

**SCOTTISH CROSS PARTY GROUP ON TIBET (CPG)
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2017 AT 6.00 P.M.**

Attendees:

Convenor: Linda Fabiani MSP
Jeremy Balfour MSP
Guest Speakers: Ed and Marian Shoote
Secretary: Martin Mills
Treasurer: David Lloyd Hudson
Others attending:
Roger Eames
Julie Huang
Val Robertson
Iain Thom
Ritchie Walker
Tenzin Wangdu
And five others
Apologies None

**1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2017
Proposed by Linda Fabiani, seconded by Youdon**

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Item 3 of the January meeting. Norman Baker, President of the Tibet Society, had presented a talk on the Society. There was a discussion of the present status and future of the Tibet Society, and its relationship to the All-Parliamentary Group on Tibet in London. Because of the election, the APPGT was presently in abeyance. It was agreed that the CPG would, where possible, provide support for the TS.

3 Exhibition on Tibet and Scotland Update.

3.1 Martin reported on progress. Although the application to the Scottish Parliament to hold the exhibition had not yet been submitted, offers of material had been received from:

The Royal Botanical Society, Edinburgh
National Museum of Scotland
St Andrews University
Liverpool Manchester National Exhibition
University of Aberdeen

3.2 The National Museum of Scotland was holding an East Asia exhibition at the same time (which did not include Tibet) so that staff would be working on that exhibition and have less time to spend on their contribution to the Tibet Scotland Exhibition. Sonam and Youdon offered to help Martin select the material. It was also agreed to take forward discussions with Samye Ling on their potential involvement at the next meeting.

4. REPORT ON 10TH MARCH UPRISING DAY EVENT IN EDINBURGH

4.1 David said that a small group took part in the march but this was made up for by the enthusiasm of the participants. He said it was a very happy and very vocal event. He had a tannoy which was made to good effect throughout the march which started with speeches at the Mound, continued up to St. Giles with more speeches where there were plenty of people and thence down the Royal Mile to Holyrood. The police and the council had been informed and there was a police presence of several officers throughout the march. Special thanks are due to Tashi who read out a selection of his political poems for Tibet, who made most of the speeches and who led the chanting almost without a break all the way. Chonpel Tsering, H.H. the Dalai Lama's representative in London, had sent his thanks to all those who took part.

5. REPORT FROM THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON TIBET (APPGT) IN WESTMINSTER

5. The Group looked forward to the results of the forthcoming General Election, in particular regarding the seats of Tim Loughton MP and Chris Law MP.

5.2 An APPGT meeting had been held on 8th February. The meeting had been addressed by The Central Tibetan Administration Communications Director, Dardon Sharling, in the Department of Information and International Relations. She had spoken to APPGT about the proposal by the Sikyong, Dr. Lobsang for a five-fifty strategy. This called for a renewed effort to seek genuine autonomy for Tibet within five years, while preparing for the possibility of remaining in exile and having to continue the struggle over the next fifty years. This was discussed in some depth.

6. PRESENTATION: ED AND MARIAN SHOOTE, BIKE TOUR IN TIBET

6.1 The two cyclists had been invited by CPG acting on David's suggestion. They two had undertaken a tour by bikes through Kham and Amdo camping out in a small tent at night. Beautiful photos of Tibetans and their country were interspersed with views of the massive construction works being carried out for new roads across mountainous terrain. Because there were just the two of them on bikes they met ordinary Tibetans in a way which would not have been possible had they been driving or travelling in organised party. Those present showed their appreciation of the photos and their spectacular tour.

7. AOCB

7.1 A letter had been under consideration on the subject of the reincarnation of H.H. the Dalai Lama. There was concern that the Chinese Government would try to take over the procedure and install a Dalai Lama of their own who would be under their control. A letter from the Group would have been sent to the Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson. Because of the General Election it was decided to postpone sending such a letter until afterwards when the future Foreign Secretary became known.

7.2 CPG Briefing Papers <https://scotlandtiber.wordpress.com/groupreports>. Five papers have been published to date. One on mining and relocation is nearing completion. It was suggested a new paper could be written on the re-incarnation issue. It was hoped that, in time, there could be contributions by other writers outwith the Group.

7.3 CPG Tibet News <https://scotlandtiber.wordpress.com/news> are attracting 450 hits a month from 47 countries.

After the meeting members retired to Will Caola's house for a get together and refreshments. Our thanks to Will for his hospitality which made for a very convivial evening.

Next Meeting Wednesday 21st June 2017 6.00p.m. Scottish Parliament when there will be a showing of 'Akong: A Remarkable Life'.