

AIFCA MEMBERS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

8th December 2020 @ 10:30

MSTeam Videoconference



Members Present

Dr Tom Hooper
Cllr John Lamb
Dr Will Wright
Julian Gregory
Dr Stephen Axford
Les Weller (vice Chair)
Dr Stephen Atkins
Cllr Paul Williams
Tony Tomlinson MBE (Chair)
Sam Davis
Prof Mike Williams
Prof John Humphreys
Ian Jones
Stewart Harper
Mat Mander

Officers

Robert Clark

1. Apologies for absence

Mike Hardy
Cllr Andy Guy

2. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Proposed by Paul Williams and Seconded by John Lamb. **The minutes were AGREED as a true record.** All were in favour. Thanks, were recorded to Sam Davis for production of the minutes.

5. Progress Reports

a) Progress on the appointment of members to the IFCAs

The Forum heard from the Chief Officer that the national campaign to recruit IFCA members had commenced. Les Weller provided an overview of engagement with MMO in the process, and some of the frustrations experienced. Following a debate;

The chairman asked the chief officer to draft a letter to the MMO highlighting that the chairs of the IFCAs needed to have greater involvement in the process of recruitment to ensure the needs of the authorities are met.

Minutes of the Association of IFCAs 8/12/20

Prof. Williams agreed to assist with the drafting identifying the IFCA's legitimate expectations and the possibility of extension beyond 10 years.

b) National Lead Training Officer

The Forum received an update on the recruitment progress; a second round of interviews are to be held shortly.

c) Spending Review update

The Forum received an update on the spending review. The Forum heard how a bid into the SR20 had been submitted and that bid had been reportedly put forward to treasury. The treasury announcement on the spending review, which is for one year, had identified that Defra's fisheries funding and s.31 funding would be maintained at current levels. Defra is considering its internal budgets spend and engagement continues. The matter will be raised at forthcoming AIFCA / Defra liaison meetings.

The IFCAs discussed their 2021/22 budgets.

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ITEMS FOR DECISION

6. 'Evaluation of the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities commissioned by Defra' - an AIFCA position statement.

The Forum received a draft statement. It was proposed by John Humphreys, seconded by Mike Williams and all members **AGREED that the statement be adopted and published upon release of the evaluation.**

7. Budget Control

The Forum reviewed a report from Cllr Paul Williams on the AIFCA Budget figures for the AIFCA until the end of November 2020. The positive position presented was described as being as a consequence of savings associated with employment and reduced travel. The members expressed their thanks to Paul Williams for his work. **The budget control statement was APPROVED** following a proposal from Les Weller, as seconded by Cllr Lamb and with all in favour.

The chairman asked the Chief Officer to put in place suitable arrangements for future minute recording.

8. Reserves Policy

The Chief Officer and Cllr Williams provided a summary of the Reserves policy and after a debate Cllr Lamb proposed and Prof Humphreys seconded, and all members **AGREED that the reserves policy be adopted.**

9. The AIFCA 2021/21 Subscriptions -

The Forum considered the AIFCA's financial position. It was proposed by Paul Williams and seconded by Mike Williams that:

- a) The 2021/22 subscription for the AIFCA be £12,000
- b) That a one off payment of £500 per IFCA be made in current financial year to develop AIFCA strategy

All were in favour and **the subscriptions were AGREED**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10. The IFCA funding arrangements a discussion paper.

The members received a report on the IFCA's funding, from origin to today. Forum members debated the future of IFCA's funding.

The chairman asked the Chief Officer to draft a letter to Defra to establish a common understanding of the New Burdens arrangements in the context of the ongoing demands upon Local Authorities.

11. Chief Officers Report

The Chief Officer's report was taken as read and he was thanked for the detailed report.

12. EU Exit & Covid-19

The members received an update from Will Wright on EU Exit and the role of IFCA's in the Covid response. Dr Wright was thanked for his report.

Note on future meetings

It was agreed at the Oct. 20 meeting that the meetings of the AIFCA Members Forum shall be held on the following dates:

9th	March	2021
8th	June	2021 (AGM)
7th	September	2021
7th	December	2021
11th	March	2022

It was agreed that for the foreseeable future that the meetings shall be held remotely using video-conferencing. Notwithstanding it is desirable to meet in person if possible and the situation will remain under review.