

AIFCA MEMBERS FORUM MINUTES

9th March 2021 @ 10:30 AM

MSTeam Videoconference



Attendees

Cllr Paul Williams
Les Weller
Mike Hardy
Dr Will Wright
Samantha Davis
Julian Gregory
Tom Hooper
Dr Stephen Atkins
Mike Hardy
Tony Tomlinson MBE
Ian Jones
Dr Stephen Axford
Tim Dapling
David McCandless

Officers

Robert Clark

- 1) Apologies for absence

Prof Mike Williams
Prof John Humphreys

- 2) Declaration of Interests
 - a. Minutes and actions from last Members Forum meeting

Paul Williams proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and this proposal was seconded by Stewart Harper. All members were in favour.

- b. Minutes and actions from last Director's meeting

Members **NOTED** the draft minutes

- 3) Chairman's announcements

John Humphreys is standing down at the next Southern IFCA meeting.

It was **AGREED** to formally record thanks to Prof John Humphreys for his significant contribution to both the AIFCA and inshore fisheries

- 4) Progress Reports
 - a. Member's recruitment process (verbal)

Members received an update from the Chief Officer; the Forum also heard feedback from the current recruitment process.

5) AIFCA Budget control statement

The members **AGREED** that the Chief Officer should investigate whether a better rate of return can be achieved on the AIFCA reserves.

*The budget control statement was **AGREED** by general consent.*

6) Terms of reference for the Management Group and Co-opted member for Finance

Cllr Paul Williams declared an interest in the Item and left the meeting.

After debate the Dave McCandless proposed and Sam Davies Seconded that;

that the end of year accounts should be externally audited.

the terms of reference of the AIFCA Management Group be adopted.

that the Association co-opts a member for finance to the management group from the AIFCA membership.

that the co-opted member for finance is paid an allowance which is bench marked to 2020/21 Co-optees Cornwall Council scheme.

that the allowance shall be reviewed at the end of the financial year and paid quarterly and in arrears.

The motions were **AGREED** by a majority vote in favour of the recommendations, with one against and one abstention.

The Chairman directed the *Chief Officer to report to members on an honorarium payment for the Co-optee the next meeting.*

Cllr Paul Williams re-joined the meeting.

7) AIFCA Business Plan

The members **AGREED** to adopt the AIFCA Business Plan

8) Allowances

Tony Tomlinson and Les Weller declared their interest in the item and left the meeting. Sam Davis chaired the item.

On John Lambs proposal and with Julian Gregory seconding the proposal it was **AGREED** by way of unanimous vote that;

an allowance scheme for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the AIFCA be adopted.

the allowance be for the Chairman of the AIFCA be £2,751.05 as benchmarked against band eight in the Cornwall Council Special Responsibility allowance for 2020/21 for 2021/22 and the amount reviewed annually thereafter.

the allowance be for the Vice-Chairman of the AIFCA be £1,237.96 as benchmarked against band ten in the Cornwall Council Special Responsibility allowance for 2020/21 for 2021/22

That the organisation review the payments at the end of FY2022

Tony Tomlinson and Les Weller re-joined the meeting.

9) Temporary re-allocation of AIFCA post - Policy Officer

It was proposed by Julian Gregory and seconded by Mike Hardy and all **AGREED** that;

- a) *that the position of finance and administration officer of the AIFCA is not filled for the financial year 2021/22*
- b) *that the financial savings achieved by implementing recommendation A) are re-assigned to create a temporary policy officer position within the AIFCA for 2021/22, and that;*
- c) *the AIFCA recruits for the position by way of secondment*
- d) *that the decision and the need for the role is reviewed before the end of 12 months from commencement of the role to inform decisions for financial year (2021/22)*

The Chief officer was **DIRECTED** to engage with Isle of Scilly IFCA on recommendation c above and report back to members at the next meeting.

10) AIFCA Annual Delivery Plan

Steve Axford proposed and John Lamb seconded the motion that *the Annual Plan be adopted*. All were in favour of this recommendation and it was **AGREED**.

It was agreed that the AIFCA should develop reports for use by IFCA members to engage IFCA members in the work of the AIFCA.

11) AIFCA Budget 2021 / 22

After discussion and the correction of the income to reflect the payments from members a positive income of £26k for the financial year was reported.

Stephen Atkins proposed and Sam Davis seconded the motion that *the 2021/22 budget was AGREED*. All members were in favour.

It was also **AGREED** by general consent *that the revised budget (corrected to reflect the income) be circulated ahead of the Directors meeting*.

At 13:50 there was a 20-minute lunch break.

The meeting reconvened at 14:10

At the direction of the Chairman Item **16) The Training Officers Report** was received and Stevie Travis was welcomed by members. Stevie gave a presentation on his work and outlined the training plan. Kent and Essex IFCA were thanked for their support for the role. Stevie was thanked for his report and *the Training Officers Report was NOTED*.

12) Survey Equipment Ownership

It was **AGREED** by general consent

that the AIFCA disposes of survey equipment

that IFCA members be given the opportunity to submit their interest in one, or more, of the shared survey equipment items held by the AIFCA.

That the Directors allocate the items to the interested parties (at no cost), on the basis that the items be made available to other IFCA members use (subject to any reasonable conditions).

13) English aquaculture strategy

The members **NOTED** the English Aquaculture Strategy.

It was **AGREED** by general consent that the

- (a) AIFCA supports the implementation of the English Aquaculture Strategy & its vision for aquaculture in England.*
- (b) AIFCA continues to engage with the Aquaculture Leadership Group (ALG) and attend meetings with key industry stakeholders.*
- (c) That the AIFCA works with the IFCA sector lead for aquaculture to develop an Aquaculture position statement & IFCA aquaculture 'showcase' programme*
- (d) The AIFCA engage with Defra local authority partners and industry to seek to identify opportunities for investment to enable IFCAs can extend their support to the delivery an English Aquaculture Growth Strategy.*

Items for note

14) General Member's appraisals

*The General Members appraisal policy was **NOTED***

The Chief Officer was **DIRECTED** to circulate a template.

15) Chief officers report

The Chief Officers Report was **NOTED**

