

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING	Ocean Conservation AGM, House of Commons, Room Q, Portcullis House
DATE	11/02/2020
ATTENDEES	<p>Steve double MP Cherilyn Mackrory MP Geraint Davies MP Kerry McCarthy MP Derek Thomas MP Scott Mann MP James Gray MP</p> <p>Julieta Cuneo (Sustainability Adviser, Barry Sheerman MP) Anne Double (Manager for Steve Double MP) Samuel Yung (Parliamentary Assistant to Steve Double) Hugo Tagholm (Executive Director, SAS) Amy Slack (Projects & Campaign's Manager, SAS) Alice Field (Project Officer, SAS)</p>

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
Welcome and Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hugo Tagholm welcomed members to the Ocean Conservation APPG meeting. James Gray highlighted APPG rules and regulations and asserted the need for secretariat neutrality. Steve Double asserted that the meeting purpose is to reconstitute the APPG and elect officers. 	

<p>Officer and Secretariat Vote</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for official officer positions were given and voting took place with the elections as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve Double MP as Chair Person ○ Geraint Davies MP, Cherylin Mackrory MP, Kerry McCarthy MP and Caroline Lucas MP agreed to be Vice Chairs ○ Scott Mann MP as Treasurer ○ Derek Thomas MP as Secretary ○ Surfers Against Sewage agreed as Secretariat 	
<p>Discussion of APPG regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geraint Davies MP highlighted the importance of recording expenditure within the Ocean Conservation APPG. • James Gray MP points out that the Ocean Conservation APPG booklet must ensure that it is clear that it this is an APPG and that members are answerable for any associated publications. • Hugo Tagholm asserted that SAS is committed to complying with official APPG rules and regulations and confirmed role as secretariat. • Geraint Davies MP suggested that for the next APPG, expenditure be reported to ensure accordance with APPG regulations. • James Gray MP highlighted that the specific contribution of the secretariat towards Ocean Conservation APPG operations have to be declared. • James Gray MP highlighted the importance of APPG meetings involving all parties and suggested the need to be more proactive in offering solutions to key issues addressed by the group. • Steve Double MP stated that it is the purpose of the MP to be more proactive, not the group. • Geraint Davies MP added that it is up to the Ocean Conservation APPG to make suggestions that are considered and that we can actively address issues. • James Gray MP also added that it is the purpose of the Ocean Conservation APPG 	<p>SAS to amend booklet with APPG logo clearly displayed on the front cover and will ensure all expenditure is recorded appropriately.</p>

to inform and advise because APPG membership is haphazard, hence why solutions within APPGs are not actively pursued.

- Steve Double MP highlights the fact that there were two PPS present in the Ocean Conservation APPG and queries whether they can or cannot take a formal position and amend legislation.
- James Gray MP suggested that it is difficult for all APPG members to agree on a policy view.
- Derek Thomas MP suggested that the Ocean Conservation APPG can offer suggestions to a minister without stating a policy view.
- Geraint Davies MP suggested that an APPG should make suggestions within its focus area, whether the government takes them forward or not and that there should be room for debate within an APPG.
- Steve Double MP asserts that the Ocean Conservation APPG can make suggestions but should not state whether they support an amendment or not.

<p>Ocean Conservation APPG draft strategy feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hugo Tagholm introduced Surfers Against Sewage and key areas of work including water quality, plastic pollution, marine protected areas and climate change. • Amy Slack provided feedback on the draft strategy with generally positive responses. • UK water quality standards are falling short compared to other EU countries. • Amy Slack highlighted the feedback given through the consultation responses for the need for a level playing field for UK water quality legislation in particular the opportunity to go beyond EU standards. • Geraint Davies MP suggested the upcoming Environment Bill 2019/20 provided opportunities for more positive action to reduce plastic pollution. 	<p>Health benefits of good water quality should be highlighted by the Ocean Conservation APPG and the APPG should also implicitly state that UK water quality legislation should align with the EU.</p>
<p>Outline of APPG Agenda for 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hugo Tagholm highlighted that the Ocean Conservation APPG had a 30 year track record of including a good diversity of people with different views to inform suggestions and ultimately protect the ocean better. • Amy Slack outlined the agenda for the next 12 months which would be thematic in terms of issues addressed in the four primary APPG meeting. For example, the final APPG would focus on climate change to tie in with COP26. • The next APPG would focus on plastic pollution and would host the UK premiere of Break Free from Plastic's film 'The Story of Plastic'. This would be a significant opportunity to showcase the APPG and its plans in 2020. • Steve Double MP asks if members are happy with Agenda for 2020 and everyone was in agreement. 	