

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
On 25th July 2013**

PRESENT

SUSSEX IFCA:

Members

Tony Delahunty (MMO Appointee) Acting Chairman
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)
Audrey Jones (Natural England)
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)
Stewart Harper (MMO Appointee)
Emma Kelman, (Natural England)
David Guy (MMO Appointee)
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)
Joe Watt (MMO Appointee)
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee)
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove County Council)
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor John Hodges (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor John Rogers (West Sussex County Council)

Staff

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

Invitees

Sue Ranger (Marine Conservation Authority)
Dr Peter Richardson (Marine Conservation Authority)
Mark Russell (British Marine Aggregate Producers Association and Director of MAA,
Tarmac Marine Dredging) *joined the meeting for Item 16 only*
Richard Caslake (Seafish Industry Authority) *joined the meeting*

Tim Dapling opened the meeting by welcoming five new members to the meeting:
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee), Councillor John Hodges (ESCC), Councillor John

Ungar (ESCC), Councillor Peter Pragnell (ESCC) and Councillor John Rogers (WSSC).

194. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)
Councillor Nigel Peters (West Sussex County Council)

195. NOMINATIONS RECEIVED & APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN

195.1 Tim Dapling thanked members for their nominations for Chair and Deputy Chair, following the email he had sent out. Tim Dapling had only received one nomination for new Chairman, and this had been for Tony Delahunty, who had been Acting Chair since the departure of Cllr Roger Thomas in May. Steve Hanks seconded Tony Delahunty's nomination and the members unanimously supported this in a vote. Tony Delahunty was therefore declared the new Chairman of Sussex IFCA.

195.2 With the Chairman's approval, Tim Dapling then moved to the appointment of the Vice Chairman. A nomination of Vice Chair had been received for Cllr Ollie Sykes and Cllr. Janet Mockridge seconded this and the members supported his election on a vote. It was confirmed that Cllr Ollie Sykes was now the Vice Chairman of Sussex IFCA.

196. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

196.2 Jim Partridge declared his interest in Item 9, he would be leaving the meeting for the duration of this Decision Item, he said.

197. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

197.1 Proposed by Jim Partridge and seconded by Cllr. Janet Mockridge.

197.2 Matters Arising

197.3 Tim Dapling commented that we had no item specifically on the main agenda regarding *183. Marine Conservation Zone Response*. We were expecting to receive notification from Defra this September and Erin Pettifer would be able to supply further information to members. We had received notification of Defra's interim deliberations on the sites. Erin Pettifer had had a conference call with Defra, she said, and they were currently engaged in working through each site. Tim Dapling said that, subject to designation, a

report would be prepared for the next meeting in October, listing the sites and potential implications for *The Review of Management Measures*.

- 197.4 Under 185. *Catchment Plans, Coastal Fora and Local Nature Partnerships*, Tim Dapling said that the Sussex Marine & Coastal Forum had held a meeting at Sussex IFCA offices again. Tim Dapling reported that LNP had held a meeting of their executive on which he had been asked to sit. Together the structures provided a broad consortium with respect to marine environmental interests in Sussex which were currently involved in defining their Terms of Reference.
- 197.5 Ian Jones gave an update on 186. *Panache Report*: since the last meeting Phase 2 had been reached following the completion of some packages of work. The next step would be in early September, he said, when our patrol vessel was commissioned for surveys over a nine or ten day period. It would be involved in trials of new research equipment, the cost of which would be recovered through this project, Ian Jones informed the meeting.

198. **DECISION ITEMS**

198.1 **Authority Subcommittee Membership**

- 198.2 Normally these committee appointments would take place at the previous Annual Quarterly Meeting, Tim Dapling explained, but, due to the outstanding appointments from local authorities at that meeting, it had been decided to defer agreed subcommittee membership to the 2nd Quarterly meeting. This provided new members with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the structure and the induction process.
- 198.3 Tim Dapling said that he hoped two members from East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council would be willing to join the *Finance Subcommittee*. Vice Chairman, Cllr. Ollie Sykes, was already a member from Brighton & Hove City Council.

Subject to confirmation after the meeting, the following members to subcommittees were agreed:

Finance Subcommittee

Tony Delahunty

Cllr. Ollie Sykes

Cllr. Janet Mockridge

Cllr. Peter Pragnell

Keith Schofield, MMO Appointee and Cllr. John Ungar, East Sussex County Council, expressed a wish to join the *Technical & Byelaws Subcommittee*.

Technical & Byelaws Subcommittee

Tony Delahunty

Ollie Sykes

Charles Bacchus

David Guy
Peter Jones
Paul Leonard
Robert Yorke
James Partridge
Stewart Harper
Cllr. Nigel Peters
Stephen Hanks
Graham Furness
Audrey Jones
Paul Johnson
Keith Schofield
Cllr. John Ungar

Tim Dapling said that there was still a vacancy on the *Staffing Subcommittee*, which very rarely sat. He welcomed any members to contact him if they were interested in the role.

Staffing Subcommittee

Tony Delahunty
Ollie Sykes

The *Compliance Subcommittee* was well represented, Ian Jones said, having had David Guy added at the previous meeting.

Compliance Subcommittee

Tony Delahunty
Ollie Sykes
Charles Bacchus
Paul Leonard
Paul Johnson.
David Guy
Steve Hanks
Graham Furness

199. **EMS byelaw**

199.1 Tim Dapling introduced this item. An extensive paper had been supplied at the last Quarterly Committee Meeting, he said, which had described the Authority's responsibilities for the management features within European Marine Sites and the engagement with Defra. A revised policy position from Defra provided new guidance about management of European Marine Sites in respect of certain risks and activities taking place at those sites. Draft byelaw and impact statements had been submitted to the MMO and Defra by Sussex IFCA after comments had been solicited from members and minor adjustments received and implemented.

- 199.2 Erin Pettifer and Kat Nelson had been surveying seagrass to inform management areas. To update, Erin Pettifer went through the report supplied to members and explained that the thorough survey methodology used was agreed with Natural England.
- 199.3 Dr Peter Jones asked about buffer zones. Erin Pettifer confirmed that there were buffer zones within all areas. Ian Jones said that, with regard to enforcement, he was very happy with the polygon and the opportunity it gave to educate local users in Chichester Harbour. Ian Jones praised the good survey work being carried out by Erin Pettifer and Kat Nelson.
- 199.4 Jim Partridge asked if there were worries about boats anchoring and destroying the beds of seagrass. Ian Jones said that Sussex IFCA were aware of potential problems like this and were in discussion with other agencies about it, including Chichester Harbour Conservancy Committee. It was recognised that the IFCA does not have the duty to manage anchoring activity in MPAs.
- 199.5 Erin Pettifer said that formal consultation had already commenced, a meeting had been held with CHOPI, involving talks with fishermen. The 2013 bed extents consultation would commence in mid-August: following advertisement via various media, people would have 28 days to respond. With regards to taking the byelaw forward, Erin said that formal consultation would take place from mid-August, until the end of September. Processing the responses would then take place and they would be sent to the MMO, subject to quality assurance confirmation. If the process went smoothly, notification of the confirmed byelaw would take place at the next committee meeting at the end of October, Erin Pettifer continued, and, all being confirmed, it would then be published.
- 199.6 Paul Johnson said that any damage caused by anchorage would be dealt with by the MMO.
- 199.7 Tony Delahunty asked for proposers to accept the recommendations. It was proposed that:
- 2.1a) that the Authority make the 'Chichester Harbour European Marine Site (Special Areas) Prohibition of Fishing Method' byelaw**
Proposed by: Jim Partridge
Seconded by: Audrey Jones
- 2.1b) that the Authority proceeded with the formal byelaw process**
Proposed by: Graham Furness
Seconded by: Cllr. Ollie Sykes
- ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

200. **Review of Management Measures Report**

Ian Jones introduced the item, which, he said, sought recommendation from the Authority to approve the development of a draft strategy for the Review of Management Measures based on common themes.

- 200.1 The Technical Subcommittee meeting had taken place on 13th June to consider the consultation feedback and develop a draft Review of Management Measures Strategy. Ian Jones went through the minutes of the meeting and the Review of Management Measures graphics.
- 200.2 Tim Dapling said that it was important that members were aware of the importance of the review process and requirements placed on IFCAs through nationally agreed High Level Objectives.
- 200.3 He thanked Jim Partridge for the article he had submitted which had been distributed to all members. Officers explained that pair trawling inshore resulted in regular communications from the public each year, concerned at the impact on the environment. A record of correspondence was kept and was available to members. Senior Officers considered the matter a significant reputational issue. David Guy felt the letter contents did not contain meaningful evidence. Others felt the Authority should be careful not to dismiss evidence from the public, who could inform future management. There followed a discussion on the history and impact of pair trawling and the scale of the trawling fleet. Keith Schofield maintained that bad weather could cause the same damage as pair trawling. He also said that Sussex IFCA has smaller boat size limits than many other IFCAs.
- 200.4 Jim Partridge said that weed had declined as trawling activity had increased, he thought we should look at areas where trawlers should not be allowed and, conversely, other areas where fixed gear should not be allowed. Jim Partridge said that the French had banned trawling near where cuttlefish spawned, they protected recruitment areas. Jim Partridge believed that trawling should only be restricted in sensitive areas. Dr Peter Jones said that we shouldn't be dismissive of the effect of fishing nor be relaxed about pair trawling, he urged the Authority to consider proposals to control it as part of the review process.
- 200.5 Tim passed round copies of the response letter sent to Defra about bass management. Tony Delahunty asked Steve Hanks and Graham Furness for their response to the letter. Steve Hanks had thought the letter fit for purpose. Tim Dapling thanked all who had sent their comments on the letter's contents. The implications of proposed regulations on local fisheries were discussed. Steve Hanks requested bass landing reports for the past few years. Paul Johnson said that these were available on the MMO website. Keith Schofield said that it would be interesting to see figures for French bass landings.

200.6 Tony Delahunty suggested that both pair trawling and bass management discussions be taken to Technical Subcommittee, all agreed. Ian Jones to arrange meeting in September.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

201. **The assessment of new, non-permitted methods and activities for the exploitation of sea fisheries resources within the Sussex IFCA District**

Jim Partridge left the meeting due to prejudicial interest.

201.1 Tim Dapling said that this item considered a process by which any individual party could approach the Authority to consider a fishing activity that was not currently permitted. The Authority's existing byelaw regime required that all permitted activities are defined within the Authority's Fishing Instruments Byelaw. The Technical Subcommittee had recommended that Tim developed a framework document and reported back to this meeting. The framework document, Tim Dapling explained, put the onus on the individual applicant to demonstrate that the new activity was sustainable and would be carried out in a sustainable way. He then went on to describe the process that could be adopted and was internationally recognised as a measure of sustainability. The proposed mechanism included an Inshore Fisheries Environmental Statement process.

201.2 Tim Dapling said in the proposed framework there were five stages, an initial consultation and screening, scoping and development, a submission and review process and finally a submission to the main committee. If accepted, it would result in an amendment to the byelaw framework. David Guy queried whether a scaled down version should be used for individuals, Tim Dapling said that the Principles of Sustainability were relevant to all individuals and should therefore apply, but he recognised that it may be more straight forward according to the nature and scale of the proposed activity.

201.3 Tony Delahunty underlined the importance of this item. Steve Hanks proposed that the framework discussion be taken to Technical Subcommittee before the next principal committee meeting, this was agreed.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

202. **Biosphere Report**

202.1 Tim Dapling said that this item had been included to formally sign off on the Biosphere application. It had already been decided to become a Biosphere partner. He asked the meeting to support and endorse the Authority's application to become a Biosphere Reserve.

- 202.2 Steve Hanks and Keith Schofield both voiced their misgivings about the project and where it was going. Keith Schofield wanted it looked at it in conjunction with other marine management. Jim Partridge said that he couldn't support the recommendations in their present form, he had spoken to Julian Seaman of Shoreham Port Authority who also had misgivings. Stewart Harper added his belief that it replicated work already being carried out by the IFCA. Cllr. Ollie Sykes denied this strongly. Tony Delahunty explained the fishermen's concerns as being those of possible unwanted interference by other outside bodies.
- 202.3 Tim Dapling responded that the biosphere had no statutory checks or powers to regulate fisheries. A discussion then took place and Tim Dapling, Cllr. Ollie Sykes, Erin Pettifer and Cllr. Janet Mockridge explained how the project was a very positive partnership to be involved in, with many benefits to Sussex IFCA, encouraging as it did sustainable fishing in the area and raising the IFCA's profile as well as bringing possible new partners together. Audrey Jones said that it would draw in funding too. In terms of finance, only a small amount was envisaged to be donated, Tim Dapling explained, and this amount may be discussed at the next Finance Subcommittee meeting.
- 202.4 Tim Dapling strongly recommended that the members support the recommendations at this stage having previously recommended officer involvement in the initiative. Charles Bacchus and other members were concerned it would be a regressive step if the IFCA was not seen to support this project.
- 202.5 Stewart Harper recommended that the meeting accepted the recommendations but noted that a lot of concerns had been raised by members. Keith Schofield requested that an additional statement be made in the minutes that the members do not support the Biosphere or any other group bringing in any regulatory measures within the Sussex IFCA administration area.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations, *whilst noting pt 202.5.*

203. **Community Voice Method – Engaging stakeholders in decision-making about management of marine species in England**

- 203.1 Tim Dapling introduced Peter Richardson and Sue Ranger from the Marine Conservation Society. Sue Ranger gave a presentation about a proposed piece of work involving MCS engagement with Sussex IFCA, this presentation showed a similar project in Turks & Caicos Islands. She explained the areas which MCS would like to concentrate on, namely Kingmere, Beachy Head West (both in the current MCZ tranche) plus Beachy Head East. These areas, Sue Ranger said, had been chosen because of the diversity of habitats and features and were both commercially and recreationally important to Sussex.

- 203.2 The project would focus on a wide range of stakeholders across the area and how the areas' management impacted on them working with the IFCA. The MCS would implement a methodology called 'Community Voice Method' which had been implemented in other overseas locations, it would consist of three parts, moving towards durable, deliberated decision making on use of environmental resources.
- 203.3 The three parts would be as follows, Sue Ranger said:
- 1 Listen to stakeholders' views on decisions needed by way of a filmed interview. Analysis by a software package of the filmed interviews and production of a 30 minute documentary.
 - 2 Screening of film followed by discussion workshops
 - 3 Decision making and creation of a proposed management measures framework.
- 203.4 Sue then described the intended workplan in more detail, including interviews and workshops which would inform MCZ management, delivering sustainable benefits and being socially and commercially acceptable. This project would be in the voice of the people, not only increasing IFCA's profile, but also involving and engaging the community. The project was funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Fund, she said.
- 203.5 Steve Hanks asked who would be choosing the interviewees and editing the film. Sue Ranger said that Sussex IFCA and those with a material interest would be asked to comment and they would be open to suggestions of others to approach. Peter Richardson added that Sussex IFCA would be able to influence the balance of interviews and questions asked. An advisory board from Sussex IFCA would be required during the whole project. Dr Peter Jones said that he was concerned about the 'decision making' which could emerge from this process and reiterated the need to gather different perspectives.
- 203.6 Keith Schofield did not see the necessity of the project. Jim Partridge said that there was a risk of over simplification, due to the diversity of fishing in Sussex. Sue Ranger said that it was purely a way to enable Sussex IFCA to make decisions, not to tell them what to do or to manipulate data.
- 203.7 Tim Dapling said that he understood members' concerns, however, he saw the project as a potentially valuable management tool to support development of MCZ management decisions. He reminded members that we would need to be involved in a measured debate and development of solutions, with all stakeholders given an opportunity to share their views following the showing of the film. It was recognised the Sussex IFCA staff members could gain training skills and experience in the process.
- 203.8 Tony Delahunty proposed the recommendations and Tim Dapling added that the project proposal could be refined at the next Technical Subcommittee meeting. Dr. Jones suggested that this project should be viewed as a

stakeholders' views gathering exercise and not as a decision exercise. He was also concerned about the MCS media department's mistake in publishing incorrect copy to date. Dr Richardson emphasised that Sussex IFCA would have complete control over all media published.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

204. **Aggregate Extraction** (*presentation by Mark Russell, Director of BMAPA, Technical Director Tarmac Marine Dredging Ltd. with Dr Andrew Bellamy, Resources Manager, Tarmac Marine Dredging Ltd.*)

204.1 Tim Dapling introduced this Item by saying that at the last Technical Subcommittee meeting he had been asked to find someone to represent the aggregate industry who could attend this Quarterly Committee meeting and give members an overview of the industry. Tim said that he had great pleasure in introducing Mark Russell, Director of MAA, and Dr Andrew Bellamy.

204.2 Mark Russell gave a presentation to the meeting. Building aggregates, he said, were the single largest natural resource material in the UK. The marine contribution was 7.5% of UK primary aggregates as a whole, a third of which was landed in the southeast. He explained why they operated on the south coast: firstly, because they are able to land large volumes close to where they are needed for building, and secondly, transporting by boat made this low value bulky material economically viable.

204.3 There were 26 vessels in their fleet and 500 people in their organisation, Mark said. Policy was set by a combination of Defra and local government. Their regulator was the MMO. They had a land owner, he explained, being the Crown Estate who issued licences and received royalties for every dredge which took place.

204.4 Mark Russell explained that dredgers exporting tonnage also used the British Channel. He displayed on a map the limited areas suitable for dredging, which were not many in the Sussex IFCA area, as the seabed was largely sand with some gravel variations.

204.5 Following the presentation, Stewart Harper asked if Mark was personally aware of herring spawning areas, and he replied that he was. Mark Russell also said that there had been a requirement by Government policy for more than twenty years to leave seabeds as they had been found.

204.6 Jim Partridge said that the French seemed happy to buy our gravel but not dredge their own. Dr. Bellamy said that this was a misconception and that the French did not dredge their own, he said that it wasn't inconceivable that Britain might buy from the French in the future.

204.7 Cllr. Janet Mockridge queried the local environmental impact of lorries carrying gravel, which she felt was detrimental to local well being. Mark Russell said that all aggregates travelled to local building sites and were therefore of great help in improving the community indirectly. Those transported to London went by ship, added Dr. Bellamy.

- 204.8 Mark Russell and Dr. Bellamy would be returning when they had completed results from their environmental research. Tim Dapling said that they might well be involved in a community film project which Sussex IFCA would be undertaking with the MCS.
- 204.9 Jim Partridge said that it was good news that there had been a sea change in aggregate companies' attitudes today, as the industry was keen to liaise with IFCAs now, unlike in the past.
205. **E.ON Climate & Renewables UK Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Application Planning Inspectorate Process**
- 205.1 Tim Dapling explained that the purpose of this Item was to give members an update on E.ON's application for the Rampion wind farm, 6 miles off-shore, but with the potential cable corridor coming through the Sussex IFCA District. The main thrust of the report was to provide members with a Statement of Common Ground, (SoCG) between the developer and Sussex IFCA. There were a number of statutory organisations producing Statements of Common Ground with the developer, Tim said, and these would aid the examination process for the planning inspectorate and highlight any issues.
- 205.2 Tim Dapling particularly thanked Jim Partridge for his input, as well as other members and said that two meetings had been held to develop the statement. Sussex IFCA was required to provide the Statement of Common Ground by 8th August and, with that in mind, this was the appropriate meeting to agree and finalise it.
- 205.3 Tim Dapling went through highlighted points in the SoCG and Tony Delahunty asked for questions before it was submitted to the planning inspectorate. Cllr Ollie Sykes asked if enhancements had been considered, and Tim Dapling replied that a final amendment concerning enhancements had been added at the most recent meeting. E.ON agreed that, in terms of scour protection, where appropriate, they would seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity in those areas.
- 205.4 Tim Dapling said that key dates set by the planning inspectorate could not be moved. Tim said that as we had been contacted by the Planning Inspectorate directly it was incumbent on this Authority, as far as it was possible, to supply a Statement of Common Ground.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

INFORMATION ITEMS

206. Human Resources update – recent appointments

- 206.1 Tim Dapling informed the members that the Authority had recently been recruiting and had a new structure. The jobs advertised had been for a

Senior Fisheries & Conservation Officer, Fisheries & Conservation Officer and Trainee Fisheries & Conservation Officer. We had received over 160 applications for the second two positions, he said. After an extensive recruitment process, two Trainee Fisheries Officers had accepted permanent offers of employment, as opposed to one Fisheries & Conservation Officer and one Trainee as originally advertised. Alice Tebb and Matthew Wiseman would be starting work on 27th August. The Senior role had been offered and accepted by Andy McMahon, and his first day would be 12th August.

206.2 These appointments had brought Sussex IFCA back up to full strength and the new Officers would be introduced to members at the next Quarterly Committee meeting in October.

207. **Compliance & Enforcement**

207.1 Ian Jones went briefly through the report on the first Quarter.

207.2 There would be a 4 day induction period for the new Officers, taking place during the last week of August, Ian Jones said. The Environment Agency, Natural England and the MMO would all be giving introductions to their organisations. Invitations were extended to any other agencies who were interested in joining in these sessions.

207.3 Ian Jones moved on to the Compliance and Enforcement report. Staffing levels had been reduced in the last quarter and this coupled with the cold weather effect on fishing had resulted in some anomalies in statistics, he explained. Ian gave an overview of the details of the report to members and asked for questions.

208. **Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership Initiative (CHOPI) Update**

208.1 Tim Dapling said that the report was an overview of Chichester Harbour Oyster Partnership to date, but the Authority needed a recommendation and approval regarding the intention to carry out some enhancement work with the laying of oysters out of the oyster season. The Initiative needed a dispensation under the Scientific Byelaw that enabled the relaying of brood stock. He notified the members that it was planned, with local fishermen, to relocate some stock before the beginning of the season and track down some native oyster spat for the same purpose.

208.2 Jim Partridge asked where the areas were that the stock would be moved to, Tim Dapling replied that the intended areas were of an unclassified status for shellfish hygiene regulations and thus not open to fishing.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

209. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

209.1 Tim Dapling thanked Kathryn Nelson for her research work and apologised for not being able to include all agenda items due to the late hour.

209.2 Jim Partridge informed the meeting that the next food scare would be cadmium in brown meat from brown crabs.

210. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

210.1 Thursday October 24th 2013 – venue 12a Riverside.

Tony Delahunty
Chairman Sussex IFCA