

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
On 21st July 2016**

PRESENT

SUSSEX IFCA:

Members

Councillor Nigel Peters (Chairman)
Stewart Harper (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove City Council)
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee).
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)
Emma Kelman (Natural England)

Staff

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)
Estelle Barton (Finance Manager)
Erin Pettifer (Conservation and Research Manager)
Kathryn Nelson (Senior Fisheries & Conservation Research Officer)
Rachel Griffin (Committee & Office Manager)
Barry Goodhew (Fisheries & Conservation Officer) joined the meeting for 1 item

Invitees

Isabel Lincoln (student placement)

Cllr. Nigel Peters welcomed all members to the meeting. Following David Guy's resignation as member of Sussex IFCA, the Chairman expressed the Committee's thanks to him and wished him well in the future.

407. **CHIEF OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION**

Tim Dapling gave an overview of the Agenda to members.

408. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)
Michael Newton Smith (MMO Appointee)

409. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

409.1 The Chairman requested any prejudicial declaration of interests, no interests were declared.

410. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

410.1 Paul Leonard highlighted a text error in 397.2 which required the deletion of 'for' on line 2.

410.2 Jim Partridge expressed dissatisfaction at the timing of receipt of the Committee Meeting minutes, which were distributed with the papers for the next quarter's Committee Meeting. The Chairman asked members if they would be happy to receive the minutes much earlier by email. All members agreed to this.

Action: Minutes to each Quarterly meeting, once approved by the Chairman, to be emailed out to all members earlier and separate from the papers for the next meeting.

410.3 It was confirmed that minutes were made available on the website once approved. Sean Ashworth informed the members of a 'members' zone' which was to be included on the new website, currently under construction.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

411. **DECISION ITEMS**

411.1 **MARINE REVIEW**

411.2 Tim Dapling explained that the ongoing Defra marine review aimed to establish the most effective and efficient delivery model for the marine and fisheries functions. As 'Defra family', the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Natural England

(NE) and Environment Agency (EA) were all included in the review process. Importantly, the IFCAs had also been encompassed within the review's scope. This was viewed as a positive development and the AIFCA Chief Executive was part of the review team.

411.3 Tim Dapling said that this was the time for members to supply input which he could then pass on, their particular worries for the future and their thoughts concerning possible future opportunities.

Recommendations:

- i. That members agree that officers continue to maintain communications with the review process either directly or through the Association.**
- ii. That where possible the Association and Authority seeks through the process to strengthen the role of the IFCAs and appropriate resourcing for both local and national functions.**
- iii. That should the Authority as an outcome be expected to take on further regulatory functions, the costs/resource implications are adequately understood and communicated to Defra.**

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations.

412 Tranche 1 Marine Conservation Zones Management

412.1 Tim Dapling updated members on the existing consultation on the byelaw and regulatory notices. Following delays, Defra had made it clear in early June that they could not agree to individual regulatory notices sitting beneath an overarching MPA Byelaw, despite there already being a similar, approved byelaw which had been introduced by Eastern IFCA.

412.2 Defra recognised the work inputted by Sussex IFCA and the timelines involved, Tim Dapling said, and, requested that the MPA Byelaw formulated by the Authority, and associated Regulatory Notices for Kingmere and Beachy Head West MCZs, be re-drafted into a single MPA Byelaw. The main difference with the new byelaw would be that it would have sections which would be updated and amended as required, with regards to each new management area included, and no longer have separate Regulatory Notices.

412.3 There was every prospect that the byelaw would be in place by late summer, Tim Dapling reported.

- 412.4 General discussions took place, with dissatisfaction voiced by some members with the Authority's consultation processes.
- 412.5 Sean Ashworth distributed a document showing all 8 responses received to Beachy Head West MCZ, the replies which he had drafted and a detailed features map. He went through the responses and his replies for the benefit of members.
- 412.6 In his response to Bill Brock, Sean Ashworth explained the data used and the new map of the area, which had shown that the Authority had been correct in its estimated description of rock features in the area. Erin Lawes explained that The Coastal Channel Observatory, had created the map this year with Natural England's help.
- 412.7 Keith Schofield commented that the response received from Bill Brock, was representative of all commercial fishermen. Sean Ashworth made the point that Mr Brock was not representative of all fishermen, but his letter had been the only one received from commercial fishermen.
- 412.8 Jim Partridge agreed with Keith Schofield that Bill Brock was representative of all commercial fishermen. Cllr. Nigel Peters explained that it was important for Bill Brock to supply proof of this fact. Tim Dapling agreed with the Chairman and said that all those represented must have signed the document supplied for it to be recorded that Mr Brock represented others.
- 412.9 The consultation process was fully discussed by members. Tim Dapling suggested voting on each of the recommendations separately and went through each recommendation thoroughly and how it had been reached. Jim Partridge was keen to avoid 'legislative creep'.

Recommendations, taken one by one:

- i. That the Authority approves amendment of the original MPA Byelaw to include Kingmere Regulatory Notice, currently being drafted by Defra.**

Amendments to wording proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Ollie Sykes.

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept recommendation i

- ii. That members agree the proposed Beachy Head West MCZ management edits following formal consultation.**

Vote for Recommendation ii: For 7 Against 4 Abstentions 3

MAJORITY RESOLVED to accept recommendation ii

iii. That members approve the transfer of Beachy Head West MCZ management measures as an amendment to the MPA Byelaw by Defra.

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept recommendation iii

Tim Dapling suggested that both VMS and AIS systems be captured in a definition in the management measures to allow for maximum flexibility within fishermen's current systems. All members agreed that this was a good idea.

iv. That the Authority makes the Pagham Harbour Byelaw.

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept recommendation iv.

- 412.10 Stewart Harper proposed that in future a Technical Subcommittee meeting always be held prior to Quarterly Committee meetings, for discussion, following receipt of consultation responses.

**Proposed by Stewart Harper
Seconded by Cllr. Nigel Peters**

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the proposal.

413 Shellfish Permit Byelaw – Implementation Process

- 413.1 Tim Dapling went through the history of the Byelaw and described the ongoing processes involved in implementing the Shellfish Permit scheme which was planned to commence on October 1st.
- 413.2 Jim Partridge queried fee rates and future increases, which he considered high. Paul Johnson expressed his preference for 'less inflammatory wording' than that which had been used in the notification issued on 9th May. Tim Dapling emphasised the importance of clarity in the Authority's publicity documents.
- 413.3 Tim Dapling confirmed to members that no payrises had resulted from Shellfish Permit income, as was suggested by Jim Partridge.
- 413.4 Tim Dapling took the opportunity to thank all personnel, who had been involved with rolling out the scheme, for their hard work. A small amount of overtime only had been paid for extra work involved, therefore saving the Authority the extra funds associated with employing extra administration support.
- 413.5 Paul Leonard commented on a poster which had been created advertising local lobster. Stewart Harper requested that 'Lobster' be changed to 'Shellfish', which was agreed. Tim Dapling said that he had wanted to raise the profile of the Authority to the public with this poster, distributed

via retailers. Members discussed the different shellfish catching entitlements for commercial and recreational fishermen.

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations.

414 **Impact on Authority of Referendum**

414.1 This item was dealt with briefly, due to time restrictions. There was a general discussion and Cllr Janet Mockridge requested more statistics of the District's fishermen. Tim Dapling recommended looking at Seafish's website <http://www.seafish.org/> Stewart Harper recommended members read more online at NFFO's website <http://nffo.org.uk/news> about the EU referendum's impact on the fishing industry. Tim Dapling said that the link would be emailed to everyone. Sean Ashworth added that A.B.P. Mer Consultants <http://www.abpmer.co.uk/who-we-are/> had written a couple of papers which were worth reading.

415 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

415.1 **Research Plan 2015 to 2016**

415.2 Tim Dapling introduced Kathryn Nelson's report, she then gave a presentation which described the progress made on the projects set out in the Annual Research Plan. Each project was listed with a brief description, the purpose and how it had supported management decisions, an estimate of cost and how much time had been spent, as well as the progress that had been made on the project during the financial year from April 2015 to March 2016.

415.3 Kathryn Nelson reported that the projects were conducted in collaboration with, in total, over twenty organisations. The breadth and scope of the work would not have been possible without the support of partner organisations. Volunteers and work experience students had also played an important part in supporting the work of the IFCA. Last year, nine volunteers had contributed over 100 days.

416 **Information Items 10 to 19**

416.1 The Chairman asked members to take these as read.

416.2 Paul Leonard queried the advertising costs in the Financial Report. Estelle Barton and Tim Dapling said that the advertising fees had been used to fulfil statutory requirements.

416.3 Graham Furness said that he welcomed the continuation of Fishing Station reports within the Compliance Report.

417 **A.O.B.**

- 417.1 Tim Dapling distributed copies of letters from Bill Brock, which he had requested be made available to committee members. Most had been circulated previously. Keith Schofield and Jim Partridge voiced their dissatisfaction, on behalf of the fishing community, they believed, with the way they viewed that members from the fishing industry were not listened to or able to influence policies at IFCA meetings.
- 417.2 Steve Hanks disagreed, he believed that IFCA listened and changed policies following democratic processes.
- 417.3 Tim Dapling said that every effort had been made to collaborate with commercial fishermen, for example when discussing the Shellfish Permit Byelaw, but that an adversarial stance from them made collaborating difficult. However, the Authority would continue its considerable efforts to include and communicate with the fishing industry in all possible ways, Tim Dapling said.
- 417.4 Cllr. Nigel Peters summed up by saying that he would like members to go away from the meeting agreeing that decisions had been reached democratically and acknowledging that all members should work together towards a way forward.

418. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 418.1 Thursday 20th October 2016 – venue 12a Riverside.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Peters', written in a cursive style.

Nigel Peters
Chairman Sussex IFCA