

MINUTES

ALL-PARTY GROUP on CLIMATE ACTION

1st March 2024 | 12noon – 1pm

At: Virtual

In Attendance: Chair Danny Donnelly MLA, Steve Aiken MLA, Sian Mulholland MLA, Peter McReynolds MLA, John Blair MLA, Cllr Kurtis Dickson, Cllr Jay Burbank, Cllr Billy Webb
52 observers attended.

Item 1: Apologies: Harry Harvey MLA, Michelle McIlveen MLA.

- **Minutes** were adopted as a true record of the meeting from the 3rd Nov 2023 and proposed by Steve Aiken MLA
seconded by Cllr Kurtis Dickson

- **Matters arising:** Due to the restoration of the NI Executive, February's meeting was postponed and members were informed that the agenda for that meeting will now be moved to the scheduled meeting of the April APG.

Item 2: Danny Donnelly welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to the short notice and a busy diary, Minister Muir was unable to attend but is hopeful to speak to the APG at a later date. The Chair wished him well in his Ministry of behalf of members.

Item 3: The Chair welcomed James Orr, Director of Friends of the Earth NI to the meeting to present on their campaign to save Lough Neagh. The presentation can be accessed in full on the recording of the meeting and the campaign work of FoE accessed at the following link - <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/lough-neagh-why-europes-wildlife-jewel-needs-space-breathe>

Item 4: The Chair went straight to the next presentation from Charlie Fisher, CEO of the Development Trust NI and Bernadette McAliskey. Apologies were received from Kate Clifford. A detailed overview was given on work that began by the DTNI and community groups on ownership models for Lough Neagh, this work was carried out under workstreams with DARD as far back as 2014 and the urgency for reform has become critical given the lack of movement and the current environmental crisis that Lough Neagh is in. **Access to the full report** - <https://www.dtni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/DTNI-Lough-Neagh-Report.pdf>

The meeting ran a little over time but members thanked all the presenters for their detailed presentations and work to date. Everyone acknowledged they received a lot of information and would follow up if required.

The Chair drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for attending.

Date of the next meeting will be Fri 5th April @ 12noon