

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA  
On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015**

**PRESENT**

SUSSEX IFCA:

***Members***

Councillor Nigel Peters Acting Chairman  
Councillor Ollie Sykes (Brighton & Hove City Council)  
Councillor John Ungar (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Janet Mockridge (West Sussex County Council)  
Councillor John Rogers (West Sussex County Council)  
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)  
Audrey Jones (Natural England)  
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)  
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)  
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)  
Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)  
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)  
David Guy (MMO Appointee)  
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)  
Michael Newton Smith (MMO Appointee)

***Staff***

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)  
Estelle Barton (Finance Manager)  
Erin Pettifer (MPA Officer)  
Kathryn Nelson (Fisheries and Conservation Research Officer)  
Rachel Griffin (Committee Manager & Personal Assistant)

***Invitees***

Dominic Bailey (Deputy Chief Fisheries and Conservation Officer, Kent & Essex IFCA)

Cllr. Nigel Peters welcomed all members to the meeting.

322. **CHIEF OFFICER'S INTRODUCTION**

Tim Dapling welcomed two newly appointed members, Chris Williams and Michael Newton-Smith to the Sussex IFCA Annual Committee meeting. All MMO appointees had now received their length of terms, following a draw prior to the meeting, Tim Dapling said. This information would be conveyed to MMO. Standing down Chairman, Tony Delahunty, had been

unable to attend and sent his apologies. It was intended that the Chief Officer and new Chairman would meet to express sincere thanks and provide him with a presentation from the Officers and Authority

323. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN**

323.1 Tim Dapling asked for any further nominations for the appointment of Chairman. No further nominations were received, members were requested to vote for either Cllr. Nigel Peters or Stewart Harper. Rachel Griffin circulated ballot papers and then collected and counted votes.

323.2 James Partridge requested all attendees identify themselves for the benefit of the new members. Tim Dapling introduced Simon Moore, the Authority's new Compliance Manager and a round table introduction by all attendees followed.

323.3 Rachel Griffin declared the outcome of the first vote: Cllr. Nigel Peters had received 12 votes and Stewart Harper 6 votes. Cllr. Nigel Peters was thus declared Chairman.

323.4 Voting then took place for the Deputy Chairman's position, nominations were: Graham Furness, Paul Leonard and Stewart Harper. After votes were counted, Graham Furness had received 5 votes, Paul Leonard 6 votes and Stewart Harper 7 votes. Stewart Harper was declared the new Deputy Chairman in his absence.

324. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Peter Pragnell (East Sussex County Council)  
Cllr Trevor Webb (East Sussex County Council)  
Stewart Harper (MMO Appointee)  
Dr Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)  
Keith Schofield (MMO Appointee).

325. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

325.1 The Chairman requested any prejudicial declaration of interests. David Guy declared that he was Secretary for Newhaven Fisheries and was also involved with Rampion's surveys. Michael Newton-Smith and Jim Partridge declared their interest in the Shellfish byelaw, as it affected them directly, and Jim Partridge also declared his interest in the Kingmere MCZ.

324. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

324.1 Cllr. Nigel Peters asked if there were any comments on the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting. There were no amendments.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

325. **MATTERS ARISING**

325.1 Tim Dapling highlighted 317. Tagging Pilot Studies. Alice Tebb, Kathryn Nelson and Barry Goodhew were all involved with getting tagging underway this year. The aim was to get up to 5,000 fish tagged this year.

326. **DECISION ITEMS**

326.1 **Appointments to Subcommittees**

326.2 Tim Dapling explained that appointments to subcommittees took place biannually. The subcommittees consisted of Finance, Technical & Byelaws, Compliance and Staffing and Appeals, the first three of which met regularly.

326.3 Tim Dapling explained that the recommendation was that the constitution of the subcommittees remained the same subject to any agreed additions. In respect to the roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr. Nigel Peters and Stewart Harper would have relevant representation on the subcommittees.

326.4 Chris Williams and Michael Newton-Smith were keen to join the Technical & Byelaw Subcommittee, and Steve Hanks recommended that Michael Newton-Smith join the Compliance Subcommittee, which he agreed to. John Rogers asked to be included on the Staffing Subcommittee and Robert Yorke asked to join the Finance Subcommittee as he had specific qualifications and experience in accounting.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations and new appointments proposed.

327. **Appointments to Advisory Committees**

327.1 Chichester Harbour Conservancy had asked that another representative be found to represent the Authority following the departure of Tony Delahunty. Tim Dapling said that, in the absence of any interested parties amongst members, one of the Senior Management Team were happy to sit on the committee.

327.2 Graham Furness was asked if he was happy to continue attending meetings of HORAC. He agreed that he was happy to continue to do so.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

328. **Shellfish Permit Byelaw – making of Byelaw and Impact Assessment**
- 328.1 Tim Dapling explained the history of the Authority’s Shellfish Byelaw making and that the byelaw was intended to support and where possible establish sustainable shellfish fisheries for those species caught in static pots and traps. The Shellfish Byelaw Permit included commercial and recreational fishing for the key commercial species lobster, crab, whelk and cuttlefish.
- 328.2 The Authority had held a public consultation process and local community face to face workshops in 2013. In 2014 the Authority had also conducted an extensive informal consultation process with the Sussex shellfish fishing community to understand priorities/issues and to inform potential management measures. This had included a series of stakeholder meetings along the Sussex coast in key shellfish ports.
- 328.3 This was a permit type Byelaw and any shellfish fisher desiring to fish in the area would have to purchase a permit, enabling them to use static gear, i.e. pots and traps, to catch shellfish. Flexible and permanent conditions applied, and Tim Dapling went through these in detail. Other authorities around the country had similar tagging arrangements in place.
- 328.4 The draft byelaw and impact assessment had been shared with MMO/Defra, Tim Dapling continued. The Authority had received detailed and positive feedback with some proposed amendments and recommendations which had been acted upon. The Technical & Byelaw Subcommittee had agreed the final changes at a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015. Any further amendments would be addressed through the remaining consultation and confirmation process.
- 328.5 Next, the formal consultation process would take place, with the Byelaw advertised for two weeks in ‘Fishing News’ and on the Authority website, plus a 28 day open consultation period for the public to comment. Michael Newton-Smith had circulated his views on number limits, which would be included with the public consultation responses, for consideration. The Technical Subcommittee would consider any final amendments to be made following the public consultation. Once finalised, the Byelaw would be recommended to the principal Committee.
- 328.6 General discussion took place and Tim Dapling and Sean answered specific queries.

**Recommendations:**

- i. That, the Authority make the 'Shellfish Permit Byelaw' in accordance with the relevant IFCA Byelaw making provisions S.155 to S.164 of The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.**
- ii. That the Authority approve the proposed Shellfish Permit Byelaw Impact Assessment and supporting documentation in respect to defined permit flexible conditions and fees.**
- iii. That, in accordance with Defra's published 'IFCA Byelaw Guidance', the Authority commence a public consultation process during May 2015.**

ALL RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations.

**329 Oyster Permit Byelaw – making of Byelaw and Impact Assessment**

- 329.1 Tim Dapling introduced this item which he said referred specifically to oyster dredging within the District. This byelaw development has been underway for some time, with work involving CHOPI. Consultations had already taken place followed by discussion at the Technical and Byelaw Subcommittee and submission to Defra for comments. Tim Dapling said that it was a positive story concerning the development of a piece of legislation, working closely with the local community.
- 329.2 Emergency measures had successfully been introduced over the last two years, whilst the byelaw had been developed, allowing some of the byelaw's mechanisms to be tested, notably that associated with a closure at a CPUE threshold.
- 329.3 Sean Ashworth had worked on the impact assessment and welcomed any comments and queries from members.

**Recommendations:**

- i. That, the Authority make the 'Oyster Permit Byelaw' in accordance with the relevant IFCA Byelaw making provisions S.155 to S.164 of The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.**
- ii. That the Authority approve the proposed Oyster Permit Byelaw Impact Assessment and supporting documentation in respect to defined permit flexible conditions and fees.**
- iii. That in accordance with Defra's published 'IFCA Byelaw Guidance' the Authority commence a public consultation process during May 2015.**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

330. **Kingmere Marine Conservation Zone – Management Measures**

- 330.1 Erin Pettifer told members that the purpose of this item was to provide members with the Kingmere Management Report, as amended by the Technical Subcommittee on the 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- 330.2 Erin Pettifer asked for questions. Audrey Jones said that research monitoring needed to be ongoing and that that needed to be expressed in the byelaw.
- 330.3 Paul Leonard asked about the total costs of implementing the byelaw and how it would be managed by Fisheries Officers, as he viewed the cost estimate as high. Simon Moore said that management would be part of their normal patrol work and Sean Ashworth said that the costs were approximate and 'high end'.
- 330.4 Jim Partridge voiced his concerns about anglers being able to disturb the bream season.
- 330.5 Tim Dapling said that the Kingmere MCZ byelaw regulations were at a slightly earlier stage of development than that of the Shellfish and Oyster byelaws, now going to public consultation following Principal Committee approval. Defra required the IFCA to introduce T1 MCZ management by 2016 and IFCA plans aimed to achieve this by next April's spawning period. It was therefore intended to develop a draft byelaw and impact assessment for consideration at the next appropriate subcommittee.
- 330.6 Public consultations would follow the draft being finalised by the subcommittee and concerns would then be voiced and acted upon, if agreed by members.
- 330.7 Steve Hanks queried whether members could discuss this item outside the meeting. Sean Ashworth said that, once this item had been agreed at this Quarterly Meeting, the Authority would be producing publicity for all to view and be updated on present process.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

331. **Sussex IFCA Annual Plan 2015 to 2016**

- 331.1 Copies of the new Plan were circulated to all members and Tim Dapling explained that the Plan was produced in accordance with guidelines and had been submitted to the Secretary of State.

- 331.2 The results of the workshop exercise from the last meeting had been incorporated into the Success Criteria priorities section of the plan, Tim Dapling said. The Annual Plan not only fulfilled statutory requirements but also provided a good document for the public to understand the Authority and its work.
- 331.3 Cllr. Ollie Sykes praised the document and said that it would be a good idea if an officer could visit Brighton & Hove City Council to further enhance Sussex IFCA's profile and was this possible? Tim Dapling said that the Authority would be happy to arrange a visit and that it was very important to explain how Sussex IFCA supported the local authorities in their functions in terms of marine management.

**Action: Tim Dapling to arrange visit to Brighton & Hove City Council**

ALL RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

**332. Research Plan 2015 to 2016**

- 332.1 Kathryn Nelson introduced the Annual Research Plan and laid out the priorities for research in 2015-2016, within the framework of the Strategic Research Plan 2015-19. Kathryn Nelson explained that there were thirteen diverse projects. There was an emphasis on collaboration with project partners to deliver mutually beneficial research.
- 332.2 Kathryn Nelson went through the report and highlighted some activities, including acoustic tagging, Floy ID tagging and side scan sonar surveys in the Kingmere MCZ.
- 332.3 Robert Yorke expanded on an archaeological project involving the local fishing community and Fjodr Ltd. This project aimed to use underwater video cameras to investigate the archaeological importance or not of fishermen's gear/fasteners. Another project was at application stage for heritage lottery funding, Robert Yorke said, to appoint a Historic Environment Fisheries Liaison Officer, to support FIPAD2, who would be based at the Authority's office. Tim Dapling thanked Robert Yorke for his input.

ALL RESOLVED to note the report.

A 10 minute comfort & refreshment break took place.

**333.1 Habitat Mapping Presentation**

- 333.2 Kathryn Nelson gave a presentation to members on habitat mapping of the Sussex seabed chiefly by side sonar scans, but also by dive



observations and grab samples. Kathryn Nelson and Erin Pettifer then answered any questions raised by members.

333. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Nigel Peters suggested that **Items 14 to 25** on the Agenda be approved en bloc and asked for any questions. *The Summary of Expenditure for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (Item 20)* he said, had already been discussed in detail at the Finance Subcommittee meeting.

334. **A.O.B**

334.1 Nigel Peters wished Cllr Ollie Sykes well in his stand for re-election on 7<sup>th</sup> May and heartily thanked all members who had returned to serve on the Committee.

334.2 Finally, Nigel Peters thanked the team for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

335. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

335.1 Tuesday 14th July 2015 – venue 12a Riverside.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Peters'.

Nigel Peters  
Chairman Sussex IFCA