



House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Chair: Mark Pritchard MP | President: Sir Roger Gale MP | Ambassador: Carol Vorderman, MBE

Minutes APPG - GA inaugural Meeting 07 Jan 2020

In attendance

Mark Pritchard MP (Chair)
Robert Courts MP
Robert Roberts MP
Lord Balfe
Lord Kirkhope
Lord Davies
Sheryll Murray MP
Lord Empey
Craig Williams MP
Steve Double MP
Virginia Crosbie MP
Stephen Metcalfe MP
Nigel Mills MP
Lord Selkirk
Ian Paisley MP
Matthew Bolshaw
James Shipp (Secretariat)

Apologies for absence

Bill Wiggin MP
Lord Saville
Nigel Evans MP
Lord Tebbit
Baroness Nicholson
Lord Naseby
Lord Craig
Lord Kinnoull
Baroness Harris
Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington

1. Introduction from Chair – Mark Pritchard MP

Chair welcomed Members to the meeting, wishing them a Happy New Year. He especially recognised the new Members of Parliament in attendance at the meeting.

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2. Election of Officers

Lord Kirkhope suggested that officers that were previously elected in the recent AGM should be re-elected as a block.

This was accepted by the group.

Previous list of officers was clarified by Matthew Bolshaw.

Chair moved a motion to re-appoint existing officers en masse.

Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of accounts from previous Parliament

A statement of accounts for the remainder of the reporting year before dissolution was distributed.

Chair moved that the group should accept this statement of accounts.

Accounts were accepted unanimously.

4. A.O.B

Activities over the next 12 months

Chair suggested the group should look to continue to hold educational trips throughout the coming year and prepare for a summer reception in parliament for stakeholders.

Steve Double said that would be good to visit Newquay, perhaps some time in the spring.

Craig Williams suggested the APPG should also visit Welshpool Airport as a busy GA hub and air ambulance base.

Chair agreed.

Stephen Metcalfe suggested that the group should look to visit regional airports with the objective of promoting the link between aviation and STEM. He said aviation excites people about STEM subjects and the APPG could have role in spreading best practise. Skills and training is a key part of regional airport business.

Matthew Bolshaw explained the working groups of the APPG for new members. He updated the group on some key issues being looked at by working groups.

Lord Kirkhope highlighted airspace and drone registration as key issues for the year ahead.

Matthew Bolshaw elaborated on the group's contacts with ARPAS and BMFA on drone issues.

Ian Paisley asked if anything was being done to reduce the costs of pilot training.

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Lord Empey said that funding for pilot training must be looked at. Lack of available financing is the major reason for the lack of diversity in the aviation industry.

Chair suggested a meeting should be set up with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Secretariat agreed to set up a meeting.

Chair suggested a project to look at how many FTSE 100 CEOs fly as a hobby.

Lord Balfe – pledged support of BALPA for tackling pilot training VAT cuts and highlighted – BALPA's 'Baby on Board' campaign.

General discussion took place on maternity conditions in the airline industry.

Corporate sponsors

Chair highlighted the need to maintain relationships with sponsors and to look for new sponsors for the group.

General discussion took place about ways in which the APPG could attract sponsorship.

Meeting Closed

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