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**All Party Parliamentary Group on Fisheries**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 27 April 2022, 9.30am, Online Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

| **Sheryll Murray MP (Con)** | **Louise Greenough (representing Lia Nici MP)** |
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| **Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Lib Dem)** | **Tom Yeldon (representing Peter Aldous MP)** |
| **Peter Aldous MP (Con)** | **Jacob Ashton (Secretariat)** |
| **Rosie Duffield MP (Lab)** | **Sophie Daniels (Secretariat)** |
| **Dr Matthew Offord MP (Con)** | **Chantal Lyons (Secretariat)** |
| **Cyndi Aukerman Brown**  **(representing Dr Philippa Whitford MP)** |  |

1. **Chair’s welcome**

Sheryll Murray MP welcomed all attendees.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Eleanor Adamson (The Fishmongers’ Company, Secretariat funders), Dr Philippa Whitford MP, David Duguid MP, Caroline Ansell MP, Angus Macneil MP, Martin Vickers MP, Stephen Morgan MP, Lia Nici MP, Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Chris Loder MP and Liz Saville Roberts MP.

1. **Minutes of the last AGM**

It was noted that the minutes of the last AGM had been circulated. Sheryll Murray MP proposed they were accepted. All attendees agreed that the minutes were accepted.

1. **Approval of the Income and Expenditure Statement**

It was noted that the Income and Expenditure Statement had been circulated, and would soon be publicly available on the APPG website. Peter Aldous MP and Dr Matthew Offord MP seconded the motion for the approval of income and expenditure. Sheryll Murray MP wished to officially record the APPG’s grateful thanks to the Fishmongers’ Company for their generous financial support, which provides for the Secretariat.

*An error on the Income and Expenditure Statement was later identified, and an updated Statement was signed by the Chair on 17 May 2022 and circulated to APPG Members and AGM attendees.*

1. **Election of Officers**

Sheryll Murray MP stated that she would be pleased to continue to act as chair of the APPG. Dr Matthew Offord MP and the Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP seconded the motion.

The current Vice Chairs of the APPG were named as Peter Aldous MP (Secretary), the Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Liz Saville Roberts MP, Martin Vickers MP, Lia Nici MP, Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Caroline Ansell MP, Deidre Brock MP, Rosie Duffield MP, Chris Loder MP, and Lord McColl. It was agreed that all Vice Chairs for the year prior would be welcome to continue in their position. David Duguid MP was noted as a member.

Sheryll proposed Dr Matthew Offord MP for Vice Chair. The motion was carried.

Sheryll Murray MP sought approval to continue the approach of the APPG member chairing the meeting whose expertise is most relevant to the topic.

Sheryll Murray MP asked whether there was support for hybrid meetings in the future, although no decision was made.

1. **Update from the Secretariat**

Jacob Ashton, Science and Policy Projects Co-Manager at Mindfully Wired Communications who provide the Secretariat, gave an overview of the progress of the APPG over the last year. He reported that it was a busy and productive year, passing on a comment from The Fishmongers’ Company that they had enjoyed seeing the APPG grow, and encouraged engagement from MPs and peers.

Ashton reported that the APPG continued its series of open events, held online, which consistently attract audiences of 100-200 people from all around the UK and even further afield. Events covered highly relevant topics for the fishing industry including offshore wind, climate resilience, and MPAs, as well as an event on aquaculture supported by Seafood 2040. This AGM would be immediately followed by an event on fuel. Each APPG event was summarised into a policy brief which was made publicly available online and have proven to be useful resources for both industry members and Parliamentarians.

Ashton noted that in line with official advice, future events would likely take on a hybrid format, to make the most of both the potential for connections with physical meetings and the accessibility of the online space.

Ashton reported that the Secretariat was currently compiling a report on first-hand experiences of Brexit from members of the fishing industry, funded by The Fishmongers’ Company and The Seafarers Charity. A key part of this report would be to explore recommendations from the sector about how Parliamentarians and policymakers could best support them going forwards. The report would be passed to members of the APPG for early sight.

Ashton noted that the APPG was currently assembling an Expert Panel of sector experts, to advise the APPG on aspects of its operations including events, to ensure that the APPG remained an authoritative source of sector-relevant information and was responsive to the key issues and debates within the fisheries sector. The Secretariat was currently in the process of selecting from the pool of applicants to form a representative sample of the industry and related sectors. As well as some of the ‘classic’ big industry players, this would also include representatives from the small-scale fleet, from regional bodies, from NGOs, and from academia, as well as experienced people who crossed these boundaries.

Ashton confirmed that The Fishmongers’ Company had confirmed £40,000 of funding for the Secretariat to operate throughout 2023. This would enable the APPG to operate for at least another 18 months, with the potential to expand operations even further.

Ashton concluded by welcoming the involvement of the Secretariat’s Parliamentary

Members in the year ahead, and stated that the Secretariat was looking forward to the

upcoming year.

1. **Discussion on programme of work**

Sheryll Murray MP wished to officially record her thanks to Jacob Ashton and Mindfully Wired Communications for their work over the last year. She called on the Vice Chairs for any ideas on the coming programme of work in addition to those raised by Ashton.

The Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP noted that the Scottish Fishermen’s Federation (SFF) and Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA) were currently doing exploratory work on quicker analysis of scientific stock data, which is a pressing issue for the industry, and asked if the APPG could collaborate with them. He advised that the Secretariat follow up by speaking to Simon Collins. Ashton noted that both the SFF and SFA had applied to join the Expert Panel.

There was no other business. Sheryll Murray MP closed the meeting.