



All Party Parliamentary Group for Hospitality and Tourism

Inaugural Meeting of the Hospitality and Tourism APPG

Room M, Portcullis House, 04.09.2024, 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Minutes of meeting

Attendees

Parliamentarians

Andrew	Cooper	Labour	Mid Cheshire
Andrew	Ranger	Labour	Wrexham
Angus	MacDonald	Lib Dem	Inverness, Skye and West Ross shire
Bayo	Alaba	Labour	Southend East and Rochford
Caroline	Voaden	Lib Dem	South Devon
Charlie	Dewhurst	Con	Bridlington and the Wolds
Chris	Webb	Labour	Blackpool South
Claire	Hughes	Labour	Bangor Aberconwy
Connor	Naismith	Labour	Crewe and Nantwich
Damian	Hinds	Con	East Hampshire
Daniel	Aldridge	Labour	Weston-Super-Mare
Euan	Stainbank	Labour	Falkirk
Gill	German	Labour	Clwyd North
Irene	Campbell	Labour	North Ayrshire and Arran
Jayne	Kirkham	Labour	Truro & Falmouth
Jess	Brown-Fuller	Lib Dem	Chichester
Joe	Robertson	Conservative	Isle of Wight East
Jon	Pearce	Labour	High Peak
Josh	Babarinde	Lib Dem	Eastbourne
Joshua	Reynolds	Lib Dem	Maidenhead
Julie	Minns	Labour	Carlisle
Liz	Saville-Roberts	Plaid Cymru	Dwyfor Meirionnydd
Manuela	Perteghella	Lib Dem	Stratford-on-Avon
Martin	Rhodes	Labour	Glasgow North
Max	Wilkinson	Lib Dem	Cheltenham
Paul	Kohler	Lib Dem	Wimbledon
Steve	Darling	Lib Dem	Torbay
Tom	Gordon	Lib Dem	Harrogate and Knaresborough
Tom	Hayes	Labour	Bournemouth East

Secretariat

Kate Nicholls	UKHospitality
Allen Simpson	UKHospitality
Tony Sophocles	UKHospitality
Luke Cheadle	UKHospitality
Ruby Sampson	UKHospitality

1. Introduction and welcome

Kate Nicholls, (KN) welcomed all attendees to the meeting and gave a brief introduction on UKHospitality's role as secretariat for the APPG as well as UKHospitality as the leading trade body for the sector.

KN introduced today's formal business which is to select our Chair with three officers. KN noted, we must have both the Government and Opposition Party represented from the officers.

2. Nomination of Chair (Presided over by Secretariat)

KN stated that UKHospitality has received one nominee for Chair, Chris Webb, Labour Party, Blackpool South.

Chris Webb (CW) was unanimously elected as Chair by the raising of hands.

KN invited Chris Webb to preside over the rest of the meeting.

3. Election of Officers (Presided over by Chair)

CW thanked the room for his nomination and said that so far, we have one existing nominee for the officer role, Damian Hinds, Conservative Party, East Hampshire. Due to the requirement for one of the Officers to be from the Official Opposition Party, and with no other nominations forthcoming, Damian was unanimously elected as a Vice-Chair by the raising of hands.

The following MPs put themselves forward to be an officer:

- Dan Aldridge, Labour, Weston-Super-Mare
- Connor Naismith, Labour, Crewe and Nantwich
- Steve Darling, Liberal Democrat, Torbay
- Caroline Voaden, Liberal Democrat, South Devon

The room heard from each nominee and the parliamentarians then voted. The following MPs were announced as officers, in addition to Chris Webb and Damian Hinds:

- Dan Aldridge, Labour, Weston-Super-Mare
- Caroline Voaden, Liberal Democrat, South Devon

4. Sectoral update (UKHospitality) /priorities (All)

CW invited KN to give an update on the sector.

KN gave a summary of the state of the play for the industry currently and the footprint hospitality has in every constituency in the UK. KN talked through the economic impact of Covid and how



lockdown proved to the Government the huge value the public puts on hospitality as an experience they want to prioritise.

She said that looking ahead at future opportunities for the sector there is huge potential for the industry to be responsible for 6% more growth in the economy every year as well as creating 500,000 new jobs, if we have the right conditions in place. It was noted that for every £1 spent in hospitality £3 goes back to the Exchequer. Hospitality is also the 2nd largest exporter and has an economic activity which is higher than aeronautic, pharma and automotive combined. KN concluded by saying that the cost of doing businesses is still high. Hospitality has the potential to transform the economy and regenerate high streets. After the financial crash 1 in 6 new jobs were created from hospitality and we can do the same again.

5. Programme of activity for the next 12 months (All)

CW started the discussion on members ideas of a future work plan and where the APPG might want to focus activity over the coming months.

There were various topics discussed, including:

- Recruitment - particularly chefs.
- Imported wine.
- The tax burden on hospitality businesses – business rates relief coming to an end in April.
- Promoting the visitor economy.
- The transport sector and lack of connectivity causing the deterioration on high streets.
- Food labelling.
- The restrictions on festivals – many MPs receive requests for specific reductions in VAT for festivals.
- Convention centres suffer from lack of staffing, cost of hiring and staff who struggle with the cost of working and living locally.
- High street regeneration.
- Short term lets.
- Second homes.
- Cost of energy for hotels.
- Ferry provision.
- Expensive accommodation.

6. AOB

CW invited any AOB.

UKHospitality asked if members could put UKHospitality's Parliamentary Reception in their calendars for 21st January 2024 and made them aware of a Westminster Hall debate on short term lets coming up on Thursday, 12 September which UKHospitality would be sending members a briefing on shortly.

CW thanked everyone for attending and congratulated new officers.

The meeting closed.