

Minutes of the meeting for the Cross Party Group on Beer and Pubs

Date: Tuesday 16th January 2018

Location: Committee Room 5

Time: 6pm-8pm

Agenda:

1. Welcomes and Apologies
2. Minutes from the last meeting
3. Election
4. Declaration of interests
5. Non MSP membership of the Group
6. Review of 2017
7. Upcoming meetings and events
8. Tied Pubs Code Update – Neil Bibby MSP
9. AOB

1. Welcomes and Apologies

Apologies: Martin Meteyard – Plunkett Foundation, Maurice Golden MSP, Andy Whiteman MSP

Attendees: Faye Grima (Secretariat), Patrick Harvie MSP, Liam Kerr MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Gordon Macdonald MSP, Graham Simpson MSP, Richard Lyle MSP, Colin Smyth MSP, George Adam MSP, Andy Tighe (SBPA), Paul Tegneri (SBPA), Colin Valentine (CAMRA), Ray Turpie (CAMRA), Colin Wilkinson (SLTA), Marshall Bain (SLTA), Stephen Montgomery (SLTA), Graham Blaikie (Edinburgh and South East Licensed Trade Association) and Neil Sinclair (Scottish Government).

2. Minutes from the last meeting

- Agreed with no amendments

3. Election

- Patrick Harvie re-elected as Chair
- Gordon Macdonald and Graham elected as Vice-Chairs
- CAMRA re-elected as Secretariat

4. Declaration of interests

- Neil Bibby MSP declared an interest in the current Pubs Code and Adjudicator Bill which he has put forward
- Liam Kerr MSP has small shares in Brewdog

5. Non MSP membership of the Group

- It was discussed whether or not other organisations should join the CPG as official members

- It was agreed that both the SBPA (Scottish Beer and Pub Association) and the SLTA (Scottish Licence Trade Association) would join as official members
- It was agreed that only one member from each membership organisation will be able to attend meetings in the future

6. Review of 2017

- It was agreed that the previous reception should be an annual event in the Calendar – with 2018s planned in May or June depending on the events calendar. CAMRA to support and set up.
- There was praise noted for the Stewart Brewing Tour – and it was noted that a similar style event should take place in 2018
- It was agreed that the balance was right in 2017 between meetings and events (2 formal meetings per year, and 2 events with the potential for more if time allows)
- Praise was given for the Group in terms of the opportunity to learn more about legislation currently going through the Parliament in relation to beer and pubs – and the opportunity to learn more about the industry

7. Upcoming meetings and events

- A full programme of activity will be shared shortly
- There will be 2 formal meetings a year – with the next in April/May time. Date to be circulated shortly
- An opportunity has arisen to work with the Scottish Beer Awards – a national annual business event which celebrates achievements in Scottish Brewing. It also includes a high profile competition where there are opportunities for members of the Group to get involved. CAMRA and Patrick Harvie MSP will follow this up and share details as and when they are announced
- There is also opportunity for the Group to launch its own award scheme – this will be discussed at the next meeting

8. Tied Pubs Code Bill

- Neil Bibby MSP provided an update on the Tied Pubs Code Bill. The consultation stage of the Bill which ended in July revealed that 90% of respondents supported the introduction of some form of legislation to govern the relationship between licensees and the large pub companies
- The next stage of the Bill requires the support of 18 MSPs from 3 different parties