**All Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics**

**Minutes
APPG on Microplastics Inaugural Meeting
14th September 2020**

**In attendance**

Alberto Costa MP (Chair)
Mark Pawsey MP
Liz Twist MP
Ruth Jones MP
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Lord Brennan
Office of Scott Mann MP
Harriet Main (Parliamentary Assistant , Office of Alberto Costa MP)
Melissa Green (General Secretary, NFWI, Secretariat)
Alexandra Barker (Interim Research and Campaigns Manager, NFWI, Secretariat)
Fiona Thomas (Research and Campaigns Officer, NFWI, Secretariat)

**Apologies for absence**Derek Thomas MP
Sir Oliver Heald MP
Steve Double MP
Cherilyn Mackrory MP
Caroline Lucas MPLayla Moran MP
Rachael Maskell MP
Kerry McCarthy MP
Alistair Carmichael MP
Lord Grantchester
Carol Monaghan MP
Douglas Chapman MP

1. **Introductions- Alberto Costa MP**

Alberto Costa MP welcomed Members to the meeting, and introduced the NFWI as the Secretariat. Alberto Costa MP explained that the NFWI’s ‘End Plastic Soup’ campaign had made him aware of the issue of microfibres and microplastics from clothing. Alberto Costa MP outlined the importance of establishing the APPG, and thanked the NFWI for agreeing to act as the APPG’s Secretariat.

1. **Discussion of the APPG aims**

Alberto Costa MP introduced the draft aims of the APPG- to promote awareness of microfibre plastic and their harmful effects on the environment to consumers; and to ensure collaboration across industry, academia and environmental organisations on the issue of microfibres and microplastics.

1. **Election of Officers**

Alberto Costa MP proposed that all Members in attendance should be elected into APPG positions.

This was agreed by the group.

It was proposed that Alberto Costa MP would be appointed as APPG Chair.

This was approved unanimously.

It was proposed that Liz Twist MP would be appointed as the APPG’s Vice Chair.

This was approved unanimously.

It was proposed that Ruth Jones MP would be appointed as the APPG’s Vice Chair.

This was approved unanimously.

It was proposed that Lord Brennan would be appointed as the APPG’s Vice Chair.

This was approved unanimously.

It was proposed that Mark Pawsey MP would be appointed as the APPG’s Treasurer.

This was approved unanimously.

It was proposed that Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP would be appointed as the APPG’s Secretary.

This was approved unanimously.

1. **Discussion of next meeting**

The outline of the next meeting was discussed. Harriet Main outlined that the office of Alberto Costa MP had been in touch with Professor Richard Thompson, University of Plymouth, and he had expressed interest in joining the APPG.

Lord Brennan outlined his interest in microplastics, stating that he considered it an extremely important topic. Lord Brennan stated that he would be interested in exploring the systems of manufacturing or any available treatments of clothing that could help the fight against COVID-19.

Liz Twist MP stated her interest in the examination of fibres shed from clothes and the broader issue of microplastics contained in cosmetic products.

Alberto Costa MP suggested that as microplastics is a broader issue, it would be beneficial if expert external stakeholders could be invited to APPG meetings to guide the APPG.

Mark Pawsey MP agreed and suggested that the APPG could explore the properties of synthetic fibres and the potential effects of moving to alternative materials.

Alberto Costa MP suggested that an area to explore would be the different types of microfibres, and which industries are responsible for microplastics.

Anne- Marie Trevelyan MP suggested that Rebecca Pow MP- the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs- would be a helpful contact to help the APPG build up a picture of current parliamentary legislation on microfibres and microplastics.
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP suggested that it would be beneficial to develop a picture of microplastics and microfibre legislation across the world.

Liz Twist MP agreed for the need to approach external stakeholders from the microplastics industry to explore the issue further and establish a foundation to build on.

Ruth Jones MP also agreed for the need to approach external stakeholders, and emphasised the need to establish a clear picture of all sources of microplastics, including microbeads.

Secretariat and Harriet Main agreed to identify appropriate stakeholders ahead of the APPG’s next meeting.

Alberto Costa MP thanked all Members for attending the APPG.

**Meeting closed.**