

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
On 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**PRESENT**

SUSSEX IFCA:

***Members***

Tony Delahunty (MMO Appointee) Chairman  
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove County Council) Vice Chairman  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)  
Audrey Jones (Natural England)  
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Nigel Peters (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)  
Stewart Harper (MMO Appointee)  
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee)  
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)

***Staff***

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Ian Jones (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Catherine Holcombe (Finance Manager)  
Andy McMahon (Senior Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Erin Pettifer (MPA Officer)  
Kathryn Nelson (Fisheries and Conservation Research Officer)  
Rachel Griffin (Committee Manager & Personal Assistant)

***Invitees***

Robert Matthews (Defra)  
Paul Little (Defra)

Tony Delahunty welcomed all members and also introduced Rob Matthews and Paul Little from Defra, who would be giving a presentation on Defra's four year Report about IFCAs.

Tim Dapling commenced the meeting by introducing the annual election of Chair and Vice Chair. Steve Hanks had nominated Tony Delahunty as Chair, as had several other members. No other nominations were received, and the vote

confirmed unanimously that Tony Delahunty would be the Chairman for another year.

Cllr. Ollie Sykes was stepping down as Vice Chairman and the Chairman thanked him for his support over the last year. Tony Delahunty nominated Cllr. Nigel Peters for Vice Chairman and Jim Partridge seconded the nomination. A vote was taken and the members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Peters should be the new Vice Chairman.

Tony Delahunty informed members that Angus Radford was now retiring after 26 years. The Chairman promised to pass on the Committee's thanks and best wishes to him for his close association with and support of the Authority over many years.

247. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Joe Watt (MMO Appointee)  
David Guy (MMO Appointee)  
Councillor John Hodges (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)  
Charlie Hubbard (Marine Operations Manager)

248. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

248.1 Tony Delahunty declared his fishing interests and that he was Chairman of the NFFO South East Region.

249. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

249.1 Page 9 241.2 copy should read 'there would be a £11k deficit on the balance'. Matters arising would be discussed during the meeting.

249.2 Approval proposed by Stewart Harper and seconded by Steve Hanks.

249.3 **MATTERS ARISING**

Tim Dapling confirmed that 'Watchful' was now in full ownership of the Authority, following the conclusion of financial provisions with WSCC.

250. **DECISION ITEMS**

250.1 **Sussex IFCA Annual Plan 2014 to 2015**

250.2 Tim Dapling introduced the final published Annual Plan for 2014 to 2015; this was the formally adopted, published plan of the next year of the Authority's work, he said. It had been sent to Defra in accordance with statutory requirements. Copies were being posted out to appropriate organisations and individuals and Tim asked members to supply contact details for further parties they felt should receive a hard copy. He thanked members for their contributions to the work plan.

250.3 Tim Dapling said the Authority had been fortunate in being able to obtain some very good photos taken by the local biologist, Gerald Legge, retired curator of the Booth Museum and a keen diver and underwater photographer. Tim Dapling asked members to promote the Annual Plan where possible, both hard copies and a pdf file were available.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the Annual Plan.

251. **Review of Management Measures Report**

251.1 Ian Jones asked that the Authority note the recommendations from the Technical Subcommittee and authorise the approval for a Draft Shellfish Permit Byelaw and the coordination of an informal public consultation. Following feedback from the consultation, the Subcommittee would develop a final draft Shellfish Permit Byelaw for presentation at the next Committee meeting.

251.2 The Technical Subcommittee had convened on two separate occasions during this quarter, Ian Jones said, on Tuesday 18 February 2014 and Monday 3 March 2014. The first had discussed Work Groups and had recommended the creation of Work Groups within the Technical Subcommittee, i.e. small groups to discuss, make recommendations for particular tasks and report back to the Technical Subcommittee. Initially two groups would convene: Theme Management Work Group (currently shellfish) and an MPA Work Group.

251.3 In the second meeting, the Subcommittee agreed the format of a draft shellfish permit byelaw and an informal public consultation process in May/June. A final draft byelaw would be presented to the full Committee in July after consideration of the outcomes from the consultation.

251.4 Work Groups would take place as and when necessary, Ian Jones said. Tim Dapling said that the Authority was aware of the time taken up by these meetings and promised that as much discussion as possible would be carried out via email or telephone conference.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

252. **MaCAA s.167 Agreement for Chichester Harbour**

252.1 Tim Dapling described the historic and present management arrangement for Chichester Harbour fisheries in respect to jurisdiction between Sussex and Southern IFCA. He presented a report for members to consider an agreement, under s.167 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act, 2009, which was created to delegate IFCA byelaw making powers from Southern IFCA to Sussex IFCA for that area of Chichester Harbour that lay within the County of Hampshire.

252.2 Southern IFCA had already put the agreement before their members at their recent Quarterly meeting and had received approval. Tim Dapling said that he sought approval by Sussex IFCA members now, following which the agreement would be sent to the Secretary of State for approval.

252.3 The duration of the agreement was intended to be ten years, Tim Dapling said, and the Secretary of State could review it every five years. Southern IFCA and Sussex IFCA would review it jointly after four years. Enforcement and management would also involve Southern IFCA in its own area, working in conjunction with Sussex IFCA. James Partridge expressed his concerns that joint management could be confusing and asked why Sussex IFCA couldn't manage the Harbour on their own. Both Tim Dapling and Ian Jones explained the benefits of the proposed agreement terms in respect to enforcement and byelaw making.

252.4 Peter Jones said that he had assumed that Sussex IFCA would take over management of the whole of Chichester Harbour following the agreement. Southern IFCA had already made a byelaw regarding eelgrass conservation, Tim Dapling said, and this would remain in place, the compliance work would be joint. Audrey Jones said that priorities and approaches to appropriate assessments did differ and that would need consideration by the two Authorities. Tim Dapling suggested that the Authority would be wise to take new responsibilities in a stepped approach as no additional resources were supporting the agreement in its present form. The Chairman pointed out that this agreement represented a significant positive step forward. Tim Dapling asked Rob Matthews how long he estimated that it would take for the agreement to be endorsed by Defra. Rob Matthews said that, as long as Parliament was in session, it could possibly be approved in as little as one week.

253 **Pending Tranche 2 MCZ process, draft Defra, Beachy Head East letter**

253.1 Tim Dapling said that there had been discussions at the last Technical Subcommittee about the possible sites to be included in the second tranche of MCZs. The formal consultation on tranche 2 would take place

in January 2015, seeking views from stakeholders on the named sites. Some members of the Subcommittee had expressed concern that Beachy Head East was not included on the possible list, despite having been recommended to Defra by the Balanced Seas process and supported by many in the community. It had also been recommended at the meeting that Tim Dapling should draft a letter expressing concerns for further discussion by members. A full discussion with many members sharing their views then took place.

- 253.2 Stewart Harper was concerned and opposed sending a letter, he thought that the letter covered too many aspects and didn't concentrate solely on the Beachy Head East omission. Dr Peter Jones disagreed and said that Tim Dapling's letter was clear and that all points were consistent with what had been discussed at Technical Subcommittee. Keith Schofield said that it had not been a unanimous agreement at the meeting to send a letter at all. Dr Peter Jones suggested that the letter be shortened to focus on Beachy Head East. Stewart commented that, no matter what the contents of the letter, he did not support it. Furthermore, those who opposed the letter should be identified in its contents.
- 253.3 Audrey Jones was of the opinion that any letter sent should say that, as a local committee, the Authority felt that it should have a greater say in deciding which sites were chosen for future Tranches. Paul Johnson said that Defra had already taken advice and would not be changing their minds about potential MCZ sites in Tranche 2. Graham Furness said it was important to send the letter to ensure that Beachy Head East was included in Tranche 3. Jim Partridge thought that it was a waste of time to send the letter as the Authority had too much work on with the sites included in the first Tranche. Cllr. John Hodges said that all his constituents in the Hastings ward supported MCZs.
- 253.4 Tim Dapling said that he had written a draft letter at the request of the Technical Subcommittee meeting members, he was happy to change the document in any way the members saw fit. There followed some further discussions on the value of MCZ and the evidence of their benefits.
- 253.5 Following the discussion, the Chairman said that it was important to vote as to whether the letter should be sent or not, then a decision could be taken as to what its contents should be. In an effort to seek consensus, Tim Dapling suggested removing the introduction to the letter and elements of the summary which seemed to be a hindrance in achieving agreement by all members. He proposed that the letter simply state that the members were keen to see the site included in Tranche 3. Vigorous discussions continued on the subject, with Stewart Harper, Keith Schofield, and Jim Partridge expressing their wish not to be associated with the letter in its present form. Robert Yorke expressed his concern that some members had dominated discussions and he had been unable to express a view. The Chairman then suggested that the following action be taken.

253.6 **Recommendation as follows:**

**That, in the absence of Beachy Head East in Tranche 2, the Authority strongly encouraged its inclusion in Tranche 3. Furthermore, that, where practicable, the Authority was willing to support the collection of evidence that would inform their understanding of the site's conservation features and support designation.**

Dr Peter Jones proposed the recommendation and Ollie Sykes seconded it.

254. **Defra Report to Parliament: 4 year report on conduct and operations of the IFCAs**

254.1 Robert Matthews and Paul Little from Defra presented information concerning the 4 year report on activities of IFCAs. In accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 every four years, the Secretary of State must prepare a report into the conduct and operation of IFCAs, which must be laid before Parliament. Each four-year period runs from the date the first Statutory Instruments were made that established the IFCAs (October 2010). This first report would be covering the period to the end of August 2014. It was intended to be presented to Parliament in December 2014. Robert Matthews said that he would be visiting all IFCAs and that all stakeholders, members and staff were invited to contribute.

254.2 Robert Matthews took questions from members, each IFCA would see the report before it was published and each IFCA had different issues, he said. Tim Dapling said that the Chief Officers Group (COG) had been appreciated the open discussion and welcomed the opportunity to see all perceptions of IFCAs, as this was helpful for future development. Tony Delahunty thanked Defra for their presentation.

254.3 ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

255. **CHOPI and Chichester Oyster Fishery Management Update**

255.1 Ian introduced the report by giving a brief background to the project for the benefit of Defra guests. As part of the CHOPI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Terms of Reference (TOR), CHOPI members worked together to agree an annual joint Work Schedule. The Partnership held biannual meetings and on 27 February 2014 the CHOPI Annual Meeting had been held at the Dell Quay. The purpose of the meeting had been to conduct a final review and member sign off for 2014/15 TOR and MOU, Review of Work Schedule for 2013/14 and update on Plans of Action and Agree the Work Schedule for 2014/15 and Plans of Action. Ian



Jones went through the Work Schedule and Future Management of the Harbour options.

- 255.2 The Authority's next steps were to develop a draft oyster management permit byelaw for discussion at the next Technical Subcommittee and CHOPI meetings.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

## 256. **European Marine Sites Update**

- 256.1 Erin Pettifer provided an update on activities since the last Committee EMS update. For a summary of activities since the last Committee EMS update Erin suggested referring to the quarterly MPA update provided to the MMO in Appendix 1. The 2013/2014 Research Report and 2014/2015 Research Plan contained more details of associated evidence collection, she said.

- 256.2 To help prioritise workloads a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening exercise and broad MPA (both MCZ and EMS) prioritisation process had been undertaken in liaison with Natural England, which had been explained in detail at the March 2014 Technical Subcommittee meeting, Erin Pettifer said. These assessed aspects in order to ascertain priorities such as existing management at sites, activity occurrence and intensity, feasibility of feature/gear interaction, potential impact level of the method and feature sensitivity.

- 256.3 Tests of Likely Significant Effect were currently being conducted for all EMS within the district to identify which fishing activity and feature combinations would possibly need a more detailed site-based assessment, known as an Appropriate Assessment.

- 256.4 As red risk work had finished last year, Erin Pettifer said, which had culminated in the issuing of a new byelaw, amber and green risk assessments, identified management and research requirements were now being focussed on.

- 256.5 Paul Leonard queried 'awaiting SPA toolkit from Natural England to inform SPA assessments'. Audrey Jones replied that these would be forthcoming soon, Erin Pettifer said that a national toolkit was being rolled out which would be used for site based assessments. Paul Leonard was keen to compare different IFCAs' responses. Tim Dapling said that the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) would be the relevant source of information for those interested in comparing information. The group consisted of senior technical officers from key statutory bodies and different IFCAs, which held regular meetings and shared best practice. Erin Pettifer suggested that links be put on the Authority's website to TAG's meeting minutes.

- 256.6 Tim Dapling introduced communications to Defra from COG flagging up the concerns about the capacity and implications of MPA management work, EMS and MCZs, in relation to other existing work plans. This had resulted in a subsequent meeting with Defra to focus on each IFCA's priority issues and how to address them.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

257. **Marine Conservation Zones Update**

- 257.1 Erin Pettifer went through the report and projects underway. There were two proposed Tranche 2 sites which fell within the Sussex IFCA District, she said. The first was Utopia, and the second was a small section of Offshore Overfalls. Through the MPA prioritisation process Kingmere MCZ was identified as being of highest priority; there would be a baseline side scan sonar taking place to gain habitat location and extent of bream nests, and, at the same time, a pilot tagging survey scheme would take place, to assess site fidelity and survivability on catch and release. All details were to be found in the latest Research Plan.

- 257.2 MCS were currently capturing and coding the interviews for the Community Voice Project, the interviews having taken place from January to April. Once the first edit of the film was complete the Sussex IFCA would review and agree any changes where necessary. Screenings of the final film and associated workshops were being scheduled around the anticipated production of the NE conservation advice packages, however, these had been delayed. NE had advised that although the final advice packages would not be complete, information for key features should be available for workshops scheduled from September through to the end of the year.

- 257.3 Keith Schofield asked that, where possible, reports produced by aggregate companies be made available to the Technical Subcommittee. Tim Dapling explained that survey work associated with impact assessments had been conducted over a proportion of the reef MCZ feature; this and a wealth of other evidence would be used to help inform future management decisions by the subcommittee.

ALL RESOLVED to note the items.

258. **Annual Research Plan**

- 258.1 Kat Nelson presented the report compiled by herself and Erin Pettifer, which included 33 projects as priorities for this year. Paul Leonard queried the resources available as it was a heavy workload. Tim Dapling said it was an ambitious plan of work and that other staff would be assisting Kat plus partner organisations would be involved, for example



Natural England and Wildlife Trust. Funding was coming in from various sources, EON was funding some of the acoustic and tagging activities and Brighton University were involved in several projects. Tim Dapling thanked all the team involved for their work. The Research Report for the last year would be presented at the July Quarterly Committee Meeting.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

259 **Protected Area Network Across the Channel Ecosystem (PANACHE) update**

259.1 Tony Delahunty thanked Paul Leonard for attending the Panache workshop with Erin Pettifer and Catherine Holcombe, which took place at the end of March. Erin Pettifer referred members to the information item for a brief update on the project.

260 **Communications and Partnership Projects Report**

260.1 Tim Dapling presented the report and invited members to read the update.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

261. **Compliance & Enforcement**

261.1 Andy MacMahon presented the Compliance & Enforcement report, which detailed compliance and enforcement activities for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2013/14. The report was appended to the document which also contained agreed regulatory enforcement strategies for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2014/15.

261.2 He reported that the Compliance Subcommittee meeting convened on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and reviewed the previous quarter's enforcement activity and agreed the compliance strategy for the following. He stated that enforcement activity for the quarter had been relatively quiet due to the poor winter weather conditions, but of note was the detection of a Rye vessel scalloping inside 3nm in breach of a legacy byelaw in our old District. A report had been prepared for Kent and Essex IFCA to take further action.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

262. **Summary of actual expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 against the budget**

262.1 Expenditure for the year had totalled £705k against budgeted expenditure of £750k, Catherine Holcombe reported. The overall surplus

for the quarter was £11,296 although the deficit for the year was £10,461 due to exceptional items relating to 'Watchful'. Catherine Holcombe said that the Authority now awaited the arrival of the auditors to give their final approval of the accounts.

262.2 'Watchful', was now an asset of the Authority, Catherine Holcombe was pleased to report. Tim Dapling thanked WSCC members for all their support in the process.

262.3 James Partridge requested that changes in expenditure be noted in percentages, but both Catherine Holcombe and the Chairman explained that percentages had been used previously and had had a misleading effect, for instance, it had resulted in a focus on large increases in minor items like postage; hence this method of reporting had stopped.

262.4 Tim Dapling said that the end of lease items on 'Watchful' had been carried out as stipulated in the terms for the end of the primary lease period. A survey had been carried out of the vessel last year to establish what work needed to be done to bring it up to a certain standard and this work had been carried out. A 10 year expenditure plan on the vessel had been established.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

263 **Vessel and Vehicle maintenance log 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

264 **Association of Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities**

264.1 Tim Dapling presented the report and minutes of AIFCA meetings to give an overview of the national discussions which had taken place. Both Tony Delahunty and Tim Dapling attended the Association's meetings. The AIFCA had an increasing role and more interactions with Defra, Tim Dapling said.

264.2 Direct funding of £300k had been received from Defra last year to share between IFCAs and spend on research equipment for MPA data collection. Tim Dapling said that the papers supplied a summary of the work being done across the country. A further £300k had been allocated this year to be shared amongst the Authorities for capital survey items. Tim Dapling explained the structure of the Association as a limited company and directed members to AIFCA's website for more information.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report

265. **Chief Officers Group**

- 265.1 Tim Dapling explained that the Chief Officers of all IFCAs attended these meetings and had asked him to remain as Chairman for another year. David McCandless (NE IFCA) was now the Secretary and Tim Robbins (Devon & Severn IFCA) was Vice Chair. Tim said the group were involved in developing best practice and he was keen to engage with Defra, Cefas and Natural England to develop further the operational output of the IFCAs.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

266. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 266.1 Steve Hanks thanked the Chairman for the brevity of the information item discussions at this meeting. Tim Dapling explained that the Information items were necessary to provide a procedural record of the Authority's work to members and the public. Given the volume of papers, he suggested that, prior to the quarterly meetings, members might read those reports which particularly interested them whilst focusing on the Decision Item reports.
- 266.2 Jim Partridge said that Sussex Angling Trust had written to him asking if they could have a meeting to discuss commercial fishermen fishing up to the beach. He had passed the letter on to the Authority and queried what the outcome had been, if any. Tim Dapling gave an update on meetings which had been held earlier in the year with the angling community. Tim Dapling said that the Authority would be responding in due course and recognised the importance of keeping members updated, particularly Steve Hanks and Graham Furness, who had had further discussions with the Angling Trust. Tim Dapling said that the Angling Trust should be encouraged to include Sussex IFCA in all their communications.
- 266.3 Tony Delahunty said that Defra were carrying out a consultation on the pelagic discards and EMFF, both he and Tim Dapling agreed that it could be covered in the next Technical Subcommittee meeting. Tim Dapling explained he intended to send Defra comments on the EMFF consultation, before the pending deadline, that reflected the IFCA's Vision and Objectives.

267. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 267.1 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – venue 12a Riverside.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Delahunty".

Tony Delahunty  
Chairman Sussex IFCA