

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
On 21<sup>st</sup> January 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 Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)  
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Michael Newton Smith (MMO Appointee)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Giulietta Holly (Natural England)  
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee).

***Staff***

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Estelle Barton (Finance Manager)  
Erin Lawes née Pettifer (Research & MPA Manager)  
Rachel Griffin (Committee & Office Manager)

***Invitees***

Graham Singleton (Cemex UK Marine)  
Joe Holcroft (Cemex UK Marine)

Cllr. Nigel Peters welcomed all members to the meeting.

369. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor John Rogers (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)  
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)  
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)

370. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

370.1 The Chairman requested any prejudicial declaration of interests. Michael Newton-Smith and Jim Partridge held an interest in the Shellfish byelaw and Kingmere MCZ, as it affected them directly.

371. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

371.1 Cllr. Nigel Peters asked if there were any comments on the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting. Cllr. Peter Pragnell requested that he be included in the attendees list.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

372. **MATTERS ARISING**

Tim Dapling reported that Project 7171 Fishermen's Fasteners Archaeological Project, under point 365, was now progressing and that Antony Firth had already attended a local fishermen's meeting organised by the IFCA.

373 **DECISION ITEMS**

373.1. **Focus and Priorities Annual Plan 2015 to 2016**

373.2 Tim Dapling gave a presentation to members of the Authority's future priorities, objectives, influences and drivers within the community. He proposed planning priorities to be incorporated into the 2016 to 2020 four year plan, plus the specifics for the upcoming year that relate to the agreed review of management measures.

373.3 Cllr Janet Mockridge queried limits of river jurisdictions and Sean Ashworth expanded on the tidal limits of different rivers. TD explained the duties of the authority in respect to marine species only.

373.4 Jim Partridge queried the timing of production of Annual Plans and Reports. Tim Dapling confirmed that all requirements by Defra had been met. The online version and link to the Report had been circulated in late 2015. He encouraged members to disseminate any information on the Authority's planning and reporting documentation.

373.5 Sean Ashworth highlighted proposed changes to the framework to take effect in this year's planning, which were all about improving efficiency. The Authority were aiming to produce a Plan annually which would be set within a four-year strategic plan, and the Annual Report would supply detailed tasks which had been completed.

- 373.6 There were five high level objectives set out within the UK Marine Policy Statement. AIFCA, MMO and all relevant authorities were aligning planning to deliver these objectives. He explained to members the revised Success Criteria for all IFCAs and the linked Indicators and Actions.
- 373.7 The South Marine Plan is nearing completion and the final draft will be going out to consultation soon, Sean Ashworth reported.
- 373.8 Tim Dapling asked the members what involvement they would like in future planning. Michael Newton Smith emphasised the need to have member involvement at early stages in the development of management measures.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **374. Publication of Annual Report 2015 to 2016**

- 374.1 Tim Dapling introduced the latest Annual Report, which had been supplied in time to comply with Defra guidelines. More copies were available to members to distribute if they thought additional display would be useful in raising Sussex IFCA's profile. Over 100 copies had been posted out to key contacts.
- 374.2 Cllr Nigel Peters expressed his view that it was an impressive document and one of the best reports he had seen.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

##### **375. Planning, Policy and Guidance Statements**

- 375.1 Tim Dapling said that the planning policy and associated guideline statements were intended to streamline the approach taken by the Authority to commenting on significant planning and marine licence applications.
- 375.2 Sean Ashworth said that although neither local planning authorities nor the MMO were statutorily obliged to ask the Authority for their responses to licence applications, they generally did. Issuing statements of Sussex IFCA's views of significant developments, which incorporated sustainability and marine conservation issues, would contribute to a sound decision on their part.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

376. **Marine Conservation Zones Update including Tagging**

- 376.1 Erin Lawes updated members with her report on Marine Conservation Zone work progress. The Marine Protected Area Byelaw and associated Kingmere MCZ Regulatory Notice remained with MMO/Defra for sign off. Members would be updated as soon as a response was received, Erin Lawes said.
- 376.2 As had been agreed at the October 2015 Principal Committee meeting, officers had continued to develop the draft angling code of conduct to support regulatory measures at Kingmere MCZ. Following discussions with the Angling Trust, a wider meeting of angling representatives had been held in the last week.
- 376.3 On the previous Sunday, the Government had announced Tranche 2 MCZ sites, Erin Lawes said, all 23 consulted on last year had been designated. Beachy Head West had two additional features designated. Government had also agreed to Tranche 3 sites being selected in 2017 with a view to being designated in 2018.
- 376.4 Erin Lawes went through Beachy Head West MCZ's update; a useful Technical Subcommittee meeting had been held in the previous week where details of the proposals had been discussed. All had agreed to the following recommendations: to go forward with the proposed year round trawling exclusion over the entire site; all vessels with an appropriate VMS system would be able to go up to the boundary, but those without either would not be allowed closer than an agreed distance. Intertidal hand gathering management had been discussed at length, and there was agreement to go forward with a voluntary code of conduct, to be agreed at the next Quarterly Committee meeting.
- 376.5 Robert Yorke queried the viability of using voluntary codes of conduct. Erin Lawes replied that the public sector were generally in favour of voluntary codes and Sean Ashworth said that the Authority was obliged to explore voluntary approaches in the public sector.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

377. **European Marine Sites Update**

- 377.1 Paul Leonard queried the 'full tests of Likely Significant Effect for EMS', as described in Erin Lawes' update. Tim Dapling said that these tests were a large focus of Emma Kelman's secondment work at the Authority. Erin Lawes said that the whole process was highly scrutinised throughout by all authorities.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

378. **Medmerry Fish Surveys**

- 378.1 Kathryn Nelson introduced to members her detailed research report on fish surveys conducted in Medmerry area in June/July and September/October 2014 and 2015. This project had been funded by the Environment Agency and had been conducted in partnership with ten organisations.
- 378.2 A variety of equipment and sites had been trialled to develop the most suitable methodology. In total, 27 species of fish had been found. Sand goby was the most abundant, followed by sand smelt and bass.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

379. **Oyster Season Research**

- 379.1 Kathryn Nelson reported to the Members on the research conducted around the oyster fishery in Chichester Harbour in the autumn of 2015. Sussex IFCA had conducted research before and during the oyster season to support the management of the fishery.
- 379.2 A pre-season stock assessment had been conducted in September, Kathryn Nelson said, and data had been collected during the sampling with Environmental Health Officers. There had been close monitoring of catch rates when the fishery was open.
- 379.3 The research had provided evidence to support the management of the fishery in such a way as to obtain a balance between the economic benefits, a healthy population and environmental protection. The report was a summary of the 2015 oyster fishery and a comparison to previous years.
- 379.4 Cllr Peters said that both he and Stewart Harper had enjoyed a visit to the fishery during the oyster season.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

380. **Codes of Conduct in respect to 2015 MMO appointments to IFCA, as required by the MMO**

- 380.1 Tim Dapling updated members verbally on a review of MMO appointee documentation by the MMO, including codes of conduct which had been issued to members on being appointed. Appraisals of all MMO appointees would take place with Cllr Peters in ensuing months. It was agreed that ideally these meetings would be attached to subcommittee meetings, to

ensure least disruption to members. Tim explained that staff were working with the Chairman and Committee Manager, Rachel Griffin, to put in place a suitable light touch process.

381. **Communications and Partnership Projects Report**

381.1 Sean Ashworth explained the report covered media releases, social media interaction and community engagement and partnership meetings and events.

381.2 Cllr Mockridge asked if the Authority had any links with schools to educate the young on the IFCAs' work. Erin Lawes reported that the Wildlife Trust had two Wild Beach Days organised for children in February and Sussex IFCA provided a sustainable fisheries day as part of that project. Jim Partridge had agreed to host the IFCA day. Erin Lawes and Kat Nelson added that there was a constant stream of older students volunteering with the research department. Cllr. Peters suggested that Cllr Mockridge, who was a governor at Shoreham College, took an Annual Report to the next governors' committee meeting.

381.3 Sean Ashworth said that a portion of money received from Defra was being allocated to promote the Authority's work. Tim Dapling said that, as part of the Communication Plan, it was important to maximise the reach of publicity given the limited resources available.

381.3 Robert Yorke asked that a link to YouTube videos be added to the website.

382 **Compliance report**

382.1 Discussion took place about the sensitivity of using names within the report. Sean Ashworth asked if members would like the Compliance Report to be pared down for inclusion at the Quarterly Committee meeting. Cllr Peters asked for that to be an Action.

**Action: Sean Ashworth and Alberto Kavadellas to ensure removal of names from the Compliance Report distributed at the Quarterly Committee meeting.**

382.2 Michael Newton Smith requested more detailed information as to weight of catches investigated, but not attributed to specific vessels. Jim Partridge asked that there be consistency of detail.

**383 Summary of expenditure for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December**

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

**384 Budget & Levy figures for 2016 to 2017**

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

**385 Vessel & Vehicle maintenance log 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> September**

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

**386 Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities**

386.1 Tim Dapling reported to members on important changes taking place to the structure of Defra. A marine review was also underway, he said, the scope of the Defra review included Cefas, MMO, JNCC, Natural England, Environment Agency, Marine Coastguard Agency and IFCA's.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

**387 A.O.B.**

387.1 Robert Yorke reported that approval had now been given to the appointment of a Historic Environment Finds Liaison Officer working with the fisheries industry on archaeological discoveries and who would be based at Sussex IFCA's office. Three candidates were currently being interviewed for the role.

387.2 Paul Leonard asked that next January's committee meeting be moved to enable members and staff to attend the two Coastal Futures Days, which were of great interest to IFCA's, among others, and currently clashed with the Authority's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting date. Cllr Peters asked that this be changed.

**Action: Rachel Griffin to ensure there is no clash of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Committee meeting with Coastal Futures Days in January 2017.**

387.3 Cllr. Peters told members that Jim Partridge had kindly agreed to host a visit from interested members to his fishing business. Rachel Griffin to organise suitable dates.

388. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

388.1 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – venue: National Trust building at Birling Gap, including a site visit.

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

Nigel Peters  
Chairman Sussex IFCA