



Minutes from British-Japan Parliamentary Group AGM

Date: Monday 24th February 2020

Attending: Lord Bates, Lord Sassoon, Lord Pendry, Yvonne Forargue MP, Peter Bottomley MP, Baroness Healy of Primrose Hill, Lord Gilbert, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Baroness Hooper, Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Viscount Trenchard, Alex Sobel MP, Gary Sambrook MP, Heather Wheeler MP, Nigel Evans MP, David Simmons MP, Sir George Howarth, Kevin Hollinrake MP, Lord Howell, Sir Mark Hendrick MP, Craig Williams MP, Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Sir Mark Hendrick MP, Baroness D'Souza and Jeremy Hunt MP.

Apologies received from: Viscount Waverley, Ian Paisley MP, Pauline Latham MP, Baroness Goudie, Rosie Cooper MP, Sir Graham Brady MP, Gareth Bacon MP, Lord Lansley, John Spellar MP, Flick Drummond MP, Douglas Chapman MP, Lord Campbell, Paul Howell MP, Dr Ben Spencer and Deidre Brock MP.

The meeting was called to order at 1630.

Election of Chair: Mr Nigel Evans MP, Proposed the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP. Mr Hunt was elected unanimously.

Election of Secretary: Only one nomination was received in the name of Sir Mark Hendrick MP. Sir Mark was elected unopposed (Proposed by the Chair).

Election of Vice-Chairs: The following were proposed by the Chair and elected unanimously; Craig Williams MP (Con), Dr Lisa Cameron MP (SNP), Gary Sambrook MP (Con), Viscount Trenchard (Con), Lord Moynihan (Con), Lord Holmes (Unaffiliated), Viscount Waverley (Ind), Baroness Finlay (Ind), John Spellar MP (Lab), Lord Bates (Con), Sir Graham Brady MP (Con), Heather Wheeler MP (Con), Chris Elmore MP (Lab), David Morris MP (Con), Ian Paisley MP (DUP), Baroness Hooper (Con), Judith Cummins MP (Lab), Lord Pendry (Lab), Deidre Block (SNP) and Dr Ben Spencer MP (Con).

Approval of Accounts: The Accounts for the last Parliament (signed under the last Chairs name) were approved without opposition. There were no questions regarding clarifications.

Remarks from the Chair and comments from the membership

The Chair, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, welcomed members to the group and officially thanked Roger Godsiff, former Chair of the group. It was unanimously agreed that Mr Hunt should write to Mr Godsiff thanking him for his work. The Chair also thanked Mr Godsiff's staff who had acted as the secretariat to the group for many years.

The Chair updated the group about his recent meeting with the Ambassador and that he intended to try and arrange a trip for (new) Parliamentarians to visit Japan and meet with their counterparts. The Chair is to investigate ways of funding this through sponsorship.

In response to this, several members suggested that we should consider asking the Inter-Parliamentary Union for funding. This will be investigated. Baroness D'Souza asked if more could be done to support female Parliamentarians, and this will also be investigated.

The Chair raised the possibility of holding a hearing on the progress of the UK-Japan trade deal and the possibility of meeting the International Trade Secretary (also President of the Board of Trade) about how negotiations are progressing. This will also be looked into, and the Chair will be in touch with members to discuss this further with them.

Questions were raised regarding the upcoming Emperors state visit to the UK. Vice-Chair Viscount Trenchard said that it is unlikely the Emperor will be visiting Parliament due to longstanding convention; but the embassy will be in touch regarding events they are hosting to celebrate the visit.

The Chair asked that members let him know of any possible sponsors that they are aware of that could be contacted.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1701.