



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Science and Technology in Agriculture

Notes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Julian Sturdy MP (Chair)
Baroness Jones of Whitchurch
Lord Cameron of Dillington
Lord Taylor of Holbeach
Sir Paul Beresford MP
George Freeman MP
Lord Carrington
Lord Rooker
Baroness Hayman
Lord Lucas
Earl of Lindsay
Viscount Ridley
Lord Curry of Kirkharle
Earl of Devon
Jerome Mayhew MP
Daniel Pearsall, Group Co-ordinator

1. Welcome & Introduction

Julian Sturdy (JS) welcomed Members to the All-Party Group's Annual General Meeting, briefly reviewing the Group's programme of meetings over the past 12 months and also noting that it had been an exceptionally busy and productive year for the Group in persuading the Government to consult on post-Brexit changes to the regulation of gene editing techniques, so freeing up opportunities for genetic research and innovation in this country and aligning our stance with other parts of the world. JS paid tribute in particular to Members of the House of Lords who had introduced and supported a proposed amendment to the Agriculture Bill which had unlocked a Ministerial commitment to consult on the issue.

Members and Officers also noted that Lord Haskins had resigned from the House of Lords in December 2020 and therefore also as a long-serving Vice-Chair of the Group. JS paid tribute to Lord Haskins' contribution to the cause of science and innovation in agriculture, both through the All-Party Group and beyond.

2. Election of chair and officers

The nomination of Julian Sturdy MP to continue to serve as Chair of the Group was approved with the agreement of all Members present.

Nominations for the Earl of Lindsay, Baroness Jones of Whitchurch, Lord Cameron of Dillington and Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP to continue as Vice-Chairs of the Group were approved with the agreement of all Members present.

3. Draft Income & Expenditure Statement

A draft Income and Expenditure Statement (attached at Appendix 1) for the All-Party Group was approved with the agreement of all Members present.

4. Future meetings programme

DP reported that plans were in hand for meetings on 22 March, a rapid evidence-gathering and brainstorm session with George Freeman MP feeding into the Government's Task Force on Innovation Growth and Regulatory Reform, and on 27 April, when a DIT Minister would present the Government's view on the importance of agri-tech in future trade deals and export growth opportunities. DP noted that future sessions on sustainability metrics and barley research and innovation were planned. Discussion among members also highlighted opportunities for the Group to explore the rapidly developing field of metrics in relation to carbon accounting, natural capital and biodiversity dividends.

5. Science for Sustainable Agriculture platform

Following discussion, Officers and Members of the All-Party Group backed proposals for a new communication and information platform – entitled **Science for Sustainable Agriculture** – as a new initiative for the APPG to bring together key publications, news stories, blogs, articles and commentaries to highlight the positive role of science and innovation in contributing to more sustainable agriculture and food production.

Concluding the meeting, JS thanked Officers and Members for their attendance and contribution to a short but productive session.

Appendix 1

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Name of group: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Science & Technology in Agriculture

Period covered by this statement: 11 February 2020 – 10 February 2021

Income and Expenditure

The group receives no direct income from membership subscriptions, monetary donations, trading income or interest and therefore incurred no direct expenditure over the course of the year.

Value of benefits in kind

Source	Description	Value £s	Received
Front Foot Communications Ltd	<p>Front Foot Communications Ltd provides the secretariat to the APPG: primarily this involves organising meetings, liaising and corresponding on behalf of the group, producing the group's annual report and maintaining the group's web-site.</p> <p>Front Foot Communications Ltd is paid by the following organisations to act as the APPG's secretariat: National Farmers Union, National Institute of Agricultural Botany; UK Flour Millers; Maltsters Association of Great Britain; British Society of Plant Breeders; Agricultural Biotechnology Council; Crop Protection Association; Agricultural Industries Confederation</p>	16,501 - 18,000	11/03/2020 – 10/03/2021