologies.

2. Approval Minutes of the Last Meeting

No issues were raised and the minutes were approved.

3. AGM

The Chair moved the Group to proceed with re-appointing the Office Bearers and Secretary/Treasurer.

- Fergus Ewing MSP was nominated by Sharon Dowey MSP to remain as Convener of the Group. This was seconded by Emma Harper MSP, Maurice Golden MSP and Stephen Kerr MSP.
- Fergus Ewing MSP nominated Sharon Dowey MSP and Colin Smyth MSP to be reappointed to the roles of Deputy Convener. Elena Whitham MSP was nominated to the roles of Deputy Convener. This was seconded by Emma Harper MSP, Maurice Golden MSP and Stephen Kerr MSP.
- The Group agreed that the Wood Panel Industry would remain as Secretariat.

4. CPG Work Programme

Members discussed Industry issues to agree to the work programme for the next year.

Members agreed to:

- Seek a meeting with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to discuss the state of Scottish Forestry and the importance of the industry.
- Seek a Scottish Government Debate to call for a long term commitment to support woodland creation. This is to be complemented by a suite of parliamentary interventions.
- Invite Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry to a future meeting of the CPG to emphasise the hectarage of land lying fallow.
- Creation of a press release to highlight the need for more attention and recognition to be given to the sector during the next Parliament giving emphasis to the imperative need for more commercial species.
- Agree strategy for working with the UK wide Tree Planting Task Force
 - Seek a meeting for the Convener with Ken Skates MS in the Senedd and the office bearers of the All Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster.

5. AOB and Close of Meeting

There was no further business and the meeting was closed by Fergus Ewing MSP - thanking all for their time.