**APPG on Microplastics
AGM Minutes
13.12.2021**

**Attendees**

Alberto Costa MP
Harriet Main, Parliamentary Assistant to Alberto Costa MP
Fiona Thomas, Research and Campaigns Officer, NFWI, APPG Secretariat
Valerie Vaz MP
John Howell MP
Virginia Crosbie MP
Alicia Kearns MP

**Minutes**

Alberto Costa MP welcomed all attendees to the meeting and thanked the Women’s Institutes for their work as Secretariat to the APPG on Microplastics since September 2020.

**Election of Officers**

An election was held to elect the APPG positions.

Alberto Costa MP was elected as Chair of the APPG on Microplastics.

Valerie Vaz MP was elected as a Vice Chair of the APPG on Microplastics.

John Howell MP was elected as a Vice Chair of the APPG on Microplastics.

Virginia Crosbie MP was elected Secretary of the APPG on Microplastics.

Alicia Kearns was elected as Treasurer of the APPG on Microplastics.

Selaine Saxby MP, Liz Twist MP, Ruth Jones MP and John McNally MP were elected Vice Chairs of the APPG on Microplastics in absentia.

**Discussion of 2022’s agenda**

Officers discussed potential topics for the APPG on Microplastics to investigate during the next APPG reporting year. Harriet Main, Parliamentary Assistant to Alberto Costa MP, outlined that the APPG on Microplastics was due to continue its focus on getting microplastic fibre capture filters into washing machines. Harriet outlined that it was the intention of the APPG on Microplastics to use parliamentary mechanisms to raise awareness of the need for microplastic fibre capture filters in washing machines, and outlined the APPG on Microplastic’s plans to table for a Westminster Hall debate in early 2022.

Harriet also outlined that the office of Alberto Costa MP and the APPG Secretariat had been approached by other stakeholders in the plastics industry on what the future focus of the APPG on Microplastics would be in future. Harriet mentioned that plastic nurdles was a topical issue currently receiving a lot of media coverage.

Valerie Vaz MP suggested that the APPG on Microplastics could assess the release of microplastics from wet wipes, and from period products.

Alicia Kearns MP outlined that the Government are currently consulting on banning wet wipes as they are environmentally harmful.

Alberto Costa MP agreed that as all plastics enter into the sea, the APPG on Microplastics could work on a wide variety of issues related to microplastic pollution.

Virginia Crosbie MP outlined her constituency’s links to the WI, and mentioned her experience with microplastics through beach cleans in her constituency. Virginia Crosbie MP asked if the APPG on Microplastics had approached MPs with washing machine manufacturers in their constituency, and whether that would be a fruitful way of driving up interest in microplastic fibre release from clothing.

Harriet Main outlined that this has not yet been done, but this is something that the APPG on Microplastics could do in 2022.

Valerie Vaz MP asked if the APPG on Microplastics was putting together a joint consultation response to the Government’s consultation on banning wet wipes.

Alberto Costa MP thanked Valerie Vaz MP for her suggestion and stated that this could be something that the APPG on Microplastics could do.

Alicia Kearns MP outlined that in her constituency of Rutland and Melton, Anglian Water may like to host a visit of the APPG on Microplastics for members to find out more about the problem of microplastics, and what Anglian Water are doing to combat this problem. Alicia Kearns MP outlined that Rutland Water was also in her constituency, which by surface area is the largest reservoir in England.

Alberto Costa MP thanked all attendees for coming to the meeting. Alberto reflected that there is a lot of goodwill amongst parliamentary colleagues and the Government for tackling plastic pollution, and emphasised that microplastic fibre capture filters on washing machines were a good solution to the problem of microplastic fibre release from laundry. Alberto mentioned the work of France in this area.

Alberto Costa MP thanked all attendees and closed the meeting.