



**Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group
Annual General Meeting
10th December 2018, 13.00; Room B, 1 Parliament Street
MINUTES**

Attendance:

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| 1. Patrick Grady MP (SNP) [<i>Chair</i>] | 6. Carol Monaghan MP (SNP) |
| 2. Alison Thewliss MP (SNP) | 7. David Hope-Jones (Scotland Malawi Partnership) [<i>Secretariat</i>] |
| 3. Alex Norris MP (Lab) | 8. Emma Armshaw (SNP, WFD) |
| 4. Viscount Waverley (Crossbench) | 9. Natasha Fox (SNP, WFD) |
| 5. Jonathan Ashworth MP (Lab) | |

Apologies:

Apologies were presented from:

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| 1. Angus MacNeil MP (SNP) | 10. David Drew MP (Lab) |
| 2. Chris Law MP (SNP) | 11. James Duddridge MP (Cons) |
| 3. David Linden MP (SNP) | 12. Lord Nigel Jones of Cheltenham (Lib Dem) |
| 4. John Lamont MP (Cons) | 13. Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale (Lab) |
| 5. Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale (Lab) | 14. Christine Jardine MP (Lib Dem) |
| 6. Lord Steel of Aikwood (Lib Dem) | 15. Gavin Newlands MP (SNP) |
| 7. Tommy Sheppard MP (SNP) | 16. Douglas Ross (Cons) |
| 8. Henry Bellingham MP (Cons) | 17. Ross Thomson (Cons) |
| 9. Neil Coyle MP (Cons) | |

Welcome:

Patrick Grady MP welcomed members and recognised this was a very busy and dynamic day in Parliament.

Review of 2017/18:

David Hope-Jones gave a summary of key activities for the Group since its last AGM on the 29th November 2017.

- On the **7th March 2018** the APPG had a joint meeting with the Malawi Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament looking at UK Malawi trade and investment. To our knowledge, this is the first time an APPG and a CPG have linked in this way. The meeting had the Chief Executive of CDC speaking in Westminster and the Chief Executive of Mzuzu Coffee speaking in Holyrood. It marked exactly 40 years since CDC made a modest investment in what became Mzuzu Coffee, funds which are continuing to help drive the economy in the north of Malawi. Since this meeting both the Chair and Chief Executive of CDC have restated their commitment to increasing investments in Malawi: when giving evidence to the International Development Select Committee (12 June), at the launch of their 2017 impact report (10 July), and at the Malawi-UK Business Group networking evening at Scotland House (5th November).
- On the **17th April 2018**, His Excellency President Arthur Peter Mutharika addressed the APPG, outlining successes of the Government of Malawi and setting out his Government's future vision for Malawi.

Malawi All-Party Parliamentary Group

www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/APPG

Chair and Registered Contact: Patrick Grady MP, patrick.grady.mp@parliament.uk 020 7219 6398
Secretariat: David Hope-Jones, david@scotland-malawipartnership.org 0131 529 3164



- On the **15th October 2018**, His Excellency Saulos Chilima, the Vice-President of Malawi, addressed the Group. Mr Chilima has announced his intention to stand against the current DPP administration in the forthcoming May 2019 elections, and gave a frank account of the economic, social and governance challenges Malawi faces, from his perspective.

AGM:

The formal AGM for the Group was conducted, with the following post-holders re-elected:

Chair & Registered Contact	MP	Patrick Grady MP	SNP
Co-Vice Chair	MP	Christine Jardine MP	Lib Dem
Co-Vice Chair	MP	Hugh Gaffney MP	Labour
Co-Vice Chair	MP	Jim Shannon MP	DUP
Co-Vice Chair	MP	Ross Thomson MP	Conservative
Hon. President	Peer	Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale	Labour
Secretary	MP	Kirstene Hair MP	Conservative
Treasurer	MP	David Linden MP	SNP
<i>Secretariat</i>		<i>David Hope-Jones</i>	<i>[Scotland Malawi Partnership]</i>

Priorities and Opportunities for 2018/9:

Patrick Grady MP noted that he had been in contact with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association about a possible visit to Malawi in February. However, it now looks likely this will be moved to after the Malawi tripartite elections which take place in May. It is hoped that members of this Group may have the opportunity to join this visit.

David Hope-Jones noted that the British High Commissioner to Malawi, the Malawi High Commissioner to the UK, the Heads of DFID Malawi, British Council Malawi and senior FCO officials working with Malawi have all agreed in principle to meeting with the Group in 2018/19.

Alex Norris MP highlighted his work with Malawi, largely through the CPA and joint work on the modern slavery project, helping develop new legislation. This work is still ongoing and he will update the Group as it develops.

David Hope-Jones noted that at the Group's 2017 AGM the following priorities had been agreed:

- the 2019 Malawi elections,
- the UK Government's forthcoming Africa Strategy,
- the UK-Malawi Double Taxation Treaty,
- UK-Malawi business links,
- UK visas for those invited from Malawi,
- understanding the many UK-Malawi civic links

It was agreed these priorities remain relevant for 2018/19 and will continue to be considered when scheduling meetings.

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David Hope-Jones presented the official report of the '*Malawi and Scotland: Together for Sustainable Development*' conference, which took place on the 28th and 29th September in Lilongwe. This conference looked back on the last 13 years of close cooperation between Scotland and Malawi, and mapped out a vision for continued friendship and collaboration to 2030. An integral part of this relationship is the close cooperation between Government, Parliament and civil society in both nations. Accordingly, representing the Malawi APPG, Patrick Grady MP gave a video address for the Conference, alongside Liam McArthur MSP (Lib Dem) and Alexander Stewart MSP (Cons), representing Holyrood's Malawi Cross Party Group. Members of the Group welcomed the official report and will consider at the next meeting if and how best to formally support the report, alongside counterparts in Holyrood and the Malawi National Assembly.

Emma Armshaw updated the group on the Westminster Foundation for Democracy work with the Malawi Women's Caucus, trying to increase the number of female parliamentarians in the Malawian National Assembly. They are working with the 32 existing female MPs, who are spread across four parties. They have had requests for financial support to assist with their campaigns so they have established a crowdfunding page which Emma will circulate details of. All funds will be distributed by the Women's Caucus and CCSS, between the MPs of different parties, to support their re-election campaigns.

Viscount Waverley highlighted the new parliamentrevealed.org which presents information online, through many short videos, about UK Parliament systems. This may be useful to share as parliamentary links are strengthened.

Viscount Waverley also highlighted the need to raise awareness of events in southern Cameroon. He will be meeting with Patricia Scotland to discuss this shortly.

Next Meeting:

David Hope-Jones noted that the next meeting of the Group is taking place on **Wednesday 13th February, 10.30 – 11.15, in Room P of Portcullis House** with the Immigration Minister Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP. This is a joint-meeting with the Africa APPG, which will be looking specifically at issues around the issuing of UK visas for those visiting from Africa.

It will only be open to Parliamentarians and officials so, with the Africa APPG, we will also host a more open roundtable session on the **22nd January at 18.00 in the Grimond Room**, to listen to a range of public experiences around visa issuing.

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