

**Minute:**

**Cross Party Group (CPG) on Malawi**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September November**  
**The Scottish Parliament**

**Attendees**

Maureen Watt MSP Alasdair Allan MSP Liam McArthur MSP Margon van Tuyl Martyn Edelsten Donnamarie O'Connell (RSPCA) Ruth Maclean Sandy Tjolle Lucy Aitchison Phillip Slater Stella Mazeri Hazel Mclver (Tearfund) Darren Watt Derek MacLeod Lillian Owiti (Corra Foundation) Jane Gebbie (Kondanani UK) Lee Randall Hazel Dawson (Mamie Martin Fund)	Adam Tjolle (LSPCA UK) Tefera Melaku (LUANAR) & Malawian vets:  Lucky Amos Mhone Lawrence Banda Atupele Jones Mwamlima Chikondi Love Kaona Sam Mvula Andrinah Muonauza Deleza Glyn Brighton Nkunika Chiomba Gift Mkanthama Bonnie Munthali Watson Mbizi Msesera Benjamin Kumwenda Evince Peter Mwale	Secretariat:  Gemma Burnside (SMP) Stuart Middleton (SMP) Douglas Coulter (SMP) Stuart Brown (SMP)
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**Welcome, apologies and minutes of the last meeting**

Co-Convener Alasdair Allan MSP opened the meeting by welcoming attendees, including a party of 12 visiting newly-graduated Malawian vets, trained Malawi together with their head of department Professor Tefera Melaku and Fife vet Adam Tjolle who has been instrumental in arranging the study tour of Scotland for the party.

Apologies were received from:

Ruth Milliken; Kevin Simpson; Lorna McDonald; Peter West; Stuart McMillan MSP; Patrick Harvie MSP; Elaine Smith MSP.

This meeting included the AGM of the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group for Malawi, however, as one of the attendees, Maureen Watt MSP, would have to depart the meeting early to meet a constituent, Alasdair Allan gave Maureen Watt the floor to give an account of her recent visit to Malawi with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK (see below).

**Maureen Watt MSP visit to Malawi with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK**

Maureen Watt apologised for having to leave early and welcomed the party of vets before describing how she had been visiting Malawi in August during the recess helping to train new parliamentarians there, where over 100 of the 189 members are newly elected.

The three day training was given to 50 members – 24 women and 26 men. She said the difference in the members between day one and day three was noticeable and hoped that they are now better equipped to carry out their roles.

Further planned training had to be curtailed on the advice of the High Commission due to ongoing unrest in the country following the disputed elections. An evening reception was hosted for the new

MPs, attended by members of the Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP) which allowed exchange of new ideas amongst the attendees.

### **AGM business: Election of office bearers**

Alasdair Allan handed over the chair to Stuart Brown (Deputy CEO, SMP) to conduct the election of office bearers.

#### ***Election of co-conveners***

Serving co-conveners:

- Liam McArthur MSP (Liberal Democrat)
- Alexander Stewart MSP (Conservative)
- Alasdair Allan MSP (SNP)

All indicated prior to the meeting that they would be happy to continue in office. No other member expressed an interest in serving as a co-convener. Heather Cubie proposed the motion that the above co-conveners be re-elected, seconded by Colin Cameron.

#### ***Election of deputy co-conveners***

Serving deputy co-conveners:

- Patrick Harvey MSP (Scottish Green Party)
- Elaine Smith MSP (Scottish Labour Party)

Stuart Brown noted that at least two of the co-conveners/deputy co-conveners must be MSPs which, following the re-election of the serving co-conveners was now fulfilled, and it was not clear if the deputy co-conveners wished to continue serving, he invited the meeting to come forward to serve as deputy co-convener. No-one came forward to be elected. With the AGM business concluded as far as it could be, Stuart Brown handed the chair back to Alasdair Allan.

Alasdair Allan thanked the Scotland Malawi Partnership for the smooth running of the CPG for Malawi as its secretariat and confirmed David Hope-Jones would continue as ex-officio secretary of the CPG for Malawi.

### **Professor Tefera Melaku and visiting newly-graduated Malawian vets**

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to welcoming 12 newly-graduated vets from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) and their head of department Professor Tefera Melaku who were visiting Scotland on a study tour.

The visit was made possible by Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Inglis Vets, and Adam Tjolle and is being funded by LSPCA UK who have been awarded a grant by Independent Vet Care to cover all costs.

Chair of LSPCA UK, Adam Tjolle, introduced the visitors followed by a presentation by Professor Melaku. Several of the vets then gave moving testimony of their route to gaining a place to study as part of the first cohort of vets to graduate from LUANAR and what their ambitions for the future are. The meeting was then opened to the floor for a Q&A.

As Alasdair Allan had to leave to attend Parliamentary business, Stuart Brown closed the meeting by thanking all attendees and inviting them to the next meeting on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2019.