

Minutes

All Party Group on Climate Action

22 June 2022 | 10:00 am – 11:00 am

At: Room 30, Parliament Building

Members in attendance: John Blair MLA, Eoin Tennyson MLA, Paula Bradshaw MLA, Nuala McAllister MLA, Kate Nicholl MLA, Andrew Muir MLA, Danny Donnelly MLA, Peter McReynolds MLA, Harry Harvey MLA, Cllr Robert Irvine, Cllr Roisin Lynch, Cllr Simon Lee, Cllr Lauren Kendall.

In attendance: Nichola Hughes, Kate Livingstone, Cathy Burns, Allan Bogle

Attendees: 17

Apologies: Kellie Armstrong MLA, Philip McGuigan MLA, Steve Aiken MLA, Doug Beattie MLA, Gerry Carroll MLA, Cllr Terry Andrews, Cllr Maeve O'Neill Cllr Eddie Thompson, Cllr Michael Henderson Cllr Billy Webb, Cllr Martin Gregg, Cllr Brian Smyth, Cllr Donal McPeake

1	Opening Remarks
1.1	<p>John Blair (JB), outgoing Vice-Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a quick round of introductions.</p> <p>He took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Rachel Woods MLA, for chairing the APG since its establishment in January 2020, noting the drive and commitment she exhibited in her role as Chair of this APG and the amount of positive change she and her party brought about whilst in office.</p> <p>Action: JB to write to Rachel Woods to thank her for chairing the APG and wish her well for the future.</p>
1.2	Apologies
	Apologies were recorded.
2	Meeting Admin
2.1	Minutes of meeting on 28 January 2022
	<p>Minutes of the meeting on 28 January were approved: proposed by JB and seconded by Roisin Lynch (RL).</p> <p>JB noted that Minister Lyons corresponded to the group that DfE officials would be happy to present an overview of the new Energy Strategy at the next meeting.</p>

3	Governance
3.1	Election of office bearers
	<p><u>Chair:</u></p> <p>JB asked expressions of interest from MLAs for the position of Chair of the All Party Group on Climate Action. Eoin Tennyson (ET) proposed Kate Nicholl. The nomination was seconded by Danny Donnelly (DD). No further nominations were proposed.</p> <p>KN accepted the nomination. JB noted that KN would be the new Chair of the APG and congratulated her on her new position.</p> <p><u>Vice Chair:</u></p> <p>JB asked expressions of interest from MLAs for the position of Vice-Chair of the All Party Group on Climate Action. Andrew Muir (AM) proposed Eoin Tennyson (ET). The nomination was seconded by Kate Nicholl (KN). No further nominations were proposed.</p> <p>ET accepted the nomination. JB noted that ET would be the new Vice-Chair of the APG and congratulated him.</p> <p><u>Secretary:</u></p> <p>JB asked expressions of interest from MLAs for the position of Secretary of the All Party Group on Climate Action. Paula Bradshaw (PB) proposed Harry Harvey (HH). The nomination was seconded by Andrew Muir (AM). No further nominations were proposed.</p> <p>HH accepted the nomination. JB noted that HH was the new Secretary of the APG and congratulated him.</p> <p>NH confirmed that the Group did not require a Treasurer.</p>
3.2	Terms of Reference
	<p>JB invited members to give their views on the format and frequency of future meetings and if they wish to make any amendments to the Terms of Reference. JB noted that a few of the Councillors would only be able to make Friday meetings due to work commitments.</p> <p>After a brief discussion MLAs agreed they could no longer meet on Fridays as it is their constituency day. They agreed to hold meetings on Wednesdays from 1 – 2pm on a bi-monthly basis, in Parliament Buildings but with an option to join virtually. Members noted and approved the Terms of Reference as they appear on the agenda.</p> <p>Action: KN to explore hybrid meeting capability at Stormont.</p>
4	Presentation: Acorn Farm Sustainable Food Project
	<p>JB welcomed Cathy Burns and Allan Bogle from Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC).</p> <p>View presentation here.</p> <p>Contacts: cathy.burns@derrystrabane.com Allan.Bogle@Derrystrabane.com</p> <p>KN took over as Chair.</p>

	<p>KN thanked the presenters. She commended DCSDC on securing funding for a sustainable food hub and encouraged members to visit the farm when it opens in March 2024.</p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>HH asked if they expect the number of households participating in the at-home growing initiative to grow and if the project has capacity to support growth?</p> <p>CB noted that initially the project set out to support 200 households but 250 applied, and the project accommodated everyone who applied.</p> <p>RL asked how many other councils are participating in the Sustainable Food Places programme?</p> <p>AB confirmed five councils are collaborating on the sustainable food places programme (Mid and East Antrim, Newry Mourne and Down, Derry City and Strabane, and Ards and North Down and Belfast City Council) and they are part of a UK-wide network of 80+ towns and cities involved in the movement.</p> <p>RL asked what the total capital budget is for Acorn Farm? CB confirmed the total budget is £6.2 million which is comprised of funding from the UK Levelling Up Fund and Council contributions. She added that the intention is to build the hub as sustainably as possible and showcase sustainable technologies on the site.</p> <p>HH asked how far the farm is from the city centre, and if sustainable transport has been considered?</p> <p>AB said it is about 300m from the public transport hub and is well connected to an expanding greenway network across the city and district. There will be secure bike parking and car parking has deliberately kept to a minimum in the site's design.</p> <p>JB asked if there are any opportunities for skills and work placements through the project and CB confirmed that there will be, and Council is working with Cafre to develop these opportunities further.</p> <p>KN thanked CB and AB for their presentation and for travelling from the North West for the meeting.</p>
5	AOB
	<p>KN noted the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 21 September, 1 – 2pm, Parliament Buildings (Hybrid meeting facility to be explored). The meeting will look at the Energy Strategy.</p>
6	Summary and close
	<p>KN thanked everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 11.00.</p>