

APPG on Limits to Growth

AGM

Wednesday 22 February 2017

Westminster Hall, Room W4

Minutes

MPs and Peers in Attendance

Caroline Lucas MP
Daniel Zeichner MP
George Kerevan MP
Jenny Jones
Gerald Jones MP
Ronald Oxburgh
Alan Whitehead MP

Others in Attendance

Tim Jackson
Camilla Toulmin
Catherine Cameron
Ray Cunningham
Rupert Read
Carmen Smith
Linda Gessner

1 Welcome

2 Election of Officers

All MPs present unanimously elected the following officers:

Caroline Lucas MP (Chair)
Daniel Zeichner MP
George Kerevan MP
Kevin Hollinrake MP (*in absentia*)

3 Report on Activities

- Highlights from the past year included the successful public launch of the APPG on the 19 April 2016, a well-attended second evening debate in the Houses of Commons in November 2016—both events attracted capacity audience, indicating strong public interest in the Limits to Growth conversation.

4 Discussion

- An objective of the APPG is to promote a Government level narrative on the necessities of postgrowth research; secretariat to collate information on similar parliamentary initiatives in other countries; develop case study examples of success and failures in other countries. These could culminate in a debate in Westminster.

- Efforts should be made to expand membership of the APPG. Several suggestions were made, secretariat to follow up with suggested candidates. Secretariat to consider approaching citizens writing to their MPs about the APPG, encouraging membership from that end.
- Future event to cover 'Beyond GDP' review; with invited speakers from e.g. Austria, Germany, EU Parliament, that have been involved in governmental 'Beyond Growth' initiatives.
- Future seminar could discuss evidence on limits, in collaboration with the Bank of England's One Bank Research team. The event would aim to draw in their research within a Parliamentary context. Scope for joint event with APPG on Banking and Banking Reform.
- Proposal to host a public event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Fred Hirsch's book on the *Social Limits to Growth*. This book was ground-breaking in asking the poignant question in 1976: is growth delivering? Members agreed that there is the capacity to host a large event for this anniversary and attract media interest.
- Forthcoming briefing on the 'Precautionary Principle'; a key principle in the current political climate, currently under threat in EU law; also topical in terms of currently in discussion at the Environmental Audit Committee. Plan for launch in Breakfast Briefing event, May or June.
- Scope for getting involved with treasury Select Committee to speak to mainstream view of treasury policies built on false promise of growth. Check for learnings from France's longterm economic forecasts in this regard.
- Publication of a forthcoming short policy brief by Prof Tim Jackson discussed, which will be detailing contradictions in the budget. Suggestion that to present it to Phillip Hammond directly at a Treasury Select Committee meeting.
- In the context of Brexit, long-term economic policy and quantitative easing will be on the agenda again. Green QE policies have been tedious and this presents an opportunity to write a policy brief that might be presented to the Treasury.