

Cross-Party Group on Rural Policy

16 December 2025 1.30-2.00 pm (online)

AGM

Minutes (Approved)

Present

MSPs

Edward Mountain MSP (Chair)

Tim Eagle MSP

Colin Beattie MSP

Emma Harper MSP

Non-MSP pre-registered attendees

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Organisation (if relevant)</u>
Atterton	Jane	SRUC
Calder	James	DCC Energy UK
Clark	Patricia	
Danson	Mike	Strathnairn Development Company
Doyle	Carey	SRUC
Hume	Jim	Change Mental Health
Hutchison	Grace	North Ayrshire Council
McLaren	Carol	RSABI
McLennan	Holly	Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)
Nasseri	David	Scotland Rural College
Packard	Ann	
Philip	Lorna	University of Aberdeen

Pietka-Nykaza	Emilia	University of the West of Scotland
Skerratt	Sarah	Royal Society of Edinburgh

Apologies

David Glass

Theona Morrison

Agenda Item 1

Welcome, introduction and apologies

Edward Mountain MSP (Group co-convenor) welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to re-elect the secretariat and co-convenors, and to review the work the Group has carried out over the preceding year.

Agenda Item 2

AGM

- a) It was proposed by Jim Hume that SRUC would be re-elected as secretariat without challenge, this was seconded by Ann Packard.
- b) Edward Mountain MSP and Emma Harper MSP were re-elected as co-convenors without challenge, with Jim Hume proposing and Ann Packard seconding the motion.
- c) Information on the work carried out over the preceding year is available on SRUC Rural Policy Centre's (secretariat)'s website: <https://www.sruc.ac.uk/research/research-impact/rural-policy-centre/rural-policy-events/>. There was a discussion about how the previous meetings had gone and it was agreed that they should continue in the same format going forward.

Agenda Item 3

AOB

The minutes from the June CPG which were not approved at the October CPG meeting were approved by Jim Hume and Edward Mountain MSP.

Agenda Item 4

Next meeting

Edward Mountain MSP proposed a change to next meeting date to 28th January. (Note: this has since been changed to 9 March). This was agreed by all.

The topic for the meeting is: What are the biggest threats to rural Scotland for the parliament to consider?

Edward Mountain MSP suggested that a short briefing be written on the basis of discussion at the January meeting for a future rural-focused Cross Party Group to consider.