

Cross Party Group on Nordic Countries

Minutes of meeting on Friday 22 January 202 at 11am

Online via Zoom

1. Welcome

Attendees:

Angus MacDonald MSP	Convener
Kristina Háfoss MP	Member of Faroese Parliament
Beatrice Wishart MSP	
Adam Mackie	Office of John Mason MSP
Alan McNiven	Edinburgh University
Callum Hendry	
Dag Lee	
Mike Christophersen	Consul General of Sweden
Frank Stewart	Norwegian Scottish Association
Francesco Bertoldi	Scottish Government
Helen Stromme	Norwegian Scottish Association
James Trolland	
Karl Rosie	Councillor – Highland Council & Office of Maree Todd MSP
Lesley Riddoch	
Kirstin Hannesdottir	Icelandic Consul
Paul Leinster	Office of Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Dr Sally Garden	Norwegian Scottish Association
Patricia Seaman	Norwegian Scottish Association
Stephen Seaman	Norwegian Scottish Association
David Windmill	Honorary Consul General of Norway
Louise Wallace	Norwegian Scottish Association
Gordon Rates	
Daniel Morrison	
Nick Sharpe	Scottish Renewables
Steven Aitkenhead	
Michael Hansen Just	Norwegian Scottish Association
Michael Park OBE	Scottish White Fish Producers Assoc.Ltd
Tony Freeth	Norwegian Scottish Association
Einar Dons	
Garry Irvine	Forth Bridge Heritage Centre
Iain Sinclair	Office of Angus MacDonald MSP

2. Apologies

Maurice Golden MSP, Mark Ruskell MSP, Mona Røhne – Consul of Norway

Diane Macintyre – Office of Angus MacDonald MSP

3. Guest Lecture from Kristina Háfoss MP – Faroese Parliament

Ms Háfoss was introduced by Angus MacDonald MSP, who provided a presentation and lecture with information about the make-up of the Faroe Islands, and their programme for Digital Infrastructure for all their communities.

Following the lecture questions were taken from the attendees on topics including digital inclusivity, travel availability to the Faroe Islands from Scotland and the difference between internet in the British Isles and the Faroes touching on what lessons could be learned for some of Scotland's island communities.

These questions were followed by a brief talk from Ms Háfoss on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Convener thanked Ms Háfoss for her attendance and for her presentations.

4. AOB

The Convener asked if attendees could send their details to Iain Sinclair from his office by email to record this information for the CPG.

He also went onto ask that if anyone had any ideas for future speakers for the CPG to advise either at that point or get in touch.

5. Date of next meeting

This will be the AGM and will take place on Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 6pm and will be an online meeting.