

## CPG on Pakistan Meeting & AGM 5<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 5.30 ,Committee Room 2

Present

MSP'S

Michael McMahon Convenor

Siobhan McMahon

Non MSP'S

Zeeshan Saeed

Muhammed Tanvir

Nadeem Ashraf

Mehmood Ditta

Mehmood Hussain

Leonard Thomson

Elaine Mullen

Amer Masood

Sahin Firat

Bilal Majeed

Shamsu Rahman

Usman Mirza

Asim Ahmed

Sajjad Khan

Tanveer Ahmed

Muzo Emek

Willie McArthur

Entansham Awan

Bilwal Raja

1 Welcome from the Convener

The Convener of the Cross Party Group on Pakistan, Michael McMahon MSP, welcomed those present.

2 Apologies

Apologies MSP'S

Murdo Fraser (Vice-convenor)

Willie Rennie(Vice-Convenor)

3. The chair Michael McMahon thanked everyone for their support to the CPG for the last year. The Chair informed the room that before starting the CPG meeting we are required to hold the AGM and elect officer bearers.

4)Amer Masood proposed Michael McMahons name to be the chair again everyone in the room agreed. Amer Masood proposed the names of Willie Rennie and Murdo Fraser as vice convenors this was seconded by the Chair Michael McMahon and all in the room were in agreement.

Michael McMahon thanked Amer Masood for his hard work for the CPG and proposed his name to be the Secretary again and this was agreed by all in the room.

5) The Chair thanked everyone for their support. The chair also asked everyone in the room if they were happy for the minutes of the last CPG on the 8 Jan 2014, all in the room where in agreement about this and minutes were approved. The Chair then asked Siobhan McMahon to give an update of the Women's Sub Group of the CPG which Siobhan leads and Siobhan highlighted what the sub group had discussed and what problems are being faced by Scottish Pakistani women.

6) The Chair then introduced three new organisations who have become members of the CPG. Concern Worldwide, Turkish Scottish Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Discovery Islam. The Chair asked Concern worldwide representative Elaine Mullen to say a few words. Elaine spoke about briefly about Concern Worldwide and about their involvement in Pakistan. The Chair asked if Concern Worldwide would like to make a presentation about their work to the CPG on the next meeting and Elaine Mullen agreed to make a presentation to the CPG at the next CPG highlighting their work.

The Chair then introduced Discovery Islam and asked them to make the presentation. Shamsu Rahman and Sajjad Khan introduced themselves and explained what Discovery Islam is about. They explained that its a Charitable organisation established in 2008. It is dedicated to promote a better understanding of Islam and clear the common misconceptions. They provide free services and understanding through talks to

- Primary & Secondary Schools
- Colleges
- Universities
- Local Councils
- Local communities
- Communal Events

Discovery Islam made a presentation via DVD. Discovery Islam then took questions from the room everyone in the room appreciated the work of Discovery Islam.

8) Discovery Islam requested that they would like to hold a exhibition in the Parliament highlighting their work. All in the room thought this would be a good idea. The Chair offered to sponsor the exhibition. Which was gladly accepted by the Discovery Islam.

6) In the room it was highlighted by youngsters that a youth sub group should be formed and all the room agreed it was a good initiative for Scottish Pakistan youth to have this as part of the CPG.

7) The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.