

**Minute of the Showmens Guild Cross Party Group Meeting  
held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017, in the Scottish Parliament at 6pm**

**Attending MSP's**

Richard Lyle MSP  
Mary Fee MSP  
Andy Wightman MSP  
Clare Haughey MSP

**Attending Showmens Guild**

William Hammond (Chairman of the Showmens Guild Scottish Section )  
Morgan Miller (Showmens Guild Scottish Section Member)  
Christine Stirling (Education Liaison Officer, Showmens Guild Scottish Section )

**Also attending**

Peter Reid, Scottish Government (Head of Licensing Team)  
**TLT solicitor**  
Andrea Salvona, University of Stirling, PhD Researcher

**Agenda**

Convenors Welcome  
Apologies  
Approval of Previous minutes  
Private Members Bill Update  
Air Weapons Legislation  
Common Good Land

**Welcome**

MF welcomed members and explained RL would arrive after speaking at other parliamentary business. MF also introduced PR who had kindly agreed to speak in his capacity as head of licensing team which included funfairs but did not include air gun legislation. Round table introductions made.

**Apologies :**

David Torrance MSP  
John Mason MSP  
Ivan McKie MSP  
Jackson Carlaw MSP

**Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 was approved.

**Guidance Document**

PR explained that a guidance document was in the process of being developed with select local authorities and had been drafted with the aid of lawyers. The aim was to set out clearly good practise to local authorities.

MM asked when the document would be ready to share and PR responded it was likely to be this week. PR stated that the further input would be expected and that the document could be finalised before the summer.

MM queried guidance on the charging structure and PR explained this could not be unduly prescriptive.

TLT representative welcomed the guidance and asked if there was opportunity to provide some input. PR responded this would be welcomed.

WH queried the value of the guidance if it was just recommendations as there was currently guidance in place already which is not being followed by some local authorities.

PR explained that while document was guidance, there is case law in place that with the regards to any excessive fees that may occur.

MM queried how long would it take for the guidance document to be in place. PR Was unsure of the exact timescales.

### **Air Weapons Legislation**

WH referred to the Air Gun legislation and how this could potentially put a number of individual small gun stall operators out of business. He explained there was ambiguity in the information he had received. He believed that Local Authorities may require a licence from both the licensee of a fair and also from individual operators.

An email received today by Scottish Showmens Guild Members from the Scottish Government was circulated to the members at the meeting and it was agreed that further exploration on the matter was required.

MM thanked PR and looked forward to the document being ready around the end of May.

#### Action Point:

*PR agreed to feed back this information to the team.*

*AW requested the email to be forwarded to him*

### **Private Members Bill Update**

WH circulated draft consultation document at the meeting which he had received that day.

TLT made the point that a major issue was that there was currently no time to appeal if a licence was refused the day before the fair was due to be held.

MM gave an overview of the document and after a short discussion it was agreed to remove the section on air weapons. It was felt this was not the core focus of the bill.

AW suggested that there was some work that the Showmens Guild could do in promoting issues and a number of areas were discussed with the group:

- The comparison to the situation in England
- Myth busting – particularly in relation to Health and Safety. WH suggested that H and S legislation is often conflated with licensing regulation whereas H and S legislation is a separate issue.
- Showmens Guild Scottish Section Press strategy

WH stated that some LA's have a blanket ban on funfairs in place and provided an example of a specific policy where stand-alone fairs were unwelcome but circuses were.

#### Action Point:

*Scottish Guild members to develop a data base of sites recently vanished and develop a database of 'vanished' sites and sites which have been refused.*

MM discussed a Plan B approach and AW advised that there could be forthcoming legislation that could be a possible avenue such as the Local Democracy Bill.

RL entered the meeting and (6.40pm) and MM provided an update to RL. RL agreed there was a real need that there needed to be a clarification on the air weapons licensing regulations for fees and that it was his understanding that a letter from the Minister was forthcoming.

WH confirmed that airguns could not gain an exemption from air gun licensing as they did not produce a muzzle velocity of less than 1 joule.

RL was hopeful of the Bill progressing through Parliament and was confident there was support.

RL wanted input from the Showmens Guild on the draft document and was keen for them to read it carefully. As far as promoting the issues were concerned RL suggested the Showmens Guild could make use of enthusiasts and other interested associations.

Action Point:

*Scottish Showmens Guild to review draft document carefully*

RL stated he has also sought another meeting with John Swinney MSP.

Action Point

*RL to meet with CS and TLT.*

AS suggested there could be an MSP sponsored Exhibition stands at the Parliament which could be used to promote the Showmens Guild charity work, but that the stands are allocated 6 months in advance.

Members also discussed the Museum exhibition on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. CS informed the group that the Riverside Museum Fair Glasgow event was the largest ever attended free event at the Riverside Museum.

Action Point

*Members agreed to invite MSP's to the Museum Event on the 1st February.*

Action Point

*CH agreed to ask Sandra White to put forward a motion for the Showmens Guild*

## **Common Good Land**

AW discussed the wider issues around Common Good Land and explained how Charter documents are legally recognised documents which are recognised in a court of law.

AW suggested that the group should not focus overtly on the recovery of fees and that LA's have a civic duty to provide services.

## **AOCB**

MF stated there were still issues around equality.

WH stated that the community were not part of the Scottish Gypsy/Traveller Community. Previously, the community had been excluded from Gypsy/Travellers legislation but WH believed they were still an ethnic minority community and should have some form of recognition.

MF stated that she would be participating in another Equalities enquiry. CS indicated she would be interested in being involved and WH suggested AS could participate in that meeting as well.

Action Point:

*MF to contact Christine Stirling to arrange a meeting.*

**Next Meeting**

RL offered to put together a few dates for the next meeting and will put these to the Showmens Guild Scottish Section.

**Meeting closed**