

# CROSS PARTY GROUP IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ON CONSTRUCTION

1pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Committee room 1

## **AGM Minutes**

Present

### **MSPs**

Monica Lennon MSP  
Grahame Simpson MSP  
Gordon MacDonald MSP

### **Invited guests**

Gordon Reid, Scottish Water

### **Non-MSP Group Members Present**

Maureen Douglas,	CECA Scotland
Ben Rainger,	Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)
Cameron MacIver,	The Association of Environmental Clerks of Works
Elaine Ellis,	Skills Development Scotland
Fiona Hodgson, (SNIPEF)	Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation
Fiona Stewart,	Skills Development Scotland
Gordon Brown,	Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Gordon Nelson,	FMB Scotland
Graeme Hannah,	Robertson Group
Graham Jackson,	Thorntons Law
James Callender,	DWF LLP
Jocelyne Fleming,	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
John Kane,	Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Jonathan Gaskell,	DWF LLP
Robert Toomey,	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Alan Wilson,	SELECT

## Others present

Graham Jackson, Thorntons Law LLP  
Alastair Raitt, HM Raitt & Sons Ltd  
Elizabeth Halliday, Morgan Sindall

## Apologies

Alexander Burnett,	MSP
Foyso Choudry,	MSP
Rhoda Grant,	MSP
Rwayda Al-Hamd	Abertay University
Grahame Barn	CECA Scotland
William Crowe,	ISE
Raymond Baxter,	NHBC
Stephanie Lowe,	Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPEF)
Elliot Robertson	Robertson Group
Anne Galbraith	Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)
Ian Rogers,	Scottish Decorators Federation
John Nelson,	AECOM
Brett Amphlett	Builders Merchant Federation
Andrew Leslie	The Association for Project Safety
Lauren Pennycook	Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
Tim Thomas,	Property Mark
Chris Pateman,	EPIC (Engineered Panels in Construction Limited)

### 1. Welcome and apologies

The Convener, Monica Lennon (ML) welcomed everyone to the Parliament for today's AGM and ordinary meeting.

ML reminded those present that this Cross-Party Group (CPG) will be the forum for Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), construction industry stakeholders and interested parties to engage directly with each other in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing the sector and to better inform the development of policy.

ML added that since the CPG was formally awarded recognition by The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee for session 6 of the Scottish Parliament in September 2021, we have met in person and online to discuss:

- The materials and supply chain challenges impacting the construction industry.
- Scotland's apprenticeship system: and current training provision for the construction industry.
- The challenge and opportunity for the industry in de-carbonising our built environment.
- The Health and Safety Executive also shared and discussed their strategy, priorities and workplan for construction with this CPG.

The Secretary Gordon Nelson (GN) noted he will confirm the apologies received in the minutes.

## **2. Notes from the 2022 AGM of the CPG on Construction held in the Scottish Parliament on 4th October 2022**

No comments or clarifications were raised. The notes were proposed by Jocelyn Fleming (JF) and seconded by Alan Wilson (AW).

## **3. Accounts for the period to 30th September 2023**

As the CPG's Treasurer, Grahame Barn (GB) was unable to join us today, the Secretary GN, read out GB's report on the CPG's audited accounts. GB's report:

The report noted the decision taken at the last AGM in 2022, that invoices should be raised and sent to the member companies/organisations of the Cross-Party Group. This was to ensure that we had funds available to meet catering costs for meetings going forward.

This was the first time since November 2016 that a request for financial support had been made to CPG members.

33 invoices were issued in February 2023 and 18 invoices had been paid prior to the Accounts being audited. One further invoice was settled this month but after the completion of the year end audit.

All the expenditure of the Group is on catering for in-person meetings. With the average cost of catering (teas/coffee/etc) being £300 x 3 meetings a year, we have sufficient funds to last a further two years if no further payments of outstanding invoices are received.

The closing balance at 30/9/23 is £2030.27. GN noted that he will attach a copy of the audited accounts with the minutes.

## **4. Election of Office Bearers**

### **4.1 Convener (currently Monica Lennon MSP).**

No other MSP had put their name forward, Graham Simpson MSP proposed ML for the position, with Gordon MacDonald MSP seconding. ML confirmed as the CPG's Convener.

### **4.2 Deputy Conveners (currently Alexander Burnett MSP & Gordon MacDonald MSP)**

ML proposed Alexander Burnett (AB) and Gordon MacDonald (GM) MSP as our Deputy Conveners. All present approved. AB and GM confirmed as joint Deputy Conveners.

ML noted that one of the CPG's deputy conveners elected at our 2022 AGM Paul McLennan (PM) MSP, was appointed Minister for Housing in March. As Scottish Government Ministers cannot be members of Cross-Party Groups, GM agreed to replace PM.

### **4.3 Secretary (currently Gordon Nelson)**

GN confirmed that he would like to continue in post for one more year. GN having now been Secretary of the CPG for 5 years and he feels it is time for a new Secretary to come forward in time for our AGM in 2024. All present approved GN as the CPG's Secretary.

### **4.4 Treasurer (currently Grahame Barn)**

No other proposals received from non-MSP members. GB confirmed that he is willing to continue. All present approved. GB confirmed as the Treasurer.

ML thanked GB and GN for their continued work supporting the activities of the CPG.

## 5. Proposals for new members of the CPG

One proposal was received in advance of the AGM. This is from Elizabeth Halliday of Morgan Sindall Construction. The company would like to join as an organisational member of the CPG.

No objections from current members. Morgan Sindall Construction approved as a member of the CPG.

## 6. Date of the next AGM

To be advised in 2024. ML noted that Parliamentary rules dictate that all CPG AGM's must be within 11-13 months of the previous meeting. The 2024 AGM will be held on a date between September to November 2024.

ML thanked all those present and closed the 2023 AGM.

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