

# Cross-Party Group on Nordic Countries

5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 – 18:30

Minute (Initial meeting)

Present

MSPs

Beatrice Wishart MSP  
Mark Ruskell MSP  
Sarah Boyack MSP  
Alasdair Allan MSP

Invited guests

N/A

Non-MSP Group Members

Francesco Bertoldi  
Mike Christopherson  
David Fleetwood  
Sally Garden  
Kristin Hannesdottir  
Mike Park OBE  
Michael Hansen Just  
Andrew Sclater  
David Windmill  
Garry Irvine  
Will Coulter

Apologies

Maurice Golden MSP  
John Taylor  
Eva Tyson

Agenda item 1

**Welcome and apologies**

Beatrice Wishart opened the meeting. Will Coulter provided apologies (as above).

## Agenda item 2

### **Cross-Party Group business**

Beatrice Wishart outlined the name and purpose from the previous session as:

- i. Name: **Cross Party Group on Nordic Countries**
- ii. Purpose: **To promote political, cultural, educational and environmental links between Scotland and Nordic Countries; and to foster ties between Scottish and Nordic politicians.**

There was no objection to continuing with this name and purpose.

## Agenda item 3

### **Membership**

Attendees were content to be members. Will Coulter stated that there was interest by Maurice Golden MSP and Stephen Kerr MSP (Conservative Party MSPs) who were also interested in being members.

## Agenda item 4

### **Office-bearers**

Beatrice Wishart was nominated and seconded as Convenor. Mark Ruskell MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP and Alasdair Allan MSP were all nominated and seconded as Deputy Convenors. There was also agreement for the possibility of a Conservative member to also be a Deputy Convenor.

## Agenda item 5

### **Secretariat**

There was a discussion on who/which body may be able to provide a permanent secretariat. Will Coulter will continue temporarily.

## Agenda item 6

### **AOB**

Further introductions took place.

There was a wider discussion as to the format future meetings could take e.g. speakers (2 or 3 across a year – previous format) and what topics could be covered

including: COP and bilateral meetings, the Arctic circle/north, Climate change, language culture, Nordic Countries changing democracies.

## Agenda item 7

### **Date and time of next meeting**

To be confirmed. A lunchtime meeting was proposed online early in December.