

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
On 27th April 2017**

PRESENT

SUSSEX IFCA:

Members

Stewart Harper (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove City Council)
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Pieter Montyn (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)
Prof. Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)
Michael Newton-Smith (MMO Appointee)
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)
Audrey Jones (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)
Rachel Griffin (Committee & Office Manager)

1. CHIEF OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION

Tim Dapling welcomed members and gave an overview of the Agenda.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 Tim Dapling called for nominations for the position of Chairman and Deputy Chairman and explained the process. Nominations had already been received for Stewart Harper as Chairman and Cllr. Ollie Sykes as Deputy. Robert Yorke formally proposed Stewart Harper for Chairman, and he was unanimously voted in by members.
- 2.2 Further to earlier communications, Graham Furness proposed Steve Hanks for Deputy Chairman.

Voting then took place for the Deputy Chairman's position, nominations were: Steve Hanks and Cllr. Ollie Sykes. After votes were counted, Steve Hanks had received 3 votes and Cllr Ollie Sykes received 8 votes. Cllr Ollie Sykes was duly appointed Deputy Chairman.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee)
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)
Dr. Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)

Staff:

Kathryn Nelson (Senior Fisheries & Conservation Research Officer)

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 4.1 The new Chairman requested any personal or prejudicial declaration of interests. Steve Hanks said that he owned a fishing tackle shop, and Michael Newton-Smith declared that he was a commercial fisherman who fished in the MPA area to be discussed in the meeting in Item 9. No other interests were declared.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 5.1 Michael Newton-Smith asked why a statement of apology and clarification had not been put on the Sussex IFCA website about the incorrect Shellfish Permit Byelaw which had been sent out in September 2016 (Item 440.1). He understood that this had been agreed to at the last Quarterly meeting.
- 5.2 Tim Dapling said that, as he had previously explained, all relevant permit holders had been sent a copy of the correct Byelaw prior to the Quarterly Committee meeting in October 2016 as soon as the issue had come to light. It had been suggested at that meeting that a further letter be sent out, which the Authority had not agreed to. It had been important that the information was correct on the website and this had always been the case. Tim Dapling felt that the issue had been dealt with thoroughly. He noted that the office had received no queries concerning the issue since October and the officers were in regular contact with permit holders and provided advice during inspections.

- 5.3 Stewart Harper suggested that a short explanation of events be included on the website to finally resolve the issue for those members who remained concerned. Sean Ashworth explained that the Authority had also posted on both Facebook and Twitter since the meeting in January to ensure that all permit holders were aware of the correct version of the Byelaw. It was agreed that some additional information would be added to the relevant web page, the wording of which would be agreed between SFOs and the Chair.
- 5.4 Item 441.6: Robert Yorke pointed out that the word 'during' in number iv of Recommendations should be removed, and Cllr Pragnell pointed out that Robert Yorke's name had been spelled incorrectly twice.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes with corrections.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 6.1 Prof. Paul Leonard asked if there was any news of the suggested RSPB fisheries sector workshop, Sean Ashworth assured members that he would inform them when this was definitely planned.

DECISION ITEMS

7 **Authority Subcommittee Membership**

- 7.1 Tim Dapling explained the current function and constitution of each Subcommittee. Pieter Montyn was keen to join the Finance Subcommittee, but, as with all councillors, it was uncertain whether they would be re-elected. Stewart Harper recommended that it would be good to await the results before finalising the Finance Subcommittee's membership .

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendation regarding maintaining existing subcommittee membership, subject to changes to Finance Subcommittee resulting from Council elections.

8 **Sussex IFCA Annual Planning – 2017 to 2018 objectives**

- 8.1 The Chief Officer explained that Defra required that an Annual Plan and Annual Report were published by every IFCA. Tim Dapling said that the Strategic Four Year Plan had been reviewed and updated, reflecting the new priorities and objectives in the year 2016 to 2017 and this was available currently on the website. The requirement for an annual plan would be covered by an Annual supplement, a smaller document supported by the four year plan.

- 8.2 Sean Ashworth said that the creation of the Four Year Plan 2016-2020 streamlined the process of planning future objectives; he expanded on the specific elements of planned delivery over the coming year.
- 8.3 Prof. Paul Leonard asked Sean Ashworth to explain the use of 'gap analysis' to members. There was some discussion on 2017/18 priorities and objectives and Tim Dapling referred members to the reported progress on the Sussex IFCA's review of management measures.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

9 **Pagham Harbour Marine Conservation Zone – submission of MPA Byelaw for confirmation**

- 9.1 Tim Dapling said that the Byelaw had been advertised in accordance with relevant Defra guidance. The formal consultation with stakeholders had taken place for the required period and closed on the 12th April. The Authority had only sought comment on the new Schedule 3 of the byelaw, as all other parts of the Byelaw remain unchanged. It had been necessary to include the entire MPA Byelaw in the formal consultation as it was required by Defra lawyers to revoke and remake the whole Byelaw when including a new Schedule.
- 9.2 Michael Newton-Smith asked what the Authority thought about the lack of responses received to the consultation. Sean Ashworth replied that, even though it was surprising that no responses had been received, the Authority believed that this was positive and meant that everyone was satisfied with the Byelaw. Tim Dapling and Erin Lawes both said that considerable dialogue had taken place with stakeholders during the extensive informal consultation process and concerns had been reflected in the drafting.
- 9.3 It was identified that the reference to MLS in Byelaw Schedule 3 would be amended to appropriate wording that reflected the use of minimum conservation reference size.

Recommendations:

- i. **That in respect to the Sussex IFCA MPA Byelaw 2017, incorporating the new Schedule 3 for Pagham Harbour MCZ, members note the completion of the proposed Byelaw's public consultation process in accordance with MMO guidance.**
- ii. **That the identified non substantive changes in respect to the term MLS to minimum conservation reference size is made.**
- iii. **That the Authority submits the Marine Protected Area Byelaw 2017, incorporating Schedule 3 for Pagham Harbour**

MCZ for confirmation by the Secretary of State. Upon confirmation the existing MPA Byelaw 2015 will be revoked and the new MPA Byelaw simultaneously made as described in the regulation's text.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

10 Utopia Marine Conservation Zone – Planning and progress

- 10.1 Sean Ashworth circulated an extra management measure proposal which superseded the papers distributed to members, following a Technical Subcommittee meeting which had taken place during the previous week.
- 10.2 The Subcommittee had recommended that the Authority regulate elasmobranchs, (sharks, skate and rays), prohibiting mobile gear and netting, and recommending catch and release for all other fishing methods. The new suggestion from the meeting was to create a closed season around the tope pupping period. More time was needed to discuss the extra management measures with stakeholders.
- 10.2 Prof. Paul Leonard said that, with regards to the effect of dredging on elasmobranchs, this was a complex area.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the new recommendations tabled at the meeting to conduct further informal consultation work and bring the findings to the next Subcommittee meeting.

11 Sussex IFCA Sea Angling Strategy

- 11.1 Stewart Harper thanked Sean Ashworth, Barry Goodhew, Graham Furness, Steve Hanks and Charles Bacchus for writing this strategy. Sean Ashworth said that it was a simple strategy on recreational sea angling which had been considered and approved by the Technical Subcommittee and the members with angling interests. Copies of the document were circulated to members.
- 11.2 Paul Johnson, who had not attended the Subcommittee, said that he would have like to have had the opportunity to comment on the document. It was therefore agreed that it was approved subject to any further minor changes submitted by members by 15th May.
- 11.3 Robert Yorke requested that he always receive a hard copy of papers for the Technical Subcommittee as he had no access to a printer. Sean Ashworth reminded members that they now be able to access meeting

papers on the website. Tim Dapling reassured members that if they requested hard copies of documents they would be printed and sent whenever possible.

12 **Presentation – Wild Beach Educational Programme**

- 12.1 Erin Lawes gave a presentation to members on this programme, she said that the heart of the Wild Beach Programme was to reconnect children and people to their marine environment through regular activities over at least a six week period.

INFORMATION ITEMS

13 **Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities – Position paper: Opportunities for Inshore Fisheries and Marine Environment Future Management in England**

- 13.1 Tim Dapling explained that The Chief Officers Group had developed a technical/policy statement paper on the future opportunities for the IFCAs, and more widely marine fisheries and the marine environmental management. The consensus on the statement had been achieved through collective discussions and examination of existing 'Brexit' material at a workshop in February, involving all COs and the AIFCA CEO. Subsequently, the paper had been reviewed and adopted by the AIFCA as the IFCAs' policy position to inform government discussions concerning Brexit.
- 13.2 Tim Dapling gave members an overview on the paper titled "*Opportunities for Inshore Fisheries and Marine Environment, Future Management in England*" which had been considered and adopted by the AIFCA on the 7th March. The final version (subject to future review) had been well received by Defra and supported ongoing processes concerning Brexit.
- 13.3 Steve Hanks asked if the document included recreational anglers as well as commercial fishers, as he could find no references to them as stakeholders. Tim Dapling said that it would have been helpful if more explicit reference had been made in the document to the recreational sector but their omission did not mean that they were excluded when references to fisheries or stakeholders were made. Regarding workshops, Defra were keen to conduct fisheries Brexit workshops for all comers, Tim Dapling said. Given the potential complexity of discussions and varying views it had been suggested to Defra that separate meetings could be held with recreational sector and the commercial capture sector, he said.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

14 **National Memorandum of Understanding IFCA/MMO**

- 14.1 Tim Dapling explained to members the current National Memorandum of Understanding between the IFCAs and the Marine Management Organisation. The strategy's intent by Defra Senior MMO management was that the organisations should work closely wherever possible.

ALL RESOLVED to note and support MoU.

15 **Agenda Information Items 14 to 18**

- 15.1 The Chairman asked if these Items could be taken as read by members and asked for comments.
- 15.2 Steve Hanks asked about the future funding for the refit of the vessel 'Watchful'. Tim Dapling explained that, following extensive discussions with the MMO during 2016 concerning EMFF support for IFCA vessels, a bid had been submitted to EMFF to pay for a large percentage of the intended work cost; however, this would be carried out irrespective of the funding bid success due to its importance to future work.
- 15.3 Prof. Paul Leonard requested a colour copy of page 131 in the meeting packs.

ALL RESOLVED to note the reports.

16 **Summary of Expenditure for the 4th Quarter from 1st January to 31st March 2017**

- 16.1 Estelle Barton explained that the newly emailed accounts and papers she was distributing at the meeting were the most up-to-date accounts. Estelle Barton went through the accounts for the benefit of members.
- 16.2 Michael Newton-Smith and Steve Hanks asked if they were able to attend the Finance Subcommittee. Tim Dapling said that the Quarterly Committee meetings were public meetings but the Finance Subcommittee was not, it dealt with confidential matters, often discussing personal and confidential staff issues; he therefore considered it appropriate that only the relevant members appointed to the Subcommittee should attend.
- 16.3 In respect to the subcommittee membership, the Chief Officer & Clerk said that Standing Orders required that councillors from the contributing authorities be represented and those members with specific accounting experience and expertise were welcomed. It was agreed that, should any further clarification be required, it would involve the Chair and be reflected in the Standing Orders. Tim Dapling said that other members

continued to be kept informed of all income and expenditure by the Authority through regular quarterly and yearly reports. The Authority was subject to comprehensive auditing, and both he and the Finance Officer were happy to discuss any aspect of the Authority finance if asked, but it was not appropriate for them to join the Finance Subcommittee.

17 **A.O.B.**

17.1 Tim Dapling distributed copies to members of the letter he had written to Defra regarding the prohibition of the taking of berried lobsters by UK vessels from its fisheries.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

18.1 Thursday 3rd August 2017 – venue 12a Riverside.

Stewart Harper, Chairman Sussex IFCA.