

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SUSSEX INSHORE FISHERIES & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
HELD AT UNIT 12a RIVERSIDE BUSINESS CENTRE, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA
on 24th January 2019**

PRESENT

Members

Stewart Harper (Chairman, MMO Appointee)
Councillor Pieter Montyn (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Paul High (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Tania Charman (East Sussex County Council)
Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council)
Charles Bacchus (Environment Agency)
Robert Yorke (MMO Appointee)
Graham Furness (MMO Appointee)
Dr. Peter Jones (MMO Appointee)
Olle Akesson (MMO Appointee)
Prof. Paul Leonard (MMO Appointee)
Rob Greenwood (MMO Appointee)

Guests

Cllr. Tony Hills (Kent County Council & member K&E IFCA)

Staff

Tim Dapling (Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)
Sean Ashworth (Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer)

135 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

135.1 Stewart Harper welcomed all to the fourth Quarterly Committee meeting of 2018-19 and Tim Dapling introduced the guest, Tony Hills, Kent County Councillor and member of Kent & Essex IFCA, who had come to observe Sussex IFCA's meeting.

136 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Ollie Sykes (Deputy Chairman, Brighton & Hove City Council)
Councillor Carol Purnell (West Sussex County Council)
Councillor Laurie Loe (East Sussex County Council)
Audrey Jones (NE)
Paul Johnson (MMO Representative)
James Partridge (MMO Appointee)
Steve Hanks (MMO Appointee)
Michael Newton-Smith (MMO Appointee)
Chris Williams (MMO Appointee)

137. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 137.1 The Chairman requested any personal or prejudicial declaration of interests. Charles Bacchus declared EA's interest in Item 7.

138. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ALL RESOLVED to approve the minutes.

139 MATTERS ARISING

- 139.1 None were raised.

140 DECISION ITEMS

140.1 Focus and Priorities 2019 to 2020

- 140.2 To help inform discussions on future planning, Tim Dapling distributed the Annual Report 2017-2018 to members, circa 100 copies of which had been sent to key stakeholders.
- 140.3 Over the past year core areas of work had included the continuing review of Byelaws management and the resultant review of netting and nearshore trawling.
- 140.4 As described in the supporting report, priorities for 2019-2020 were to continue the management reviews as described in the Annual Report, carrying out the required public consultation and disseminating subsequent feedback. Defra was expected to confirm Tranche 3 Marine Consultation Zones in the middle of the year, 2 of which sites, Beachy Head East and Selsey Bill and The Hounds, were in Sussex IFCA's District. Beachy Head East was a far larger area than previous MCZs and was expected to involve many stakeholders in the process to develop fisheries management measures to protect the site's conservation features.
- 140.5 Tim Dapling informed members of a national presentation which would be taking place in early February, organised by AIFCA in Westminster Palace, which would display all IFCA's work in terms of introducing management in MPAs.
- 140.6 A growing area in Sussex IFCA research and projects involved understanding natural capital and ecosystem services generated within the District, Tim Dapling said. These areas of work reflected Government policy

commitments, within a twenty five year environment plan for long term sustainability.

- 140.7 Attendance at various stakeholder groups continued to be important, including HORAC (Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee) and Chichester Harbour Advisory Committee. Tim Dapling congratulated Sean Ashworth, Deputy Chief Fisheries & Conservation Officer, on his appointment as Chairman of Sussex Wildlife Trust. The Local Nature Partnership, of which the Chief Officer was a member, was committed to developing a strategic approach toward the protection of natural capital and development of sustainable ecosystem services in Sussex.
- 140.8 Paul Leonard flagged up the need for reporting data to MEDIN, (Marine Environment Data Information Network) Natural capital needed data sets which MEDIN supplied. Officers agreed and explained existing efforts to support the resource.
- 140.9 The shellfish permit scheme continued to provide successful management following a review and feedback.
- 140.10 The Authority would continue to work closely with national partners to support the needs of fisheries management that could arise as a result of the UKs intended departure from the European Union. Tim Dapling welcomed input from members on any subjects which they would like included in the upcoming Annual Plan

ALL RESOLVED to accept the following Recommendations:

Recommendations:

- i. That members note the legal requirements and guidance concerning IFCA annual plans and reports.**
- ii. That members agree to the proposed planning objectives for 2019 to 2020 and that no amendments are required for the four-year plan 2016 to 2020.**

141 Review of Management Measures: Netting

- 141.1 Sean Ashworth introduced this Report of final draft options for netting management, which had been discussed at the recent Technical Subcommittee meeting.
- 141.2 The purpose of the report was also to consider next steps for the development of a draft byelaw and impact assessment for netting management. Sean Ashworth expanded on the developed themes for members' benefit and noted that the management measures would require an amendment to the Fishing Instruments Byelaw and the fixed engine byelaw.

- 141.3 An evidence collection phase had included a questionnaire to the industry, a comprehensive informal public consultation phase had also been held, including web-based promotion, an online survey, a hard copy questionnaire, seven public drop-in sessions and targeted emails and mailing. In December 2018, a targeted outreach had been made to the netting sector in order to define specific fisheries for potential exemption from any prohibitions.
- 141.4 The numerous consultation responses and management options had been presented to Technical Subcommittee and Principal Committee as part of the review process. Sean Ashworth explained in detail the report documents had been produced detailing the consultation responses and including representative quotes from stakeholders, which were published on the Sussex IFCA website.
- 141.5 Stewart Harper raised an absent members' point that a proposal made at the most recent Technical Subcommittee meeting, to increase the netting distance from shore from 0.5km or 0.75km in Zone 4, appeared to have been adopted in the latest draft regulation when some members of the Technical Subcommittee wanted more discussion on the point. Discussion took place among members as to whether or not this would hold up the process (it should not). Dr Peter Jones said that it seemed simple, averaging up to the nearest quarter made 0.75km correct, he was concerned that a member had raised an issue outside the Technical Subcommittee meeting which could then result in slowing up the process. Stewart Harper advised that, up to the most recent Technical Subcommittee, all distances from the shore had been rounded to the nearest 0.5km (not 0.25km). Sean Ashworth said that the Technical Subcommittee in question had taken place close to the Quarterly Committee meeting, thus making minutes as yet unavailable for clarification of any decisions which had been made. It was important that the next Technical Subcommittee meeting took place well before the next Quarterly Committee meeting to prevent any possible future problems. To help resolve the issue Tim Dapling suggested that at the next Technical Subcommittee it should be proposed that all distances from the shore be rounded to the nearest 0.25km. It was agreed to refer this point back to the next Technical Subcommittee.
- 141.6 Rob Greenwood raised the issue of boundary definitions points and way on District maps and how they would be presented to the end user. Tim Dapling said providing and using Byelaw guidance was key for fishers to input plotting points and make it workable. Comparisons on boundary definitions was made with Devon & Severn's byelaw which used straight lines around discrete areas. Further discussion was definitely required and the consultation would highlight fishers' views on the subject, Rob Greenwood added.
- 141.7 A fuller set of exemptions to ensure the continuation of small vessel fisheries had been presented to the Technical Subcommittee and it had been resolved to simplify the exemptions as noted in the report. The matter of drift nets, as exempt, would be considered; these included vessels under

7m overall registered length but didn't include catamarans. The approach toward catamarans was considered by several members as problematic, in terms of defining the hull type. It was agreed that catamarans below 7 metres should also be allowed access; in the same manner as other under 7 metre vessels.

- 141.8 Sean Ashworth presented members with other detailed changes to the netting management report. The next step was to transpose the management into byelaw regulations based on the report, he said. Rob Greenwood was concerned that exemptions should be agreed by everyone. Paul Leonard queried the boundaries and asked whether neighbouring IFCAs would be involved in the consultation. Tim Dapling said that, where Chichester Harbour was concerned, realigning the management boundary to include the whole of Chichester Harbour would make management viable, using an agreement with Southern IFCA to do so.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the Recommendations, with modifications to be taken to the subsequent Technical Subcommittee

142 Review of Management Measures: Nearshore Management of Trawling

- 142.1 Sean Ashworth explained the Recommendations in this report to members and said that the focus of priorities was now on natural capital and ecosystem services, as highlighted by, for example, the Defra 25 year plan.
- 142.2 Members were informed of the proposed management by Sean Ashworth. Robert Greenwood pointed out that hardly any trawling was actually carried out in Zone 1. Tim Dapling confirmed that there were big variations in towed gear operations between different areas of the Sussex IFCA District, for example, Rye Bay had beamer operations close to shore but other areas less or none at all. Graham Furness suggested further discussion of this issue should take place at Technical Subcommittee.
- 142.3 Trawling management in Chichester Harbour, as with netting management, would require realigning the boundary to include the whole of the Harbour to make management viable, using an agreement with Southern IFCA to do so.
- 142.4 The Chairman thanked the Officers for their thorough and hard work on netting and trawling management.
- 142.5 Tim Dapling clarified the timescales of making and submitting byelaws.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the Recommendations.

The Chief Officer introduced a short film by The New Economics Foundation, an independent organisation, which looked into Government policy and gave input into policy making. Chris Williams had been involved in the commissioning of the presentation, which focussed on the under 10m fleet and its future post Brexit. General discussion took place among members following the film.

INFORMATION ITEMS

143 Information Agenda Items 9 to 14

- 143.1 Stewart Harper suggested that Information Items 9 to 14 on the Agenda be taken as read. Tim Dapling encouraged members to take and distribute copies of the latest Annual Report wherever they felt was relevant. Sean Ashworth distributed copies of the Recreational Sea Angling Partnership report (Item 12).

ALL RESOLVED to take the reports as read.

144 Summary of Expenditure for the 3rd Quarter from 1st October to 31st December 2018 against the budget

- 144.1 Stewart Harper firstly thanked Robert Yorke for his hard work with the accounts at this time of change in Finance Managers.
- 144.2 In the absence of the Finance Manager, Tim Dapling reported that the expenditure for the third quarter totalled £255,409 showing a small deficit of £679 against the budget deficit of £3,784 for the period.
- 144.3 The 12-month forecast for total expenditure had been revised upward by £16,116 to a new figure of £1,040,075. A surplus of circa £22k for the year compared to the budget loss of £15,136 was forecast, resulting from a significant increase in forecast income from project income streams.
- 144.4 The Chief Officer said that the overall picture over 9 months was positive and he detailed the main expenditure figures for members' benefit.
- 144.5 Tim Dapling confirmed that a new Finance Manager, Stephen Jump, had been interviewed and should shortly be in post and this would remove the necessity of temporary agency staff costs.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the report and expenditure to date.

145 Budget & levy figures for 2019 to 2020

- 145.1 Tim Dapling said that the budget expenditure for next year had been approved by the Finance Subcommittee and would be increased by 2.3% on the present 18/19 budget. Total budgeted expenditure was planned to be £1,047,392, with income of £1,047,662 providing an end of year surplus of £270.
- 145.2 An increase in income of 3.8% was being sought, whilst keeping the levy increase to 2%. Projects, vessel charters and permit schemes would all supply income streams. Tim Dapling said that additional income streams included shoreline management planning and support vessel work on river flood defences, with the Environment Agency.
- 145.3 An increase in salary costs was anticipated at 4%. Figures had been adjusted following monitoring of the last year's costings.

ALL RESOLVED to approve the report

146 Vessel & Vehicle maintenance log 1st January to 31st March

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

147 Chief Officers Group

- 147.1 Tim Dapling reported on the last meeting that had been held, discussion had centred around the possible future, post Brexit. Recruitment had taken place and Ian Jones, a past Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer at Sussex IFCA, was now the new National Training Co-ordinator.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

148 Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities

- 148.1 Tim Dapling reported back on the AIFCA's review which was currently underway. The AIFCA had been appreciative of all the feedback that members had inputted. The review was a self-examination of what the Association wished to achieve and with what structure.
- 148.2 Robert Yorke queried whether the review had come about due to the fact that Devon and Severn IFCA had left and other IFCAs were thinking of leaving the Association. Tim Dapling said this had been a contributory factor as well as the difficulty they had encountered with receiving adequate funding. There was a general wish to ensure that the Association was fit-for-purpose and was fulfilling IFCAs' expectations.

ALL RESOLVED to accept the report.

149 A.O.B.

149.1 Robert Greenwood reported that the Cruising Association and The Royal Yachting Association were both interested in the marking of fishing gear and were carrying out a survey. Robert Greenwood requested that Stephen Bolt be contacted on this issue as it was important to have someone representing IFCAs. Tim Dapling said that he had been involved in drafting a response to their survey and although marking of gear was not within IFCAs' remit, he acknowledged its importance in protecting all parties.

150 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

150.1 Thursday 25th April 2019.

Stewart Harper, Chairman Sussex IFCA.