

DRAFT AIFCA MEMBERS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

13th December 2022 at 14:00

via Video conference



The meeting started at 14:04

IN ATTENDANCE

Tony Tomlinson MBE (Chairman)
Les Weller (Vice Chairman)
Tom Hooper
Dr Steve Axford
David McCandless
Sam Davis
Dr Will Wright
Tim Dapling
Philip Capper
Joseph Moulton
Mark Sotherton
Dr Pam Buchan
Jon Butler
Mat Mander
Pia Bateman
Cllr Mark Roberts
Tom Hooper
Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick
Tim Robbins (Defra) - part
Robert Clark (Chief Officer)
Cllr Paul Williams (Accountant) - part

1. Apologies for absence

Prof Peter Jones
Cllr John Lamb
Cllr Andy Guy
Julian Gregory
Prof Mike Williams

2. Declarations of Interest

none

3. Chairman's Announcements

The chairman welcomed the new members to the meeting

4. Minutes of the previous meeting.

4a By way of a vote the Members unanimously APPROVED the minutes of the previous Members Forum Meeting

4b By way of a vote the Members unanimously **NOTED** the minutes of the previous Directors Meeting

5. a) Progress Reports

i) The Chief Officer provided a verbal update on the AIFCA communication project

ii) The Chief Officer provided a verbal update on the AIFCA Employment

iii) SR21 CDEL and RDEL

Tim Robbins from Defra provided an update on Defra New Burdens Funding, and the IFCA SR21 RDEL and CDEL bids. Mr Robbins also provided further details on Defra ways of working changes.

Members heard that the IFCA new burdens funding has been agreed for the period of the Spending Review. Members heard that the IFCA's SR bid had been accepted and that monies had started to be transferred. Members heard that, as with all budget the 2024/25 settlement is indicative only at this stage. Members heard that progress was being made in terms of the Capital bid submitted by the AIFCA to support replacement patrol vessels and that this likely to be successful, but due to the delays in securing the commitments the programme would need to be reprofiled and that work with the AIFCA is ongoing to that end. Mr Robbins advised the IFCA's that the IFCA byelaws would in future be considered by the relevant policy team in Defra, in a change to the existing operating model. Mr Robbins confirmed that Defra had approved the AIFCA SR submission and that it was their intention to pay that directly to the AIFCA. Mr Robbins also informed the meeting that he would be leaving Defra in January. Mr Robbins was thanked for his support to the IFCA's and his contribution to fisheries management.

Mr Robbins left the meeting

PRESENTATIONS

Members received the following presentations

a) Supporting IFCA engagement in Fisheries Management Plans, Marine Licensing and Marine Protected Area management. Tim Smith – Senior Policy Officer AIFCA

b) IFCA engagement in the marine Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment. Simon Pengelly – Senior Technical Officer AIFCA

Mr Smith and Mr Pengelly were thanked for their work and welcomed the AIFCA. It was **AGREED** to share the slides from their presentations.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

6. Members received a report from Cllr Paul Williams on the AIFCA Budget with the recommendation that the members approve the Budget control statement. Dr Buchan advised the meeting that she had not received the papers asked that the papers be sent as a single bundle in future. The budget control statement was **AGREED** by way of vote.

7. To receive a report and recommendations from the Chief Officer on the AIFCA 2022/23 draft budget, key activities, and subscriptions. After a long debate the recommendation to increase the subscription by £584 was withdrawn. The Chairman asked that the AIFCA Members Forum be reconvened in January 2023 to receive further reports.

Cllr Williams left the meeting.

8. Future of Training
Members AGREED that the financial situation is such that they can no longer afford to fund the post of NLTO in addition to bearing the full cost of the provision of training courses

Members AGREED that it is necessary to restructure the national training IFCA training arrangements in light of the loss of external grant in aid and to work together to ensure there is an ongoing training provision.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9. Chief Officers Report
Members received a copy of the Chief Officers Report
10. NLTO Report
Members received a verbal report on training
11. Report of the Senior Policy Officer
Members received a report from the Senior Policy Officer
12. Report of the Senior Technical Officer
Members received a report from the Senior Technical Officer on the progress of the mNCEA assessment project

The meeting concluded at 1620