

# Minutes of AGM 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017

After introductions, the group elected its officers. The Rt Hon John Whittingdale MP was duly elected as Chair; Pete Wishart MP and Lord Clement-Jones were elected as Vice-Chairs; Baroness Benjamin was elected as Secretary of the Group and Lord Dubs was elected as the group's Treasurer.

Taking the Chair, John Whittingdale set out the future aims of the group with priorities including:

**1. Fair contracts:** the APWG will continue to encourage authors' organisations to work with industry to establish high-level principles and best practice standards to apply to contracts between authors and those exploiting their works. In addition to the progress made in this area, Brexit notwithstanding, we will lobby the Government to adopt the measures in the pending EU legislation on fairer contracts for creators.

**2. Authors earnings:** Despite the ongoing success and growth of the creative industries sector in the UK, there has been an ongoing decline in authors' earnings, notably since the advent of widespread digital access. The APWG will lead an inquiry into authors' earnings to further our understanding of how authors' earnings have changed and what can be done to improve the situation of authors.

**3. Brexit and copyright reform:** As we leave the EU we will need to transfer a significant amount of EU legislation on copyright into British legislation. There is also the question of the extent to which the UK will adopt the new legislation resulting from the current EU copyright reform programme. Throughout these processes and debates we must argue for a balanced approach preserving a writer's right to be fairly remunerated for the use of their works.

Discussing the impact of Brexit on the creative industries, Vice Chair Pete Wishart suggested that the APWG coordinate with other APPGs related to the creative industries in order to go to Brussels to get a better understanding of the legislative issues facing the creative industries around Brexit. Additionally, Lord Balfe suggested that the collaborative group of APPGs could have a round table with Vicky Ford MP on the subject of Brexit.