

Minutes of a Virtual AGM of the Cross Party Group on Food held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2020

Present

John Scott	MSP (Chair)
Gail Ross	MSP
Colin Smyth	MSP
Aileen Campbell	Cab Sec Communities and Local Government
Mary Lawton	CPG Secretariat
Cat Hay	FDF Scotland
Gillian Kynoch	Fareshare
Polly Jones	Trussell Trust
Steve Brown	Edinburgh Food Social
Michelle Carruthers	Food Train
Sara MacMillan	The Kitchen at 44
Bill Gray	Public Health Scotland
David Thomson	FDF Scotland
Gary Stephenson	Devro
Alistair Williams	Macsween
Ewan MacDonald Russell	Scottish Retail Consortium
Jenni Lang	Asda
Ray Lorimer	Kafoodle
Mark Bustard	IBiolC
Pete Ritchie	Nourish
Lorna Dawson	SEFARI
Eve Keepax	Keep Scotland Beautiful
Geoff Ogle	Food Standards Scotland
Laura Wilson	Food Standards Scotland
Gillian Purdon	Food Standards Scotland
Debbie McCreath	IBiolC
Janet Foggie	Uni of Stirling
Angela Lamont	Independent
Laura Reilly	Belville Community Garden Trust
David Watts	Uni Aberdeen
Maryanne Mcleod	Scot Gov
Claire Hislop	Public Health Scotland
Yvonne Traynor	Public Health Scotland
Christine Fraser	Food Training Scotland
Christine Graham	Kettle Produce
Liz Barron-Majerik	Lantra
Colin Smith	Scottish Wholesalers Assn
Rachel Mirfattahi	Consultant
Robbie Snowden	NHS Lothian
Cate Devine	Journalist
Johnathan Devine	The Company Shop
Josephine Heger	SRUC
Martin Irons	QMU
Alistair Trail	SAC Consulting
Jenny MacDiarmid	Aberdeen Uni
Archie Gibson	Agrico

Carrie Ruxton  
Wendy Barrie  
Bosse Dahlgren  
Madeline Beveridge  
Stephanie Mander  
Caitlin Stott

Nutrition Communications  
Scottish Food Guide  
Consultant  
Edinburgh Uni  
Nourish  
Scottish Labour

### 1. Apologies

These were received from Lesley Stanley, Fran Throw, Moyra Burns, Martin Meteyard, Ian Clunie, Jackie McCabe, Sue Whittle, Patrick Harvie, Phil Thomas, Ann Packard, Rhoda Grant, Mark Ruskell Karen Barton and Jeff Justice.

### 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 were proposed by David Thomson and seconded by Martin Irons.

### 3. Matters Arising

- **Mark Ruskell MSP** had suggested a meeting covering Brexit and trade which was organized for June but had to be cancelled. This was now being planned as a theme for the November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **Lorna Dawson SEFARI (LD)** who had presented at the last meeting updated the group on the Food Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC) funding for a 3<sup>rd</sup> phase. This is now an independent charity. **LD** is Co-lead for the Scottish Enquiry which is seeking to instigate a process of change by building connections across disciplines to find ways to solve the economy, health, climate, nature, Brexit and Covid combined crises. A series of round tables have been planned and reports will be forthcoming. **LD** asked that members of the Group interested in being directly involved in the next 3 years work in Scotland to contact her via Mary Lawton.

ACTION: All CPG Food Members

A set of slides giving more information would be circulated to the Group.

ACTION: ML

### 4. Election of Co-Conveners and Secretariat

**Colin Smyth MSP (CS)** took over as Chair and proposed that the following be elected as Co-Conveners.

#### Co-Conveners

John Scott (Conservative)  
Mark Ruskell (Green)  
Rhoda Grant (Labour)  
Gail Ross (SNP)

This was seconded by **David Thomson** and the Co-Conveners were duly elected.

**CS** proposed **Mary Lawton (ML)** from FDF Scotland as Secretary. This was seconded by **John Scott MSP (JS)** and she was duly elected.

The term of office will be until the Group is dissolved for the Scottish Parliamentary election on 6 May 2021.

**JS** chaired the remainder of the meeting.

## 5. Covid 19 and Food Insecurity- What We have Learnt

A list of reviews had been sent out.

### Introduction – Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Government

**Aileen Campbell (AC)** said the pandemic had thrown food into focus for a number of reasons. Her portfolio covered tackling food insecurity and food poverty. Whilst the pandemic had touched everyone's lives, those vulnerable in different ways had felt the effects more.

This led to the Scottish Government (SG) committing £350 million common funding to support communities. Since March, this funding enabled councils, charities and community groups to be flexible and respond swiftly to help people impacted economically or socially, including those struggling to access food at the height of lockdown. This included further funding for the Scottish Welfare Fund. In total, over £110 million was invested in food insecurity responses including for the nationally coordinated response for those clinically extremely vulnerable, known as the 'shielded' group.

**AC** noted that some good learning for her portfolio had come out of the pandemic, which they didn't want to roll back from:

- Phenomenal partnership working including third sector, local authorities, communities and national government
- **AC** had more interface with retail
- More cross portfolio working in Government

These close contacts in particular with groups and organizations in the third sector such as Fareshare and Food Train, going above and beyond to make sure they supported people, meant that SG could act more nimbly and issues solved quicker. Often innovative solutions were found and **AC** had been impressed with the creativity out there.

**AC** mentioned Argyll and Bute Council who made a decision as a Council to buy locally and so aid local shops.

There were also wider questions that the pandemic had thrown up. This included our own individual buying of food with some bulk buying, leaving little left for those without the resources to do this and the impact on them. There was also the question of whether we should grow more of our own food.

**AC** thought there should be a discussion as to whether our current food system is the right one. If not, how can it be made to work for everyone? She noted there were opportunities:

- [Social Renewal Advisory Board](#) set up in June. During the response to the pandemic there was a significant amount of work undertaken to support people and communities which was delivered at pace and challenged traditional ways of working, cultures and mind sets. The Board aims to build on these shifts in policy and practice. Policy Circles focus on: addressing low income, community-led and place based renewal, cross-cutting delivery, financial security, food, the housing system, third sector and volunteering. The Food Circle includes Lindsay Graham who is a member of the Poverty and Inequality Commission.
- People's reconnection with their local shops during the pandemic.
- Community wealth building initiatives –this would be an issue to be explored for the Programme for Government.
- In full lockdown people started to value outdoor space more and the need for space in communities including to grow food could be considered in relation to the Housing to 2040 Strategy.

**JS** thanked **AC** for her presentation.

### Bullet points of learning

#### Set 1

##### *Gillian Kynoch FareShare Scotland (GK)*

FareShare saw an immediate and unprecedented demand from the networks they service across Scotland. Community and voluntary organizations repurposed to meet the needs of lockdown and they needed food for food parcels, food banks, home deliveries etc. The Cabinet Secretary responded immediately by giving £2million to buy food. This was when wholesalers were struggling to cope with UK wide procurement for the shielded group.

With help from the Scottish Wholesalers Assn, FareShare was successful in buying stock and also received large donations from others including Tesco and Asda. The amount of food went from 30 tons /week to 300 tons/week and then sustained. This was a huge effort by staff and volunteers under difficult conditions.

However while the supply of food was being disrupted, a significant amount of food was being wasted, exacerbated by the shutdown of the food service sector. Food waste should be reduced at all times but was particularly abhorrent when it is critically needed.

**GK** said they had shown with DEFRA that with relatively small amounts of investment, government can support farmers, growers, manufacturers and distributors to safely and quickly divert food surplus to FareShare rather than let it go to waste. FareShare could double volume of surplus food they take. There are now huge concerns about increased demand over the winter. **Government should make funding available to recover and where appropriate buy surplus food at the farm gate on behalf of the community and voluntary sector. Food is a valuable resource and should not be wasted.**

*Polly Jones Trussell Trust (PJ)*

**PJ** shared learnings from their food bank network over the first phase of the pandemic. There had been a massive rise in the need for food. The Trussell changed the way they worked; delivering food parcels rather than people needing to come to food banks.

The main issue raised in last week's report [Lockdown, lifelines and the long haul ahead: The impact of Covid-19 on food banks in the Trussell Trust Network](#) was that a massive rise in destitution across the UK is expected including 750,000 in Scotland as a result of economic trauma.

**PJ** said they had learnt to distinguish between those who can't access food (e.g. the shielded) and those who can't afford food as these groups have different needs. Systems in place must support both.

For those who can't afford food, the root cause is making sure people have the income to buy it. **Going forward through the next wave we need to reflect how we build a safety net in order that people have the money so a food bank is not necessary.** If there was not a follow on from the Job retention scheme, Trussell envisage food banks giving out 6 food parcels a minute.

**AC** said these figures were terrible but not a surprise. When the pandemic hit there were already people struggling and relying on the Social Security system. There were also people having to navigate the benefit systems for the first time and not realising how long the lockdown would last so maybe getting into debt.

The next few months were going to be tricky and challenging for the Government finances to meet all the needs including with the background of Brexit. This needed UK, Scottish and Local Governments to work together.

*Steve Brown Edinburgh Food Social (SB)*

**SB** said he was one of the chefs directing an organization that cooked a huge number of meals for Edinburgh during the pandemic. Part of this provision was due to people's lack of ability to cook well for themselves and their families. **SB** said their experience of teaching young people about food in Edinburgh showed that they had never been less engaged with food and cooking and that **Home Economics teaching must be shaken up, in order to give young people the life skills they need.**

**AC** offered to raise this with education colleagues. **Sara McMillan, The Kitchen at 44** noted that in her experience lack of skills was one part of it; another was not being able to afford fruit and vegetables.

Set 2

*Michelle Carruthers Food Train (MC)*

The Food Train had seen a significant increase in demand for its services. The over 70s had been particularly vulnerable with some behind closed doors for 6 months

and facing many more months in the future. In the last 6 months the Food Train had seen 70% increase in the number of older people needing the grocery service and they had made over 40,000 deliveries of fresh food groceries and meals, supporting over 3,500 people.

**MC** thanked SG for their funding support but noted their operations covered only 9 regions in Scotland. If the Food Train had been available Scotland-wide the pandemic response would be over 150,000 deliveries helping over 12,000 people with reliable and vital food access and contact.

Food insecurity levels amongst older people in Scotland was worrying as over the last 20 years, there had been a decimation of community food provision, lunch clubs and reduced care time for shopping and food preparation contributing to a picture of hunger, malnutrition and avoidable hospital stays and loneliness.

**Our social care and support system has a deficit that runs deep. We need investment in a Scotland wide infrastructure system that ensures universally available, local delivered food solutions for older people to prevent malnutrition and loneliness and reduce avoidable costs to healthcare.**

*Sara Macmillan The Kitchen at 44(SM)*

**SM** explained she runs a community food redistribution centre in Stirling and an online food market. These had very different groups but both had experienced food shortage.

The Community Food redistribution had been set up quickly as there was already a local community hub. Other organizations struggled with finding space, so one learning was the need for autonomous community spaces. **SM** was able to open quickly and to date have delivered over 55,000 meals. They benefited from the easy access to funding and received £35,000 for which they were very grateful.

The neighbourhood food market was already in existence and was an excellent example of making local food available to local people. However shortcomings were revealed, as in April supplies of fruit and vegetables dried up. Growing spaces were essential. Stirling was surrounded by farmland but there were no supplies. Fortunately local allotment and community gardens then gave generously.

**Community food needs to become mainstream giving them the resources to help themselves. Communities need support, including Community Champions to help keep volunteers engaged.** Part of the funding The Kitchen received went to employ someone 2 days a week to manage the volunteers and cover all the administration.

*Bill Gray Public Health Scotland*

Before Holyrood was even set up, Scotland's community food initiatives met to discuss what they wanted from the Parliament. The conclusion they came to was a Parliament that listens. Communities deserved all the praise and applause they have been getting for the energy they have dealt with the pandemic. **We must remember**

**that there are community voices well worth listening to that have the local intelligence that should be taken on board both locally and nationally.**

**BG** thought the CPG Food has a proud record of listening to communities. **BG** was pleased that **AC** referred to funding but also specifically about listening and keeping in touch with those actually working on the front line.

**Carrie Ruxton Nutrition Communications (CR)** asked about Kantar data that showed that people from less advantaged areas buy more confectionary, biscuits and cake so the low vegetable and fruit consumption was not just a matter of affordability. **CR** asked if we could get a better idea of the underlying drivers of eating and purchasing behaviours of vulnerable groups so we can create policies that really help. **AC** responded that people had tough choices to make regarding the resources they have so would eat things that would fill them up. It was actually a choice made by their financial circumstances. There was a lot of work to be done and **AC** would be happy to engage further.

**JS** noted that **Laura Reilly Belville Community Garden** had suggested on the Chat box that we mandate Councils to publish food strategies similar to community food growing strategies.

### Set 3

*David Thomson FDF Scotland (DT)*

**DT** congratulated the Group on its 50<sup>th</sup> meeting and that the current dialogue showed the wide variety of issues within it and the balanced discussion.

**DT paid tribute to the hidden heroes in the food manufacturing industry** .They had ensured that food was on shelves when there was an intense period of buying and had changed their business models, particularly if they had been supporting hospitality. Many had moved to on-line selling. This had been 5 years development in 2 months. There had also been the support of the shielded with care packages (over 25 000) and donations to the National Health Service.

They had to continue manufacture whilst changing production to social distance, redeploying staff and meeting changing demand. The future demand was uncertain, especially regarding hospitality.

*Gary Stephenson Devro (GS)*

**GS** had 3 key learnings. He echoed **DT** about the heroes on the food industry who kept working in very difficult circumstances. This first learning was **how the food industry is essential**.

The second was the **importance of connectivity**. One key thing Devro did was to move people not essential to manufacturing out of the plant so software etc was vital to be able to carry on business. Those still working in the plant were pleased as less people on site meant less possible sources of infection. All employees having a high quality broadband connection was critical to maintaining the business.

The last point was that the **disease moves from people to people. Many are asymptomatic so there was an essential need for testing.** By only testing those with symptoms we miss those that are infectious but not aware of it. This needed to be changed. Total reliance on antigen PCR testing which can give 25% false positives should not happen; we should also consider antibody testing.

**GS** said testing capability and capacity needed to be reviewed together with private providers. Employers needed rapid and reliable testing for the presence of the virus to allow isolating people back to work, which would need:

Antigen testing (either)

- Two negative tests space 4 days apart
- Regular worker testing (every 2-3 days or at least weekly)
- Mass population testing when an incident occurs

Antibody testing to determine who has had the virus and is thereby less at risk of catching it again (less at risk not necessarily immune).

This would allow a less cautious approach to allowing such people back to work or education. **JS** asked if Gary's points could be relayed to Cabinet secretary for Health and Sport.

ACTION ML/AC/GS

*Alistair Williams Macsween (AW)*

**AW** said that Covid-19 had impacted on Macsweens more than anyone could have expected. Personally, it had been extremely difficult shielding for 13 weeks and it made him realise the support co-workers provided and how important work is to us as people. Professionally, it was hard for the team to work whilst under pressure of the anxiety of working, suffering bereavements linked to the virus and police stopping staff coming into work.

**AW** was grateful for FDF acting to get food workers classified as key workers so they could travel easily and get childcare. Their guidance on such issues as managing the changes needed for food safety and evolving testing protocols was vital. The virtual meetings providing a focus with other members giving alternative viewpoints and ideas meant he didn't feel as isolated. In addition FDF Scotland staff took the time to ring him to see how he was. He wanted to **pay tribute to the FDF Scotland team activities during the last few difficult months.**

Set 4

*Ewan Macdonald Russell Scottish Retail Consortium (EM)*

**EM** said in March the retail industry saw Christmas levels of grocery trading day by day. Normally they have 3-4 months to prepare, this had to be done in 3-4 days. Then there was panic buying, some of which has just started again. Different international lockdowns also affected the supply chains. So there had been a "perfect storm".



Buying online has changed and time and money spent building new systems. Pre lockdown online was 7% and now has at least doubled.

Retailers had to work out how to make their shops safe, how to support shop workers and how to help vulnerable groups. This led to special shopping hours and these were opened to NHS workers. All this worked well, although certain items had to be rationed. SRC members also supported different charities. In rural areas where members knew they were the only store in the community, supplies were prioritized.

**EM** said Retail is in a better place and with more resilience for the “new normal”.  
**One learning was the huge difference collaboration particularly with trade unions and Government had made. Also please wear a mask and don't panic buy!**

*Jenni Lang Asda (JL)*

**In terms of food security Asda had 3 key learnings around keeping shelves stacked, helping those who can't access store and those who can't afford food**

How do we ensure that are shelves are stacked?

There was panic buying of tins, tea and toilet roll. There was no need but fuelled in part by the media there was shelf stripping and a logistics issue getting it on the shelves. **JL** emphasised again, please don't panic buy.

How do we help those who can afford it, but not access stores?

For the vulnerable who couldn't access stores this was a challenge for everyone. Buying had to be on line and clicking collectors increased by 108% in 3 months – 8 years growth in 3 weeks. It will be seen if this continues to grow, but the waiting time for a supermarket for a refrigerated truck is now 6 months waiting time.

In terms of slots for the vulnerable, Asda worked with Local Authorities and hired 22,000 people to make this happen. This was a huge task, getting them on to pay roll and into store.

How do we help those who need food but can't afford it?

In terms of those who couldn't afford food, Asda worked with FareShare, Trussell Trust and Food Train who they have had close contact with over the years. There was £ 5 million of grants made available over Covid. Asda used back of store donations for FareShare Go. There has been unprecedented demand and **JL** said they tried to step up and make food available that would otherwise go to waste.

*Ray Lorimer Kafoodle*

**RL's** learning point was similar to David Thomson's. **In general, food-technology systems have had to leap 5 years into the future to adapt to the challenges Covid has created.**

**RL** said early Covid had been about offering technology that allowed hospitality businesses to operate a closed-door model, introducing delivery and click & collect.

Forward-thinking operators diversified quickly and adapted their menus to include a retail element, fruit & veg boxes, meat and fish directly from their suppliers to consumers.

Social Media played a massive role during this period and helped to introduce a new culture of interacting with the local pub, restaurant, fast food outlet via their mobile devices. **RL** suggested that community groups could use this technology more. Nutrition information could also be given.

Government assistance in the form of Eat Out to Help Out has also boosted revenues but also created challenges for the tech providers to act quickly to accommodate the complex discount rules applied to the scheme. **RL** found that the elderly used the technology to order food from restaurants, delivery platforms etc.

**Colin Smith Scottish Wholesalers Assn (SWA) (CS)** asked to speak at this point.

**CS** said that wholesalers had helped keep convenience store shelves filled and those in care homes, hospitals, schools and prisons fed. A learning has been the lack of understanding of their route to market and how our food got to these places and restaurants, pubs and clubs. SWA market was 60% retail and 40% food service and overnight became 95% retail when hospitality closed (this has since fallen back to 70% retail, 30% food service as lockdown was eased). Food service saw their sales decline by an average of 81% with some up to 95%. SWA redistributed food, working with FareShare but there was still waste because of size, e.g. huge blocks of cheese. **CS** said there needed to be a better way of repurposing food going forward.

In the last few months wholesalers were able to service the vulnerable and shielded but going forward the capacity is no longer there. Wholesalers had remodelled to cut staff. Redundancies are at 10% of the wholesale sector and hundreds more are coming to the end of their furlough. So there may not be the people or deliveries or trucks which have been handed back to lease companies to undertake future care packs or aid foodbanks should the need arise again.

There have been no governmental support grants for wholesalers, being neither classified as retail nor hospitality.

**The value of the wholesalers needs to be recognised and role in food security.**

**AC** noted that there was a lot of interesting information and challenge to Government. Some of this was coming into the meeting via Chatbox. It was agreed that those with questions and information for the Minister would send these through giving contact details to **ML** who would collate and send on.

ACTION: ALL

### Set 5

*Mark Bustard IBioIC (MB)*

**MB** explained that IBioIC was Scotland's Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre one of 7 established by the Scottish Government to improve the interaction between academia and business and business to business. They were looking at new

sustainable value chains and driving the bio-economy growth. The plan was to grow industrial biotechnology in Scotland to 200 companies.

The work spans from farm to fork all the way from farmers to waste companies and covers areas such as sustainable processing, use of biological systems, co-product utilization and zero net carbon. Examples of projects were, turning shellfish waste to novel film packaging for food, turning coffee grounds to food compost and taking waste fermentation material from distilleries into protein. **MB** asked for those interested to know more to contact him via [mark.bustard@ibioic.com](mailto:mark.bustard@ibioic.com) and [Debbie.mccreath@ibioic.com](mailto:Debbie.mccreath@ibioic.com).

ACTION: ALL

The Covid lockdown had caused major issues. They had 120 member companies and 80% of these are small or micro businesses who had to furlough staff. Fortunately the larger members stepped up and helped write guidance on safe return to work.

**Industrial biotechnology offers a huge opportunity to ensure security of food and drink supply chains post Covid-19 and offers Scotland a huge opportunity through uptake of more sustainable processes, products and feedstocks.**

**JS** thanked **MB** and thought biotechnology was possibly a topic for a further meeting.

*Pete Ritchie Nourish (PR)*

**PR** thanked everyone for the fascinating presentations and paid tribute to central and local government for getting things done during the pandemic so far, with the support from businesses and communities. Policies had been developed over night, communicated within 24 hours, money moved within the week and laws passed. It had been remarkable.

**Now the challenge was not to row back, but to create a food system that works for all in Scotland.** There were massive issues ahead, including the economy and Brexit but Scotland could do it. **PR** was disappointed that Good Food Nation bill had stalled but looked forward to partnership working on an equitable national food plan that would be treated with the same urgent can-do approach and connected food producers with citizens.

*Lorna Dawson SEFARI (LD)*

**LD** noted the FFCC 'Learning from Lockdown' carried out in May 2020 of 388 professionals UK wide. Investing directly in communities and local businesses was a core theme of responses, with:

- 90% support shorter local supply chains, more diverse UK food production and better rural services –especially broadband and connectivity
- 85% better pay and conditions for land-based work
- 70% more power and resources devolved to local government and communities
- 80% more investment in science and innovation

- 91% on national food security and productivity, say UK needs more diverse and local sources of food production

In addition, **LD** gave 2 snippets regarding Covid-19 from their YouGov /Food Foundation survey of over 1000 people:

- 42% changed how they valued food – now seen as essential
- 10% now share food and shop with their neighbours

**LD** noted the pressures during the pandemic included those of climate change, biodiversity, Brexit and trade. RESAS/ SEFARI were able to show flexibility and referred to the [SEFARI's COVID-19 response](#) paper. They had provided laboratory equipment, scientific evidence, educational online resources and had set up COVID testing facilities. Research was underway- such as novel PPE e.g. from bio products at the Moredun. Under SEFARI Gateway, work was ongoing with many partners looking at issues such as drivers of behaviour, treating waste as a resource, developing shorter supply chains, expanding rural skills and empowering communities. **In order to have an equitable sustainable food system and be able to pay for it, partnership work and innovation based on robust science is needed.**

**Archie Gibson Agrico** noted the FFCC work and highlighted other work going on such as the Scottish Government's [Advisory Group on Economic Recovery](#). He asked how this all meshed together. **LD** said collaboration was the way forward; this would be a grass roots recovery.

**AG** also mentioned Celtic Renewables and the work they were doing with the brewing and vegetable industry. Agrico was involved in a circular economy project looking at biofuels from potatoes supported by Scottish Enterprise. **MB** replied that there was a huge opportunity for Scotland in terms of the local supply chain, there was no point in fixing carbon emissions using green processes if it was then shipped round the world. We should work together and look at indigenous supply chains.

**Cate Devine Journalist (CD)** said there was now a higher demand for growing food and a Glasgow Food Growing Strategy was underway. **CD** asked if there was a national one planned. **AC** said Dundee also looking at land and what food they can grow. There were also many allotments and community gardens some of which had contacted her via the chat box that evening. There needed to be thought on how to support this including facilitating skills. **AC** felt there was opportunity with the Housing to 2040 initiative to think about the space that goes along with houses and communities and at least creating choice for people to have access to land.

**JS** agreed and said that we needed to build more resilience into our food system.

**Gail Ross MSP (GR)** noted that Wick Council knocked down some flats and a suggestion was that allotments be created and asked if **AC** could look at how Local Authorities approach local groups on this issue.

A few years ago when Scottish Government was building the new campus **GR** had suggested each school had an allotment. As discussed at recent CPG Food meetings, children needed to be more connected with food and this would aid that. **GR** asked if **AC** could follow this up.

**JS** thanked the Minister for attending and all the contributions. He noted how fast everything had moved.

#### 6. CPG Annual Return

**ML** noted this was the 50th meeting. A report would be submitted to the Parliament listing the meetings held in September 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 and January 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 and that the meetings of April 1st and June 10 had been cancelled.

#### 7. AOB

**PR** suggested given COP 26, a meeting be held on the theme of food and climate emergency.

#### 8. Date of the Next Meeting

These would be;

- Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup> (virtual) on Brexit
- Wednesday February 3rd