

Cross-Party Group on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

5 June 2024 and 6.30pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Sarah Boyack MSP
Audrey Nicoll MSP
Brian Whittle MSP

Invited guests

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Non-MSP Group Members

Jack Norquoy
Elaine Waterson
Laura Fordyce
Fiona Riddoch
Ruxandra Cazan
Joan Pisanek
John Maslen
Lærke Salhaug-Rasmussen
David Cowdrey
Keith Baker
John Birchmore
Colin Pritchard
Anna Gardener
Simon Kerr
Brian Donaldson
Nathanael Smith

Apologies

Liam McArthur MSP
Jackie Dunbar MSP
Euan Ingram
Alan Beal

Agenda item 1 – Introduction from Chair

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda item 2 – Approval of minutes from the group's last two meetings

The minutes of the previous two meetings held on 27 February 2024 and 27 March 2024, had been sent round group members in advance and the secretariat received no requests for additions or corrections.

The group agreed that these provided an accurate account of the meetings on 27 February (proposed by Audrey Nicoll MSP and David Cowdry) and 27 March (proposed by Brian Whittle MSP seconded by Sarah Boyack MSP).

Agenda item 3 – Approval of the annual return

The annual return was circulated to the membership in advance of the meeting. No suggestions or corrections to the annual return were suggested. The group approved the annual return (proposed by Audrey Nicoll MSP, seconded by Ruxandra Cazan).

Agenda item 4 – Election of Office Bearers

The nominations for the positions of Convener (x2) were circulated to the membership on 7 June in advance of the meeting. No one else was nominated.

The nominations for the 2 secretary posts were also circulated in advance of the meeting. No one else was nominated.

- Sarah Boyack MSP was moved for convener by Joan Pisanek and seconded by Audrey Nicoll.
- Brian Whittle MSP was moved for convener by Colin Pritchard and seconded Keith Baker
- Elaine Waterson of Energy Saving Trust were moved for the shared secretariat and treasurer position by Ruxandra Cazan and seconded Laura Fordyce.
- Jack Norquoy of Scottish Renewables was moved for the shared secretariat and treasurer position by Audrey Nicoll MSP and Colin Pritchard.

The group's office bearers are therefore:

Conveners:

- Sarah Boyack MSP
- Brian Whittle MSP

Secretaries:

- Jack Norquoy, Scottish Renewables - Secretary and Treasurer (Renewable Energy)
- Elaine Waterson, Energy Saving Trust – Secretary and Treasurer (Energy Efficiency)

Agenda item 5 – Topics for future meetings – discussion

A number of suggestions for topics for future meetings were discussed, including:

- Heat Networks – what they are, how they work, what do they look like from a residents perspective (what will the heat be like, how will it be paid for, what will consumer protection be like, etc.). Inviting a company that installs heat networks to a future meeting was also suggested, as well as considering some of the practical issues such as the consultations process, engaging with householders and communities etc.
- Heat Networks in rural areas – specifically in respect of biomass.
- Energy havens – using waste heat to feed into a heat network including waste heat from producing hydrogen.
- Experiences from a manufacturer of heat pumps – Kensa was suggested as a potential organisation that could present on this (ref: ground source heat pumps, ground loops, show box heat pumps etc).
- How will Scotland's electricity system handle heat networks and what are the options for off-grid direct energy from renewables.
- Getting to net zero with renewables and energy efficiency – from both a top down and bottom-up perspective.
- Small scale chp projects using residual and hazardous waste as feedstock.
- Tariffs and how these could help the transition to renewables. Such a session could also include discussion of storage and demand side management and how better use could be made of these to keep bills down.
- Grid constraints and ways of bringing cheap electricity into town and city centres.
- Demand reduction in heat networks and heat.
- Moving social and environmental tariffs from electricity into general taxation.
- Forthcoming (December) new build standards (presenters could include Passivhaus Trust and IPPR and Scottish Futures who have both published relevant reports).
- Presentation from the CCC on Scotland's progress.

Jack Norquoy and Elaine Waterson agreed that they would use the above ideas to draft agendas for the next 2-3 meetings. They also agreed to ensure that meetings are, as far as possible, timed so that they are linked to relevant, topical activity.

Sarah Boyack MSP suggested that it would also be useful for the group to think about how the information shared at each CPG meeting could be used and asked whether the group want to make recommendations, brief other MSPs etc.

Agenda item 6 – AOB

Jack Norquoy thanked Sarah Boyack MSP and Brian Whittle MSP and their offices for all of the support they have provided over the past year.

Jack Norquoy noted that an audit of members will be soon carried out to ensure that the mailing list is up to data and that those receiving e-mails about the group still want to receive them.

The meeting was then brought to a close.