

# AIFCA MEMBERS FORUM MINUTES

8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 @ 10:30 AM

## MSTeam Videoconference



### In Attendance

Tony Tomlinson MBE (chairman)  
Cllr. Paul Williams (part)  
Les Weller (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr. Paul Skinner  
David McCandless  
Cllr. Mark Roberts  
Mike Hardy  
Prof. Mike Williams  
Ian Jones  
Dr Will Wright  
Samantha Davis  
Dr Steve Axford  
Tim Dapling  
Dr Stephen Atkins  
Julian Gregory  
Dr Peter Jones  
Tom Hooper  
Mat Mander  
Steven Travis (National Lead Training Officer) (part)  
Robert Clark (Chief Officer)

### Agenda

Cllr Mark Roberts and Dr Peter Jones, newly appointed Chairs of Southern IFCA and Sussex IFCA, were welcomed to their first meeting of the AIFCA.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Lamb  
Cllr. Guy

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

Dr Axford declared his interest as a member of the RYA Planning and Environmental Committee.

The Chairman asked members to declare any other interests if they became apparent under any agenda item during the meeting as necessary.

#### 3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman for FY 2021/22.

Robert Clark was asked by the outgoing Chairman to Chair this agenda item he advised members that Tony Tomlinson had been nominated as Chairman, and there had been no other nominations.

Cllr Williams proposed Mr Tomlinson for chairman, Dr Atkins seconded the proposal and all members were in favour. Mr Tomlinson was duly **ELECTED** as Chairman.

Robert Clark advised members that Les Weller had been nominated for vice chairman and there had been no other nominations. Mike Hardy proposed that Mr Weller be appointed as vice chairman and Mr Dapling seconded the proposal. All members voted in favour of the appointment and Mr Weller was duly **ELECTED**

Tony Tomlinson took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **4. Minutes and actions AIFCA Members Forum Meeting (March 2021)**

The minutes of the draft March AIFCA members forum meeting were considered and Sam Davis proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record and this proposal was seconded by Dr Axford. All members voted in favour of the proposal and the minutes were **ADOPTED**.

#### **5. Minutes Directors Meeting (March 2021)**

The draft minutes of the March AIFCA meeting were considered and **NOTED** by members

#### **6. Chairman's announcements**

The chairman announced that agenda items 9 & 10 (as they appeared on the meeting agenda pack) would be considered next on the agenda to allow Cllr Williams to leave the meeting early.

#### **7. AIFCA Budget control statement**

Cllr Williams introduced the budget control statement and noted the variations in budget in the period April and May.

Members discussed the budget and **AGREED** to **APPROVE** the budget control statement, as per a proposal by Prof. Williams, the motion having been seconded by Tim Dapling; all members were in favour and the statement was **APPROVED**.

Cllr Williams was thanked for his continued support to the AIFCA and he left the meeting due to a prior commitment.

#### **8. AIFCA Annual Return**

Robert Clark introduced the draft annual return. Providing background, to the annual out-turn and the reasons for the surplus. Mr Clark advised that the Directors would be asked to approve the Annual Return at their forthcoming meeting, subject to any amendments required as a result of feedback from the members forum.

Mike Hardy proposed that the Draft annual return be **NOTED** and this proposal was seconded by Dr Atkins. All were in favour of the proposal and the Annual Return was **NOTED**.

Sam Davis enquired generally as to whether the Chief Officer (CO) was satisfied that the budget would meet the needs of the organisation for the current financial year (given the exceptional year prior). The CO responded that the decisions of the members to re-allocate the administrative support and to co-opt a member for finance, was working and was sustainable and moreover the support provided by the Policy Officer would enable the AIFCA to develop further.

## 9. Progress Reports

### 7a. Member's appointment process (verbal)

The Forum heard 1) how Belinda Franks had taken over from Beverly Morton as the responsible MMO officer for IFCA members recruitment. Andrew Wareing has left the MMO and until his replacement is appointed there is no single responsible Director, but that the MMO Board have overall oversight. 2) That the AIFCA has held a series of meetings with Ms Franks and with Defra on the matter of IFCA members appointments. Following an exchange of correspondence with MMO and Defra, with the support of Prof. Williams, and the vice chairman, the CO understands the following principles have been agreed (but have not been committed to writing);

- that upon a situation becoming vacant on an IFCA, the MMO will discuss with the Chairman and Chief Officer the needs of the balance of the IFCA prior to advertising for a replacement;
- That upon 10 years a member of an IFCA will (continue to) not be eligible for renewal, but shall be able to re-apply for membership of an IFCA. That there is (in accordance with their duty) a determination to be made (by the MMO) on the balance between enabling and promoting new members to be appointed (with the new ideas and skills they will bring) with the need to retain inimitable skills and experience on an IFCA; in accordance with the needs of the balance of the IFCA;
- That the MMO will commence engagement with the IFCAs to develop localised recruitment plans, according to the forthcoming vacancies, in an attempt to be more proactive so as to avoid national generic recruitment campaigns;
- That those on the 'reserves list'; i.e. those who have previously 'passed interview' but were not appointed, shall not be automatically appointed to the IFCA, unless their skills and knowledge meet the needs of the balance of the IFCA, as determined by engagement with, amongst others the IFCA itself.

### 7b. Survey Equipment Ownership (verbal)

The CO reported that the survey equipment owned by the AIFCA will remain in the ownership of the AIFCA until the current insurance expires (September); whereupon it will transfer to the relevant individual IFCAs, as per the agreement at the last meeting. Mr Trundle of Cornwall IFCA was thanked for his support in facilitating this arrangement.

### 7c. Temporary re-allocation of AIFCA post - Policy Officer

By general consent, the members **NOTED** the report. Prof. Williams proposed and Les Weller seconded the motion and the members **APPROVED** a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Isle of Scilly IFCA to second Tom Hooper to the AIFCA as Policy Officer. Subject to the draft MoA being amendment to include; that the work by IoS IFCA shall equate to one day per week averaged over the duration of the agreement. All were in favour.

### 7d. 10-year Anniversary & Newsletter (verbal)

The CO advised the members that the materials and event will be launched after the meeting, for circulation to members and to officers. Members thanked the CO and Chairman for the work. The CO advised that work had commenced on the production of an AIFCA newsletter.

### Items for decision

## 10. National Angling Strategy

Dr Axford proposed and Dr Atkins seconded a motion and duly the AIFCA **NOTED & ENDORSED** the National Angling Strategy and **APPROVED** that a representative for the AIFCA, Tim Dapling, be appointed to the National Angling Strategy partnership board. The motion was carried by way of a unanimous vote.

## **11. Towards Regional Fisheries Management Plans; crustacea and molluscs in England.**

Prof. Williams recommended the motion that members **SUPPORT** the development of a project entitled; Towards Regional Fisheries Management Plans and members **AGREED** to release up to £6,000 in reserves to contribute towards the project. Motion was seconded by David McCandless and all members were in favour.

### **Items for note**

#### **12. Chief officers report**

The report was **NOTED**

#### **13. Training officer report**

Stevie Travis, having joined the meeting gave a comprehensive narrative report to support the paper and his report was **NOTED** and Stevie was thanked for his work.

#### **14. Seafish byelaw mapping project**

The report was **NOTED** and it was agreed that the progress to map the byelaws was positive. There was a discussion on anchoring and Cllr Roberts and Dr Jones updated members on issues concerning damage caused by cruise ships anchoring in MPAs. The CO agreed to contact the Seafish team to enquire as to the provision of scheduled wrecks on the Kingfisher charts.

#### **15. Any Other Business**

The CO was asked to convene a meeting of the IFCA's to respond to the terms of reference for the Regional Fisheries Management Groups.

It was agreed that the CO should circulate details of the Environment Agency's habitat restoration project.

The Chairman and vice chairman were thanked for their work in improving the performance of the AIFCA.

The meeting closed at 13:30