

Minutes: Annual General Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Beer and Pubs

Date: Tuesday 29th January 2019

Location: Room TG.20-21

Agenda:

1. Welcomes and Apologies
2. Minutes from the last AGM
3. Declaration of interests
4. Election of Group officers
5. Non MSP Membership of the Group
6. Upcoming meetings and events
7. AOB

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies: Gordon Macdonald MSP, Graham Simpson MSP

Attending: Patrick Harvie MSP, George Adam MSP, Liam Kerr MSP, Stuart Donaldson (CAMRA), Paul Edgeworth (CAMRA), Martin Meteyard (Plunkett Foundation).

2. Minutes from the last AGM

Agreed with no amendments.

3. Declaration of interests

No new declarations of interest were received

4. Election of Group officers

Patrick Harvie was re-elected as Chair of the CPG

Gordon Macdonald and Graham Simpson were elected as Vice-Chairs

CAMRA were re-elected as Secretariat

5. Non MSP Membership of the Group

It was agreed that Courtney Hyde Peyton, Value Project Manager, Crown Estate Scotland would be invited to future meetings.

It was agreed that a constituent of Rachel Hamilton MSP involved in exporting and beer festivals is welcome to attend, and the name of that constituent will be forwarded to group.

Gordon Macdonald MSP has suggested some potential members for the group:

- The Brewers Association of Scotland

- Scotland Food and Drink
- Industry Leadership Group
- Star Bars and Pubs
- Heriot-Watt University – International Centre for Brewing and Distilling
- Scottish License Trade News
- Scottish Craft Breweries

Patrick Harvie agreed that the group would write to these organisations to let them know of the existence of this group, its work and invite expressions of interest in getting involved.

It was agreed to ask other MSPs if they had any suggestions of their own.

6. Upcoming meetings and events

The group was keen to hold an event in Parliament, further meetings and external visits throughout the year.

Suggestions for future meetings and events included:

- A Parliamentary reception before the April recess if possible; or before the summer recess.
- The group expressed a desire for social events or visits, ideally within easy travelling distance of the Parliament such as:
 - A brewery visit (the Secretariat will approach SIBA and come back with suggestions)
 - A visit to the International Centre for Brewing and Distilling at Heriot-Watt University.
- A visit to one of the larger beer festivals, perhaps on a Thursday evening.
- Inviting Skills Development Scotland and the Enterprise Agencies to discuss the actions and proposals in Scotland Food and Drink's *Brewing up a storm: A growth strategy for Scotland's brewing industry* (as discussed during the meeting of 15th January 2019) and how the group may pursue these matters with the Agencies and Government.
- A visit to community pubs or a presentation to the group from the Plunkett Foundation and those involved in community pub campaigns.
- A meeting to discuss tied pubs and Neil Bibby MSP's Bill and the possibility of hearing from tied tenants.
- A discussion on campaigning on pubs and town centre improvements and attractive high streets, linked to the Government's £50m town centre fund.

- A discussion on community pubs and replicating the *More Than a Pub* scheme that operates in England.
- Details of the CAMRA national members weekend in Dundee will also be circulated to group members.

7. Any Other Business

Community pubs:

Martin Meteyard discussed the ongoing work in terms of community pubs and examples at The Old Thistle Inn (near Gordon in the Borders) and The Swann Inn at Banton near Kilsyth.

The Group expressed a desire to look into replicating the *More Than A Pub* scheme which operates in England.