

22 AT A MEETING OF THE NORTH WESTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY held via Zoom on 18th September 2020

PRESENT – MEMBERS

Councillor P. Williams	(Chairman)	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Dr J. Andrews		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Dr E. Baxter		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr N. Baxter		MMO appointee
Mr R. Benson		MMO appointee (Fishing Industry – N. West)
Mr S. Brown		MMO appointee (Recreation)
Mr L. Browning		Natural England
Mr W. Friend		MMO appointee (Recreation)
Mr T. Jones		MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)
Mr B. Leigh		MMO appointee (Anglers and Recreation)
Mr S. Manning		MMO appointee (Commercial)
Cllr A. J. Markley		Cumbria County Council
Ms C. Salthouse		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr L. Stainton		MMO appointee (Recreation)
Mr M. Taylor		MMO (Officer)
Mr K. Thompson		MMO appointee (Commercial/Aquaculture)

NWIFCA OFFICERS ATTENDING

CEO, Senior Scientist (SS), Head of Enforcement, Cath Dobson, Digital Communications Officer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs K. Atkins		Finance Officer (NWIFCA)
Cllr N. Brookes		Blackpool Council
Mr R. Graham	(Vice-Chairman)	MMO appointee (Commercial)
Cllr E. Grey		Wirral Council
Mr D. Harpley		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)

23 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 1)

Chairman announced prejudicial interests: Members who have got an interest in agenda items are asked to email the office in advance and to list the agenda item. Please declare those interests again before speaking on any agenda item in which you may have an interest.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

Agenda Item 5: Mr R. Benson, Mr W. Friend, Mr S. Manning
Agenda Item 10: Mr S. Manning

25 TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE NWIFCA QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 18TH JUNE 2020 (Agenda Item 3)

Last page. 'Mr Leigh agreed CEO had assessed tenders correctly. Mr Leigh said he was not involved in the tender process, so couldn't comment in that way. Chairman said delete that sentence.

Dr Baxter on the same page said Joan Edwards is not the CEO of the Wildlife Trusts, She is Director of Marine Conservation and Public Affairs.

Vote to approve minutes subject to above changes.

Proposed Mr Leigh Seconded: Dr Andrews

26 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 4)

No matters arising.

27 MAKE 'BYELAW 1 MINIMUM CONSERVATION REFERENCE SIZES'

The Head of Enforcement, Mr Moulton, presented the report.

EU regulation titled 850/98, covered technical regulations for fishing within our district. This regulation applied to all activities on shore and at sea, commercial or recreational. In 2019, this regulation was replaced with EU1241, 2019 which contained MCRS however, made them applicable to commercially licensed registered fishing vessels only. Therefore they no longer apply to shore fishing, recreational from shore or a boat, or commercial from the shore. This has created an enforcement gap for IFCA. In Cumbria no MCRS apply while in the North-West SFC area by-law 19 has MCRS for the same list of species as 850/98 but has no restrictions on movement, sale and transportation.

The MCRS by-law aims to fill gaps in legislation lost by the revocation of 850/98. It would apply MCRS to all fishers for all the species in 850/98 for the whole District.

August TSB approved the draft by-law to be made at this authority meeting. After the August TSB Mr Brown and Dr Andrews requested removal of paragraph 4 which provides a 10% allowance for catches of pelagic species (herring, horse-mackerel, mackerel). This allowance was in EU850/98 TSB voted for the bylaw including the allowance as recommended by officers. Removing it would: impose stricter measures in this district compared to other IFCA Districts and areas outside 6 miles and stricter measures on fishers, using fine mesh sizes in estuaries for pelagic shoaling species which come into the estuaries. An increase the regulatory burden would require further consultation, justification and evidence in the RIA sent to members yesterday.

Dr Andrews asked if the problem of transport of undersize fish was associated with recreational angling? Mr Moulton said it's an issue across all sectors, an enforcement loophole was created by a change in legislation and detected on the ground in this District within a month of the revocation of 850/98. A person transporting over 50 undersize bass committed no offence. The issue could arise in any sector, recreational or commercial.

Dr Andrews asked if it is an offence to offer for sale or purchase fish from somebody who isn't RBS registered? Mr Moulton said yes but IFCA do not enforce RBS legislation. Dr Andrews asked if IFCA evidence is passed to MMO. Mr Moulton said yes, and that's routine.

Mr Taylor said RBS applies when individuals or companies are buying from licenced fishing vessels, there is a separate requirement that any fish caught through recreational fishers cannot be offered for sale.

Dr Andrews said the MCRS for whelks outside six is 45mm. In NWIFCA district we are looking at 55 until 31st March 2022, going up to 65 on 31st March 2023 and 75mm from 1st April 2023. In Wales the size is 65. The offence in the draft by-law says "No person shall remove from the fishery, retain on board trans-ship, land, transport, store, sell, display or offer for sale any of the species named in paragraph 6 that measure less than the size specified." So, today, if this by-law was in place, a 47mm whelk caught outside the six nautical mile limit, transported through the district, and landed in Whitehaven, would be an offence. But for a whelk caught outside the district, legally, why should it be an offence to land it within the district? The regulation in place set size limits that applied to much larger sea areas. This by-law seeks to set a larger size limit within six nautical miles. I have a problem with the offence, "transport, land or offer for sale any of the species listed." This by-law will prevent landing whelks in the District that have been caught legally outside the district.

Mr Moulton said this had been discussed by IFCA nationally. There is agreement that IFCA should support a whelk MCRS above the size at sexual maturity in potting and MCRS by-laws. Whelks below size at sexual maturity from outside the District should not be landed in the District.

Dr Andrews said I declare no interest in the whelk fishery. The purpose of this by-law is to stop people fishing outside the district and landing whelk within the district, whelks that are smaller than the minimum size that applies within this district. Eastern IFCA have a derogation for whelks caught outside the district. I have asked fishers how they would feel if they were unable to land in the NWIFCA District 65mm whelks caught in Wales, or 70mm in the Isle of Man.

Mr. Taylor said a carriage order could just apply to recreational fisheries and suggested removal of carriage from the bylaw.

Dr Andrews asked why removing the pelagic allowance would adversely affect people who are currently catching small pelagic fish in estuaries with fine mesh nets.

Mr Moulton said there are permit holders who fish commercially for small species e.g. in the Leven and Lune estuaries. If the allowance is removed there is an increased legislative burden on these small-scale fishers.

Dr Andrews said those areas are covered by by-law 19, which doesn't include the pelagic allowance.

Mr Moulton agreed there is a conflict with by-law 19 which will be repealed and the proposed bylaw. This by-law, with the pelagic allowance will resolve the conflict.

Dr Andrews said EIFCA have a whelk by-law with a flexible permit scheme, including whelk MCRS larger than 45 mm.

Cllr Markley raised a point of order that members are not respecting officers in this discussion.

Mr Brown asked if training and equipment will be provided for by weight inspections.

Mr Moulton said training and calibration of equipment would be provided as with all enforcement kit.

Mr. Leigh: said UK must follow EU requirements to end of transition including freedom of movement of goods and people so this regulation could conflict with another EU regulation.

Dr Andrews said the bylaw should return to TSB, to resolve the whelk MCRS.

Mr Friend said there is frustration amongst the recreational fishers at the difficulty enforcement officers have enforcing recreational and commercial fishers who break regulations. We should give enforcement officers the best tools to do their job.

Ms Salthouse said EIFCA have a whelk by-law with 55mm landing size. We should make this by-law, with EIFCA paragraph 4 to allow for whelk caught outside the district. Discussion is needed with MMO to consider MCRS outside 6 needs to be altered to get in line with IFCA.

Dr Andrews said EIFCA and Northumberland IFCA allow part lobsters to be landed Kent and Essex IFCA allow crab claws to be landed.

Mr Moulton said TSB decided that mutilated shellfish would not be included in our bylaw.

The recommendation received no proposer and was not carried to a vote.

Chairman & Mr Leigh asked for the byelaw to taken to an extraordinary TSB

28 FINANCIAL REPORT (Agenda Item 6)

Chairman said Annex A the budget review to end of July gives a surplus of nearly 53,000. Annex B should be a balance sheet as at that date, and yet the latest date referred to is 1st April, which is the opening date. Its just a breakdown of the revenue reserve. It doesn't say where the assets are invested and what other assets we have. There is a working capital quotient to the revenue reserve, also three years of ten years for the patrol vessel fund, a residual reserve, whatever that may be. In future can Annex B, be a balance sheet, so we can see net assets at the final date of the review period?

CEO said he would take questions back to Finance Officer. The figure £1,089,738.85 is the total reserve at 31st March 2020 carried over to 1st April 20 for the new financial year.

Chairman said Annex A gives a review of the position up to 31st July, so from the start of our financial year for the first four months. I would have expected Annex B to reflect our actual financial position, i.e. the net assets, as at the date in Annex A, not the opening position. I would have expected the closing position. Chairman said the working surplus at the end of July £52,979 should be added to the £1,089,728.85 to give the total resources at 31st July.

CEO said that wouldn't be correct, because we haven't done a final count of everything to 31st July. We have only done that to the end of the financial year. Balance in the current year to 31 March 2021 depends on what happens for the rest of the year, so the apparent surplus at 31st July, might disappear with spending through the rest of the year. It's not a final figure, whereas the final figure as at 31st March is the final figure which goes to the auditors and is recorded as our reserves. You can't add the 52,979 onto the reserves yet, because there may be other bills to pay that we haven't taken account of.

Chairman said I'm sorry, I don't agree with you at all. You certainly can, and that gives you the interim position at 31st July. Things may well change in the course of the following eight months but that would tell us as a flash photograph, which is what a balance sheet is designed to be, exactly what our position was on 31st July. We will just have to agree to differ on that. I will put questions in writing to the Finance Officer. Are reserves invested in local authority bonds.

CEO said they are banked with Lancashire County Council Reserves.

Chairman said those reserves will change as we add surplus or what I call profit to them. It's only a question of just outlining what we have got in what account.

CEO said it is all in the Lancashire Council account. When our levies come in, they are put into the Lancashire account and used during the year, moving them into NWIFCA account as spending requires.

Mr Leigh said we have considerable underspends in the current in-year budget, presumably due to the pandemic. This gives flexibility for the CEO to via monies between account heads should urgent priorities arise.

CEO agreed with the permission of the finance committee.

Dr Andrews raised Whistle blowing policy with thanks to Finance Officer for information. He said EIFCA has a standalone policy.

Chairman said he would ask if other IFCA's have similar policies and report back to December meeting:

Ms Salthouse said there examples of policies which could be used. The policy should define whistleblowing and grievance. EIFCA have a policy in their staff and management procedures.

CEO said EIFCA policy is a wider anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy. There is statutory legal protection for whistle blowing by officers on the government website but there is no harm in having our own policy

Vote to approve the finance report.

Proposed: Mr Leigh Seconded: Mr Jones

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: SM

Additional action: Chairman to write to Finance officer with questions about the finance report and research other IFCA Whistle blowing policies.

29 PATROL AND ENFORCEMENT REPORT (Agenda Item 7)

The Head of Enforcement, Mr Moulton, presented the report.

The report is for information, cases are now progressing through the courts are now moving after an extended Covid delay. Vessel patrols are down but shore patrols were not affected by covid restrictions and have operated at normal levels. Vessels weren't able to go to sea because officers needed to shield for various reasons. We now have procedures for safe working and adequate staff for vessels. We have almost got a full officer contingent now, which is very good. NWP has done at least three patrols each week in the last 2 weeks with good enforcement and inspections. Bay Protector (South of District) had been at sea once during the pandemic and Protector Bravo (Whitehaven) as required.

Mr Manning said he had many calls from fishermen at Leasowe complaining of a lack of enforcement. He said there has been organised buying of shellfish.

Mr Moulton said a video was widely shared on line which contained intelligence and the level of offending shown was low compared to other enforcement activities seen recently We can't be there 100 percent of the time but we have had at least six shore patrols every week. The officers have had barely any time off and are working extra hours, two tides a day on peak areas, and we have seconded extra staff from private contractors to assist It is difficult with people arriving from across the country with little repeat offending.

Sanctions must follow the evidence and public interest to put to a magistrate. We can't make an example of somebody for having a bucket of cockles. We have had offences of obstruction, which are going to court.

The extent to which fishing is organised is debatable. We share intelligence and have had discussions with other agencies: police, gangmasters, Mersey Port Health, Wirral Council. Much increased shellfish gathering is an issue across England not just in our area. We were the first IFCA to highlight mass shellfish gathering but it has since been found in almost all IFCA Districts. During the pandemic, resources for other agencies have been cut whereas ours mostly have not Border force and gangmasters, have had to direct resources away from fishing where there has been serious organised crime

Mr Manning said fishermen annoyed because the beach is closed. They are seeing non-permit holders fishing.

Mr Moulton said the level of fishing is relatively low and not considered commercial. However, fishers are being apprehended, stopped from fishing, equipment is seized and sanctions are handed out.

Dr Andrews said well done to officers. I compared enforcement activity this year with the report twelve months ago and the number of shore patrols in the Mersey, Wirral and Dee area is double now what it was twelve months ago. The number of inspections undertaken is nearly 20 times what it was twelve months ago, so I'm pleased to hear resources are being deployed flexibly.

Chairman said data shows nearly 1,000 kilometres of ATV use no doubt because of the large area with many access points. Do we have posters at access points which make it clear in sign language that there is no gathering of shellfish at all?

Mr Moulton said we have a 'No shellfish to be gathered' poster which is clear and effective in all languages.

Mr Leigh said we should record thanks to officers concerned for the sterling effort over recent months enforcing the emergency by-law at Leasowe. There is underspend in our budget. Should the issue arise again we could deploy additional resources.

CEO said we have had two sometimes three officers of the red snapper group assisting our officers so we have employed the equivalent of two additional officers for the last two months to provide additional support.

Mr Brown said members should back up officers. It's a time to say, "Well done, lads and lasses, Can I pass a vote of thanks to our officers."

Vote to pass on the thanks of the Authority to Officers working at Leasowe.

Proposed: Mr Brown Seconded: Mr Leigh

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, SM, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: No abstentions

Vote to receive the report.

Proposed: Mr Brown Seconded: Mr Leigh

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, SM, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: No abstentions

Vote on formal resolution for the Chairman to investigate whistleblowing and related policies in other IFCAs.

Proposed: Dr Baxter Seconded: Ms Salthouse

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, SM, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: No abstentions

Abstained: No abstentions

32 SCIENCE REPORT INCLUDING COCKLE AND MUSSEL FISHERIES (Agenda Item 10)

The Senior Scientist, Ms Knott, Presented the report.

TSB decided to open seed mussel fisheries at South America Skear in August. Half was reserved for hand-gathering and half for dredging. The hand-gatherers didn't want it for seed; they were of the opinion that the seed would survive and grow to size making a more valuable fishery. Authorisations were issued for a month ending 18 September. Survey reports will be available later.

Mr Jones said the resources at Trailer Bank and Small Island are completely gone, decimated by starfish and weather. South America has also suffered. He will forward video data to science team with geo-located photographs.

Ms Knott said having insurance for hovercraft use would be a useful development. There are ongoing differences of opinion between sectors dating back to 1970s. This Authority must find a way of taking decisions acceptable to both sectors. The Morecambe Bay Mussel Management Plan agreed at BMWG will be revisited.

A method to survey large clams (otter shell and sand gaper) at Leasowe is being refined with surveys of the other fauna there including annelid worms, heart urchins, small bivalves and small snails.

Chairman asked if NWIFCA had been consulted on the tidal lagoon proposal in the Dee. Ms Salthouse said it was mentioned at the Liverpool Bay Coastal Group. Chairman said he will write to Bauer Media, publishers of Trout & Salmon Magazine, because there may be an impact on the river Dee. Ms Salthouse said the Morecambe Bay Barrage proposal from Northern Tidal Power was in the media recently. A Duddon barrage is also proposed. The Mersey tidal power investigation is ongoing.

Mr Manning said fishermen inspected South America after Storm Ellen, and thought about half had gone.

Vote to receive the report.

Proposed: Dr Baxter Seconded: Ms Salthouse

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: SM

33 BYELAW UPDATE (Agenda Item 11)

The Chief Executive Officer, Dr Atkins, presented the report.

August TSB requested a byelaw update and review of by-law targets in the annual plan 2020-2021. See report. The by-laws that we are working on at the moment are in the report table

Byelaw 3, Cockle and Mussel permit byelaw 2019 and RIA were submitted for confirmation. MMO returned comments which are being addressed. When complete, the byelaw and RIA will be returned to MMO for confirmation. The Potting by-law was also sent to MMO for confirmation, comments are due this week. The MCRS was discussed earlier. The Emergency North Wirral byelaw is scheduled for discussion at TSB on 3 November. A Netting byelaw has been delayed by other priorities. a second meeting of the by-law

review group (TSB Chair and the Vice-Chair) was on 29th May and reported to TSB on 11th August.

Byelaw priorities in the 2020-2021 annual plan approved in June are slightly adjusted and the annual plan has been amended. They are:

1. Complete by-law 3;
2. Complete potting by-law;
3. Progress MCRS by-law;
4. Progress North Wirral byelaw;
5. Review district-wide netting by-laws.

The IVMS project is being rescheduled. An IVMS byelaw will be needed by all IFCA but there is no time scale yet.

Dr Baxter requested further discussion of byelaw priorities at TSB.

Mr Manning asked if the EA will be involved in development of netting by-laws which revolve around migratory fish and are permissive bylaws. They set nets in certain places at certain times of year so as not to interfere with migratory fish.

Dr Andrews said the permissive by-laws need EA permission and will require working closely.

Mr Brown said By-law 26 was an EA by-law that NWIFCA were empowered to enforce, before it was transferred directly to NWIFCA. The Cumbria netting by-law is prohibitive and prohibitive by-laws in the Dee must be considered.

CEO said when IFCAs were set up, the EA remade all the IFCA netting by-laws in England. That is what we now have.

Vote to receive the report.

Proposed: Mr Manning

Seconded: Ms Salthouse

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, SM, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: No abstentions

34 **REVIEW OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GOVERNANCE (Agenda Item 12)**

Mr Leigh said tenders may be commercial in confidence so discussion may be exempt information.

CEO said the report is on the website with the meeting papers. The Report was sent to the Finance committee as required by standing orders for tender approval. Only Councillor Markley responded. He was in favour, In that circumstance CEO advises that the full Authority can proceed without a formal approval from the finance committee. Two tenders were received, assessed by CEO according to the agreed criteria. Submissions and scores are in the report. The firm Risk Policy Analysts, RPA, are recommended to carry out the review.

Mr Leigh said the review should go ahead but had concern about the RPA methodology around inclusiveness. Their tender makes provision at the inception meeting to adjust the methodology. RPA propose web-based interviews, some structured interviews, and some focus groups. In terms of the structured interviews, they propose two interviews with IFCA, one of which would be with the CEO, and presumably the other with the Chair. Mr Leigh is

not sure that is a sufficient as this is a governance review of policies and procedures. The involvement of members in structured interviews needs to be more expansive. There are ten interviews planned, two with IFCA officers and members, and the other eight with wider stakeholders. RPA also propose two sets of focus groups, one with ourselves, officers and members at an IFCA meeting. That may have to be reworked given how we operate to a broader group of stakeholders. There should be a third group, the officers of IFCA, because governance reviews are not only about those in leadership positions. It is also about those in delivery roles. I'm happy to move forward with RPA subject to discussion about priorities at the inception meeting. In their tender submission RPA say they will listen to and respond to the prioritisation, key areas, research questions that North West IFCA would like to focus on. The inception meeting is proposed to include RPA, CEO and Chairman. Member representation should be wider at the inception meeting, and thereafter at communication meetings, discussion about draft reports and the like.

Chairman said the participants at the inception meeting should include the review group who want to attend. He proposed endorsing the tender outcome, appointing RPA to undertake the review and hold a pre-inception meeting of the review group and the CEO to discuss the method outlined by RPA.

Vote to receive the report.

Proposed: Mr Leigh Seconded: Ms Salthouse

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, SM, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: LS

35 ANNUAL PLAN MONITORING FIRST QUARTER MONITORING (2020-21) (Agenda Item 13)

The CEO invited questions on the report. No questions were raised.

Vote to receive the report.

Proposed: Dr Andrews Seconded: Cllr Williams

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, SB, SM, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: RB

36 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS (Agenda Item 14)

Mr Leigh said the report is as voted upon at a previous meeting now standing adjourned to the next meeting without further discussion. In June a paper sought to update the registration and disclosure of pecuniary and other interests under the localism Act. Our disclosure regime was out of date and didn't take into effect a widened class of disclosable interests required under the regulations. The paper explained where we needed to effect changes, and set out the legal position. It also sought to deal with issues arising because under the Regulations members are generally not permitted to speak on an item where they have a disclosable interest. We, as members of North-West IFCA, are appointed because of our experience, qualifications, expertise. We could not function as an authority without enabling members to speak on items where they had expertise, even though they might have a disclosable interest. Our practice, is for members to register an interest, but not vote on an item where they have a disclosable interest. The paper sets out a new procedure for registering interests and for the Authority to grant dispensations for members

who have interest which would prevent them from speaking. That process is set out in the appendices. This won't affect how we transact business but will require members to consider in more detail when we may have disclosable interests.

CEO said Members need to agree to amend the constitution according to the changes that were proposed in the June paper and then set up a scheme of dispensations. Today we are looking for a resolution to approve the process then I can make the amendments to the constitution for the next meeting and prepare some dispensations which members can apply for.

Mr Leigh: We have had two separate sets of proposals in relation to the constitution. The one was around the effect of recession and its effect on TSB and the second was around disclosable pecuniary interest.

Dr Andrews said the changes agreed in paragraph 20 were in relation to an amendment I proposed. From memory it was that a sub-committee should not review things within six months, except under a resolution from the authority that it should do so.

Mr Leigh said these provisions were subject to the same standing order provisions as the previous item. Namely that a proposal should be made, proposed and seconded, and then stand adjourned to a following meeting. We have not got proposals on this agenda that relate to the question mentioned.

Dr Andrews said the proposal at the last meeting was approved, but we haven't got the exact wordings discussed in June. In the absence of a subsequent report, we could be resolving something in error. We need to do that one properly at a future meeting.

Vote to amend the constitution according to the changes that were proposed in the June paper and to set up a scheme of dispensations.

Proposed: Mr Leigh Seconded: Mr Manning

In favour: PW, JA, EB, NB, RB, SB, SM, LB, WF, TJ, BL, CS, LS, MT, KT

Against: No against

Abstained: No abstentions

35 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 15)**

Mr Leigh proposed making recordings of historic Zoom meetings available to the public.

CEO said streaming is to give wide access to the meeting not to make a permanent record. We might get objections from officers if they find that they are in a permanent video on the internet. We are only required to give access to the Zoom meeting. We will need to consult to ask if officers and members are willing for their videos being put on the internet.

Mr Leigh said we are a public authority. Streaming could make for more openness and transparency.

Chairman proposed fuller consideration at a future meeting including finding out what the practice is of other IFCA's.

Ms Knott said that she supports accountability and transparency but not sure why we would be going further than we would normally be doing. Streaming is a means of substituting for people being able to go to the public gallery in a meeting that was held in person in the Town Hall. It is a very good substitute for that, but we weren't filming our meetings beforehand and putting them on YouTube, so why would we want to put up a permanent video. Why are we looking at changing that now?

Mr Leigh added that public participation in our meetings over the past few years has been scant. Internet is progress. if someone has not been able to catch the live stream then a compromise position would be to keep it on the website for a reasonable period so that people can reference it while issues are live to them.

Ms Knott stated that it requires detailed discussion. She am aware of how anything on the internet can get used and abused, we need some protection for how our images and words can be misrepresented.

Chairman requested a paper representing the range of views for a future quarterly meeting.

Ms Salthouse asked if we go to videoing meetings and streaming, what happens when we go back to face-to-face? Is there a time when we are going to go back to face-to-face and not do electronic anymore, in which case do we then have to video those meetings? We are kind of setting a precedent for the future.

Mr Leigh said when we do return to physical meetings, there could be simultaneous streaming so we benefit from having physical proximity but continue to address the issue of people not being able to attend the meeting, by web streaming.

Chairman said he will discuss with CEO. It is a subject worthy of further discussion.

36 Meeting Close 15:20.