



## APPG on Small Modular Reactors

### All Party Parliamentary Group on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) Inaugural Meeting Minutes of the Inaugural AGM

Date: December 14<sup>th</sup> 2021

Time: 12:30

Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

#### Attendees:

- Virginia Crosbie MP
- Lord Arbuthnot of Edrom
- Baroness Hayman of Ullock
- Chris Green MP
- Lord Howell of Guildford
- Simon Fell MP
- Clive Betts MP
- Mark Jenkinson MP
- Charlotte Nichols MP
- Viscount Trenchard
- Lord Campbell-Savours
- Paul Beresford MP
- Alun Cairns MP
- Lord Haslam
- Baroness Neville-Jones
- Trudy Harrison MP (represented by Josh Male)
- Liz Saville Roberts (represented by Aled Richards)
- John Stevenson MP (represented by Thomas Ashton)
- William Haslam (Office of Chris Green MP)
- Havard Hughes (Barndoar Strategy)
- David Spencer (Barndoar Strategy)

#### Apologies

- Peter Aldous MP
- Damian Collins MP
- Lord Haworth
- Mark Menzies MP
- Jill Mortimer MP
- Henry Smith MP
- Lord Whitty
- Lord Marlesford
- Mark Menzies MP
- David Mundell MP
- Dr Alan Whitehead MP
- Lord Haworth
- Jim Shannon
- Lord Deben
- Lord West



## **1. Introductions**

Virginia Crosbie (VC) introduced herself and Havard Hughes from Barndoar Strategy to the meeting.

## **2. Appointment of Secretariat**

Havard Hughes outlined his background and experience running APPG's and Barndoar Strategy's role in providing Secretariat services to the APPG.

**Agreed: Barndoar Strategy appointed as the Secretariat of the APPG for Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)**

## **3. Election of the Chair**

Alun Cairns MP (AC) Proposed Virginia Crosbie MP as Chair and she was elected unanimously

## **4. Election of the Co-Chair and Officers**

The following Co-Chair and Officers were proposed by Virginia Crosbie and Alun Cairns MP and elected unanimously as followed:

- Baroness Sue Hayman - Co-Chair
- Chris Green - Treasurer
- Jill Mortimer – Officer
- Liz Saville Roberts MP – Officer

## **5. Focus of the APPG's work.**

There was an open floor discussion between members on what he focus of the APPGs work should be.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would draft a paper based on these discussions setting out the core ideas and concerns expressed in greater detail.

**Action:** Barndoar Strategy as Secretariat would circulate a strategy document for 2022 based on this discussions at the meeting circulate it to APPG Officers and Members.

## **6. Small Modular Reactor's APPG Statement of purpose**

There was a discussion on the draft statement of purpose and some additional suggestions on the inclusion of the importance of UK jobs were made by Clive Betts MP.

It was agreed that the formal statement of purpose for the APPG on Small Modular Rectors would be:



*Support the roll-out of small modular reactors to sites across the UK, to champion the SMR model, to encourage a diversity of design and providers and to engage UK industry in the development of SMRs including supporting engineering jobs in the UK.*

## **7. Discussion on issues affecting the SMR sector**

There was a general discussion on the key issues affecting the SMR sector which included the following key points:

- **Recognition of SMEs as a green form of energy eligible for green funding**

Chris Green MP noted that nuclear is a green energy and ought to be in that category and said that it was disappointing that nuclear did not feature more prominently at COP26.

It was agreed that there needed to be far greater emphasis on nuclear (and SMEs especially) as a key green alternative.

Charlotte Nichols MP urged a note of caution that only SMRs should be green bond eligible. She said that green bond funding should apply across the sector and not to just to SMRs at the expense of other technologies.

- **Nuclear jobs**

Clive Betts MP stressed the importance of jobs in the UK from nuclear plants and their manufacture. Virginia Crosbie MP noted that she has just had a meeting with URENCO on the need for UK jobs

- **Making a positive case for nuclear**

Baroness Hayman noted the need to be a lot more positive in expounding the benefits of nuclear and said there was a need to explain the advantages of SMRs. She was impressed by the big nuclear stand at COP26 with young people wanting to promote nuclear as part of the green future. She said the *Young Generation Network (YGN)* needed to be involved in the work of the group.

Alun Cairns MP added that there was a need for the UK to back its own inventions in a parallel to defence.

Baroness Neville-Jones added that there was a surprising lack of awareness on SMRs. She said there was a need to remind people of the advantages of SMRs. She added there were very good points re the SMR model on financing and said the APPG should tackle some Ministers on these issues.

Paul Beresford MP agreed that it was key to highlight the positives rather than the myths

## **8. Future Work Programme**

Virginia Crosbie MP outlined some of the provisional ideas for the group's work programme in 2022 and beyond.



She also suggested a Westminster Hall debate or Adjournment Debate on a relevant issue at an early stage.

Havard Hughes suggested an early meeting with the Energy Minister, Greg Hands MP. Virginia Crosbie MP agreed and outlined how she had already spoken to him about the APPG and he had been very supportive about it being set up.

**Action: Barndoor Strategy would finalise a draft work programme with Virginia Crosbie to be discussed and agreed at the next APPG meeting.**

#### **9. Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the APPG should take place in February with a date to be agreed and a Tuesday lunchtime slot agreed as a suitable time.

The Secretariat will liaise with members and organise next meeting and prepare the agreed briefing papers.

**Action: Barndoor Strategy will schedule the next meeting of the APPG at a suitable date in February.**

**Action: Barndoor Strategy will circulate draft strategy and future work programme documents ahead of that meeting.**

#### **10. AOB**

There was no AOB. The Chair thanked all those present for attending

**The inaugural meeting of the APPG on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) ended at 13:00**

**Barndoor Strategy  
Secretariat of the APPG on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2021**