

# Rural Services APPG

**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Services**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2015 12:00pm**  
**Room N, Portcullis House, Bridge Street, London, SW1A 2LW**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **PRESENT**

Graham Stuart MP – Beverley & Holderness  
Helen Goodman MP – Bishop Auckland  
Neil Parish MP – Tiverton & Honiton  
Andrew Bridgen MP – North West Leicestershire  
Rebecca Pow MP – Taunton & Deane  
Cat Smith MP – Lancaster & Fleetwood  
The Lord Cameron of Dillington

Graham Biggs – RSN – Secretariat  
Sam Hall – Researcher to Graham Stuart

### **APOLOGIES**

Sir Alan Haselhurst MP  
Richard Bacon MP  
Robert Jenrick MP  
Julian Sturdy MP  
Lord James Cranthorne  
Lord Robert MacLennan  
Baroness Byford  
Phillip Dunne MP (Observer)  
AnneMarie Morris MP (Observer)

### **1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

It was noted that one of the Officers must be from the Labour Party.

### **AGREED**

That the following members be elected for the next year:-

Chairman – Graham Stuart MP

Vice Chairmen:-

Helen Goodman MP

Rebecca Pow MP

Cat Smith MP

Treasurer – Neil Parish MP

Secretary – Baroness Byford DBE

## **2. NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that a joint meeting with the Policing APPG provisionally set for the 18<sup>th</sup> June had been postponed as the results of the Rural Crime Survey would not be available by then due to the survey stating later than planned.

Dates of future meetings would be circulated as soon as possible.

## **3. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS AND THE OPERATION OF THE GROUP**

The Chairman invited the members present to suggest items for discussion over the next year. The intention was to have a long list from which a short list of priorities could be drawn.

Members suggested the following topics:-

Housing

Redundant Farm Buildings

Broadband/ Digital delivery of Public Services

Post Offices

Government response to Lord Cameron's Rural Proofing Review

Buses Bill

Industrialisation of the Countryside & Fracking.

GP recruitment

The Chairman remarked that in the past the APPG had tended to receive interesting and informative presentations but had rarely been asked to help achieve a particular outcome. Some members felt that perhaps a small sub group could take a topic and in a sort of Select Committee way hear evidence and produce a brief report and recommendations. The Chairman said that the Group had operated in that way on one occasion which was successful but he commented that it needed more members to be actively involved than had been the case over the last Parliament and that it also created significantly more work for the Secretariat.

## **AGREED**

1. That Members of the Group not present be canvassed for their views
2. That the immediate priorities should be the Housing and Buses Bills set out in the Queen's Speech
3. That the Chairman write to Liz Truss, Defra Secretary of State ( copy to Oliver Letwin, Cabinet Office) calling for the Government to publish its response to Lord Cameron's Rural Proofing Review without further delay. The Group would then consider the Government's Response as a priority item.