

**DEVON & SEVERN
INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Authority Meeting
held on 18 June 2015 at Brixham Laboratory, Brixham**

Present: John Butterwith (Chair)
Cllrs. Jim Knight (Devon), Cllr Stuart Hughes (Devon),
Jonathan Hawkins (Devon), Robert Griffin (South Gloucestershire),
Terry Napper (Somerset), Christine Channon (Devon) agreed deputy
for Chris Clarence (Devon),
Natasha Barker-Bradshaw, Michael Cominetti, David Morgan,
John May, David Rowe, Mike Williams, Simon Pollentine,
Dave Cuthbert, Stephen Gledhill, David Murphy,
Nick Wright (MMO), Simon Toms (EA), Andrew Knights (NE)

Also Present: Tim Robbins, Chief Officer
Sarah Clark (D&S IFCA) Rachel Irish (MMO)
Mat Mander (D&S IFCA) Simon Excell
Hazel Mitchell (D&S IFCA) Phil Higgingbottom
Karlien Bond (DCC Finance)
Angela Stirland (DCC Finance)

Apologies: Cllrs: Stan Waddington (Gloucestershire), Daniella Radice (Bristol)
Eileen Wragg (Devon), Chris Clarence (Devon) Nicole Amil (Torbay)
Elaine Hayes, Richard White, James Marsden, Aidan Winder, Kathy
Derrick, Kevin Mowat, Brian Glasson

The Chair welcomed Cllr Chris Channon, deputising for Cllr Chris Clarence, Cllr Robert Griffin who has replaced Cllr Heather Goddard, representing South Gloucestershire, Rachel Irish, MMO who will replace Nick Wright and Phil Higginbottom who will be the officer representing Somerset. He also announced that due to ill health unfortunately Peter Macconnell a newly appointed MMO Appointee would no longer be able to take up the position.

The Chair also provided a reminder that the quarterly meeting date in September at Exeter Race course was the 24th and not the original 17th.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2015

Page 3, paragraph 1, line 4, the word 'reduce' should be changed to 'increase'.

That the minutes be approved

Proposed: Cllr Jim Knight

Seconded: Dave Morgan

Resolved

4. **Matters Arising**

9. The request to put the Bass paper on the website had been actioned.
11. A question/answer session offered following the reading of the Annual Plan produced no queries.
- 12e. A standard terms of reference for task and finish groups had been put on the website.
- With reference to paragraph 5a of the minutes dated 20 March 2015 on the DEFRA 4 year report Simon Excell informed the Authority that Gloucestershire County Council considered the report to be inadequate and inaccurate. They were taking up their issues with DEFRA and George Eustace MP who has agreed to look into the Council's position being part of the D&S IFCA. Any feedback would be provided to the Chief Officer.

5. **Election of Chair**

The Chief Officer took over as Chair of the meeting for items 5 and 6.

Elaine Hayes was happy to continue the appointment of Chair for a further 12 months. No other applications to stand were received by the Chief Officer.

Proposed: Cllr Jim Knight

Seconded: Stephen Gledhill

All in favour, none against

6. **Election of Vice Chair**

The introduction to operate a Cabinet style approach to manage the D&S IFCA with a Chair, 2 x Vice Chair and Chair of the Sub Committee to provide sufficient cover was proposed. As a review of the Authority Standing Orders was taking place this proposal could be written in and trialled for 12 months. A report to its effect would be submitted in time for the AGM meeting in June 2016 for the Authority to decide if this approach should be made permanent.

John Butterwith expressed his wish to stand again as Vice Chair and Mike Williams put his name forward to take up the second position of Vice Chair during the trial period.

The recommendation to trial a Cabinet Style approach to manage the D&S IFCA and for the appointment of John Butterwith and Mike Williams as the 2 Vice Chairs was made:

Proposed: Natasha Barker Bradshaw

Seconded: John May

All in favour, none against.

7. **Matters brought forward by the Chair**

There were no matters brought forward by the Chair

8. **Statement of Accounts**

12. **Quarterly Report**

- a. Concern over the cost of recruiting/training new Enforcement Officers was made. The Chief Officer assured the Authority that measures to recoup training costs through new employee contracts if in the event the individual resigned has been put in place. The amount would depend on the amount of time the officer had been employed.
- b. It was suggested that encouragement to give offenders the ability to spread the payment of Fixed Administrative Penalties (FAPs) should be sought with Government to try and remove the incentive to take their case to court. This would result in reducing the cost of legal fees/costs when cases do go to court.
- c. The Pye chart showing the hours officers' work in the Severn area should be included back into the report.
- d. To aid with communicating to the public important information, ie Byelaw review/changes it was suggested that a quantity of any leaflets produced for distribution should be sent out to members who would then distribute to relevant outlets in their area.
- e. A recommendation that a short Biography of all members be put on the website.
- f. The possibility to reduce administrative costs by using IT facilities to apply for permits online was being looked into.
- g. Page 2, paragraph 2, line13 - Correction to wording, should read 'the IFCA are also clear that we are not here to subsidise'.

13. **Options for joint working between IFCA's and the MMO**

DEFRA has been asked for £27million in cuts in year plus a further 25-30% cut in their funding under the comprehensive spending review. Despite meetings to discuss specific areas of savings between the MMO/IFCA to share assets, accommodation and undertake cross warranting DEFRA has had to accept that this will still not deliver the amount of savings required.

A review will continue to enhance joint working by ensuring officers are trained to the same standard, planning will be stepped up and the sharing of assets in terms of vessels is continued to jointly achieve the aims and objectives.

14. **Byelaw Update**

Concerns have been submitted concerning reporting of financial difficulties by certain crab fishermen in the Lyme Bay/Plymouth areas due to the increase in landing size of female crab from 140mm to 150mm, claiming they were not aware of the process. A meeting of the Sub Committee was held and a decision to contact all Potting permit holders to try and receive more information on the effects this increase has had. A strategy to board boats to monitor what is being landed and how much is being put back into the sea will be undertaken.

Information based on evidence gathered up until 1 October 2015 will then be discussed at a Permit and Byelaw Sub Committee meeting.

The pre-consultation on the netting management review is close to being launched. A communication strategy is being discussed to ensure a wide range of interested groups and individuals are given an opportunity to engage in the process.

15. **Bass Update**

Meeting being held in Europe to discuss what European measures will be introduced around the conservation of bass stocks to reduce the recommended landing catch of bass stocks by 80% across the whole sector of bass fishing. The current proposals being discussed are:

- 1.5 ton per month for towed gear fishery
- 1 ton per month for netting (fixed)
- 3 bass per day for a recreational sea angler
- Increase in minimum catch size from 36cm to 42cm

Nick Wright from the Marine Management Organisation provided a latest change to the proposal figures mentioned of:

- 1.8 ton per month for towed gear fishery
- 1.3 ton per month for rod/line fishery

Once the European Union has set its targets, DEFRA will then set measurements for the UK and the IFCA will then look how to manage these targets locally, paying particular attention to the Bass Nursery Areas.

16. **Report on the F & GP Committee meeting and minutes of the previous meeting of 20 March 2015**

Points noted:

- Out of the £300,000 DEFRA money awarded to the IFCA's the D&S IFCA had secured £55,000 of this total. Thanks were given to the Chief Officer for achieving this amount.
- The General Reserve policy document was agreed subject to 2 added words and would be put to the main Authority in September for approval.
- Mary Davis at Devon County Council was reappointed as the Treasurer for the next 12 months.
- 35 applications had been received for the 2 Enforcement Officers posts advertised and if the standard of candidate was not reached it was agreed to employ short term contract staff.
- The rolling contract for Environment Officer Lauren Parkhouse runs out at the end of October 2015 and it was agreed to offer her a full contract when this ends.
- A request for a Communications Officer post for 2 years to be financed through savings in the budget or through the General Reserve was approved.

17. **Any Other Business**

With the process of reappointing MMO Appointees on the 1 April 2015 it was required to confirm the length of term they would be appointed. The term decided for the following people was made:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| - Dave Cuthbert | - 3 years |
| - David Morgan | - 3 years |
| - Stephen Gledhill | - 4 years |
| - Dave Murphy | - 4 years |

- Simon Pollentine - 5 years
- Natasha Barker Bradshaw - 4 years

The following people are exempt from the process because they are on fixed contract.

- Elaine Hayes
- John Butterwith
- John May
- David Rowe,
- Mike Williams
- Richard White

18. **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 24 September 2015 – Exeter Racecourse, Exeter