

All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dark Skies Extraordinary General Meeting

House of Lords, Residence Room 1, 11am, Tuesday 12th March

1. Welcome and introductions (co-chairs, all)

The two co-chairs welcomed those present (below) to the meeting.

In attendance:

Lord Rees of Ludlow
Sir Peter Bottomley MP
The Lord Carrington
James Wild MP
Lord Grantchester
Jerome Mayhew MP

Julia Dunningcliff (for Lord Agnew)

Dr Robert Massey (Royal Astronomical Society)

Apologies for absence

Caroline Lucas MP
Lord Hanworth
Philip Dunne MP
Lord Stunnell
Sir Graham Brady MP
Sir John Whittingdale MP
Viscount Stansgate

3. New APPG rules (co-chairs, Royal Astronomical Society secretariat)

Dr Massey explained the need for the additional EGM, in order for the APPG to be compliant with the new rules for these Groups set by Parliament. These set a minimum membership for APPGs, specify the number of designated Group officers, and place limits on the number of APPG officer roles which parliamentarians can hold.

See <https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/pcf/all-party-groups/appg-guide12-september-2023.pdf> for details.

4. APPG membership for 2024 reporting period

Those present agreed the membership of the Group to be as follows:

Sir Peter Bottomley MP (co-chair)

Lord Rees of Ludlow (co-chair)
Ben Lake MP
Bob Blackman MP
Caroline Lucas MP
James Wild MP
Jerome Mayhew MP
Lady Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville
Lord Carrington
Lord Grantchester
Lord Rennard
Lord Stunnell
David Mundell MP
Selaine Saxby MP
Sheryll Murray MP
Simon Fell MP
Sir Graham Brady MP
Stephen Crabb MP
Tim Loughton MP
Sir John Whittingdale MP
Philip Dunne MP
Tracey Crouch MP
Viscount Stansgate
Lord Hanworth
Daniel Zeichner MP

5. APPG officers for 2024 reporting period

The following parliamentarians were approved as Group officers:

James Wild MP (Conservative)
Daniel Zeichner MP (Labour)
Viscount Stansgate (Labour)
Lord Rennard (Liberal Democrat)

6. AGM, May 2024

Dr Massey noted the need for the APPG to hold its AGM in May. Lord Rees suggested that this meeting should be followed by speakers and invite a larger attendance (for example, from the astronomical and environmental community).

Dr Massey agreed to work with Ms Valdivia Lefort to arrange this.

7. Proposed APPG Event, June 2024

This was covered in the previous agenda item.

8. Future plans

Other future plans are contingent on the date of the general election, after which all APPGs are automatically dissolved and need to be reconstituted in the new parliament.

9. Any Other Business

There were no further items of business. The co-chairs closed the meeting at 11.20 am.