

## APPROVED

### ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON HOLIDAY PARKS AND CAMPSITES

Minutes of the inaugural meeting on Monday 13 July 2020 at 18.00, by Zoom

- Present:
- Peter Aldous MP
  - Francesca Nichols, Assistant to Peter Aldous
  - Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
  - Philip Dunne MP
  - Mark Garnier MP
  - James Heappey MP; Assistant attending on his behalf: Sheridan Robins
  - Rt Hon David Jones MP
  - Ben Lake MP
  - Anthony Mangnall MP
  - Jason McCartney MP
  - Lord Rupert Redesdale
  - Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts MP
  - Selaine Saxby MP; Assistant attending on her behalf: Megan Williams
  - Alex Sobel MP
  - Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne TD MP
  - Michael Tomlinson MP; Assistant attending on his behalf: Hayley Smith
- Dan Ellacot, National Association Caravan Owners (NACO)  
Kurt Janson, Tourism Alliance (TA)  
John Lally, National Caravan Council (NCC)  
Nick Lomas, Caravan and Motorhome Club (C&MC)  
Ros Pritchard OBE, British Holiday & Home Parks Association (BH&HPA)
- Apologies:
- Harriet Baldwin MP
  - Lord Carter of Coles
  - Sir Christopher Chope MP
  - Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP

#### 1. Welcome

Peter Aldous MP welcomed parliamentarians and stakeholders, noting holiday parks and campsites had been hit hard by the pandemic; despite government measures in support, a tough haul lay ahead. He felt an APPG could serve an important role to represent the interests of the sector in Parliament.

Alex Sobel MP, Shadow Tourism Minister endorsed the idea to establish the APPG. He thanked Ros Pritchard (BH&HPA) for her support, noting that while times were still difficult at least holiday parks and campsites were open. He noted their importance in providing holidays for customers from all sections of society.

Philip Dunne MP endorsed Mr Sobel's sentiments, noting the difficulties still being experienced in the park homes sector despite the changes introduced through the Mobile Homes Act 2013.

Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts MP noted that park businesses varied from large groups to small independent sole traders. She felt it essential that they all engaged with local communities to deliver a better understanding of their contribution.

The meeting **AGREED** the All-Party Parliamentary Group be established.

## 2. Election of Officers

The meeting unanimously **ELECTED** officers as follows:

Chair: Peter Aldous MP (Proposed by Mark Garnier MP, Seconded by Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts MP)

Vice-chairs: Lord Carter of Coles  
Lord Rupert Redesdale  
Rt Hon Liz Saville Roberts MP

## 3. Statement of purpose and administrative issues

The following were unanimously **AGREED**:

- **Name:** All-Party Parliamentary Group on Holiday Parks and Campsites
- **Statement of purpose:** To examine key issues, opportunities and challenges facing holiday parks and campsites across the UK
- **Secretariat and Public Enquiry Point:** Ros Pritchard, BH&HPA
- **Web address:** [www.appgholidayparkcampsite.org](http://www.appgholidayparkcampsite.org) to serve as a simple webpage
- **Non-Parliamentary Stakeholder invitations:**
  - British Holiday & Home Parks Association
  - Camping & Caravanning Club
  - Caravan & Motorhome Club
  - National Caravan Council
  - National Association of Caravan Owners
  - Tourism Alliance
  - UK Hospitality

## 4. Update and current position

Mr Aldous noted the sector had experienced a difficult and worrying few months, but there was now the opportunity to retrieve some business. There was gratitude for government support.

Mrs Pritchard explained the staggered reopening of holiday parks and campsites, and their facilities, at different times across the four countries of the UK. Important Easter and May holidays had been lost and, to achieve social distance, some parks were reopening a fraction (30%-75%) of their capacity. There were some positive indicators for the rest of the season, but half the year's trading had already been lost.

Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne MP was concerned at Camping in the Forest's decision to remain closed; it was damaging to local businesses in the New Forest and encouraged 'wild camping'.

It was **AGREED** to send a letter from the APPG to Camping in the Forest to urge reconsideration of their decision.

Nick Lomas (C&MC) was grateful for government and parliamentary support and observed that bookings were reasonable, but the season would be short and additional support, such as planning flexibility and an October bank holiday would be helpful.

## 5. Priorities

Mr Aldous noted the call for an October Bank Holiday and flexibility in the planning system.

Lord Redesdale reported on amendments laid to the Business and Planning Bill with the aim of expediting the procedure for holiday parks' and campsites' applications to extend

their open season. This was to be debated in the House of Lords that evening; however, there would not be a vote.

Mrs Pritchard noted that planning approaches differed across the devolved administrations. Scottish government was supportive of applications to extend the season and work was progressing with Welsh Government.

It was **AGREED** by the meeting that the APPG write to Planning and Tourism Ministers seeking action to encourage English local authorities' flexibility and positive response to applications to extend the open season of holiday parks and campsites.

**Secretary's Note:** *On 14 July 2020, MHCLG laid a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) that encourages Local Authorities to allow holiday parks and campsites to extend their season. The statement also encourages local planning authorities not to undertake enforcement action which would unnecessarily restrict the ability of caravan and holiday parks to extend their open season. The statement came into effect on 14 July 2020 and will remain in place until 31 December 2022 unless superseded by a further statement. [Guidance for Local Authorities and park owners](#) has also been published and [the Tourism Minister has shared on Twitter](#).*

The meeting heard that holiday parks and campsites had closed in advance of the legal requirement as health issues lay at the heart of local concerns. Nevertheless, Ms Saville Roberts noted it would be necessary to demonstrate the embeddedness of park business within local communities.

6. Any other business

In pursuit of transparency, it was unanimously **AGREED** that the draft minutes of the meeting would be published on [www.appgholidayparkcampsite.org](http://www.appgholidayparkcampsite.org) following the Chairman's review. The webpage would also list Parliamentary members of the APPG.

7. Date of next meeting

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the next meeting of the APPG be arranged after 5 September 2020 when it was planned to collate data from the remaining summer season.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 18.43.