**THE BETTER GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE**

**Executive Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Institute for Government on 3rd June 2014**

**Present:** Richard Mottram (Chair)

Andrew Blick

Robin Butler

Geoffrey Chipperfield

Christopher Foster

Tom Legg

Peter Owen

Phillip Ward

Aaron Ritchie (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Penny Boys

Paul Britton

Roger Dawe

Leigh Lewis

Peter Makeham

Adam Sharples

Martin Stanley

**Minutes of the meeting on 9th May 2014**

The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising.

**Ditchley**

* **Attendance**

There had been a flurry of late apologies from MPs attending to constituency matters – possibly influenced by poor results in the recent local and European elections. Tessa Jowell and Margaret Hodge had dropped out and John Healey would not be attending. Richard Bacon could manage only the Thursday, and that was not certain. Paul Britton had a conflicting appointment. The list of speakers would need to be adjusted to take account of these changes.

* **Programme**

Confirmation of their willingness to act as chairs or speakers had been received from Peter Riddell (Session 2), Alan Downey (Session 3), Bernard Jenkin and Richard Gordon (Session 4), Geoff Mulgan (Session 5), David Normington and Nick Herbert (Session 6) and Anthony King (Session 7).

Ursula Brennan would not be available for Session 3 and Margaret Hodge for Session 7. It was agreed that Adam Sharples and Chris Bryant should be asked to fill their respective slots. Peter Owen would confirm that Alan Beith and Oliver Robbins would be available.

* **Minute taking**

The provisional list circulated as EC0603n2 was agreed. Minute takers would provide Richard Mottram with a list of the three or four most important points from each of their sessions for him to use in constructing his summary in Session 8.

It was agreed that the information pack for participants comprising travel and dietary information, a list of those expected to attend and the programme should be circulated by email by the end of the week based on information available at that time.

**Monitoring Parliamentary Committees**

The provisional list circulated as EC0603n5 was agreed. It was noted that the work of the Treasury Committee was of extremely high quality.

**Website “latest posts”**

Peter Owen said that the “latest posts”, sometimes referred to as blogs, were one or two page documents accessed through the home page of the website. They could be given further publicity through Twitter and by other means. A series of latest posts drawn from Paul Britton’s note circulated with EC0603n3 would keep the BGI’s activity in public view while we were digesting the outcome of Ditchley and reviewing our work programme for the pre-election period.

It was agreed that Paul Britton should be asked to convert his note into three pieces with linked titles that could be published at weekly intervals. Phillip Ward would consider with Martin Stanley and Richard Mottram opportunities for gaining additional publicity for the pieces through Civil Service World, Manchester University and LSE.

**Other business**

It was agreed that John Elvidge’s interesting and wide-ranging paper on coalition should be published after Ditchley, taking account of any relevant points that had been raised there, as a full-scale BGI report. The content was extremely dense and it would be helpful at that stage to preface it with an executive summary highlighting key points.

Meeting slots agreed with the IfG would in future be listed in the diary in the members’ section of the website. Only half of them would be likely to be taken up, but they would provide an indication of which dates might if possible be kept clear.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the Institute for Government at 10.15 am on Tuesday 1st July.

PFO

4th June 2014