

AT A MEETING OF THE NORTH WESTERN INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY held via Zoom on 10th December 2020

PRESENT – MEMBERS

Councillor P. Williams	(Chairman)	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Councillor M. Wilson		Cumbria County Council
Dr E. Baxter		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Dr J. Andrews		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr S. Brown		MMO appointee (Recreational)
Mr N. Baxter		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr K. Thompson		MMO appointee (Aquaculture)
Mr W. Friend		MMO appointee (Recreational)
Mr D. Harpley		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Mr M. Taylor		MMO (Statutory Appointee)
Mr T. Jones		MMO appointee (Commercial)
Mr B. Leigh		MMO appointee (Recreational Angling)
Mr S. Manning		MMO appointee (Commercial)
Mr G. White		Sefton Council (Officer)
Mr R. Benson		MMO appointee (Commercial)
Miss C. Salthouse		MMO appointee (Marine Environment)
Councillor A. J. Markley		Cumbria County Council

NWIFCA OFFICERS ATTENDING

CEO, Head of Enforcement, Senior Scientist, Finance Officer, Clerk, Office Manager
Whitehaven, Master of Patrol Vessel

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor N. Brookes	Blackpool Borough Council
Councillor E. Grey	Wirral Council
Mr L. Stainton	MMO Appointee
Councillor B. Woolfall	Halton Borough Council

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR (Agenda Item 1)

1. Chairman welcomed members to the Zoom meeting which was also being streamed live on You Tube. The meeting was quorate. Members were reminded to declare prejudicial interests before speaking on agenda items.
2. Vice-Chairman Mr R. Graham resigned last month. Chairman said he hoped Mr Graham will "continue to make his unique knowledge available to the authority for many years to come", Cllr A J Markley echoed these sentiments and requested a card was sent to Mr R Graham on behalf of the Authority.
3. Chairman announced the resignation of Ms M. Knott. He praised her work with the Authority and wished her well for her new role at Natural England.
4. Mr T Jones is one of 20 recipients of the Merchant Navy Medal for his work on safety in the fishing industry, the chairman congratulated him on his achievement and later outlined the history and prestigious nature of the award.
5. CEO confirmed he had received one nomination for Vice-Chair. Dr J. Andrews was nominated by Councillor P. Williams and seconded by Mr. T Jones. The vote passed with one abstention and Councillor Williams welcomed Dr J Andrews as the new Vice-Chairman.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

Agenda Item 5: Mr. W. Friend

40 Agenda Item 6: Mr. B. Leigh
TO RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE NWIFCA QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON 18TH
SEPTEMBER 2020 (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes of the 18th September meeting were presented by the chairman. Dr J Andrews commented on quality and consistency of the minutes, drawing attention to spelling inconsistencies and other drafting errors.

Proposal to receive the minutes of the 18th September 2020 meeting.

Proposed: Dr E Baxter. Seconded: Not recorded

RESOLVED

Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 18th September 2020 approved as a correct record by unanimous vote. Mr A Graham confirmed the vote count a second time as some participants had cameras turned off.

41 MATTERS ARISING (Agenda Item 4)

No matters arising.

42 REPORT ON FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD 9TH DECEMBER 2020
(Agenda Item 7 – moved forward by Chair)

Councillor M Wilson confirmed that the meeting was quorate. He was appointed Vice-Chair. Cllr A J Markley was re-appointed Chairman. The meetings agreed the draft budget for 2021-22 with a two percent levy increase and funding for replacement of the Whitehaven RIB.

Mr B Leigh asked for an update on staffing highlighting the lack of a clerk. Finance Officer reported that an advert had gone out for a clerk with a deadline of 9 Jan. Other junior position recruitment was delegated to the Chief Executive.

CEO commented in response to a suggestion by Mr B Leigh that local authority newsletters have been unwilling to advertise posts that are not their own posts, so this option for advertising vacancies is no longer an option. Mr B Leigh asked if Council members could take that up with their HR departments. Councillor M Wilson confirmed he would do this

Finance Officer confirmed Apple Transcription would be minute taking until a clerk was appointed.

43 REPLACEMENT OF WHITEHAVEN RIB (Agenda Item 11)

Mr J Moulton introduced the report to give background on the replacement of the fisheries protection vessel "Protector Bravo", which is a RIB that was commissioned in the 1990s. He outlined general concerns about the safety and efficacy of the vessel, with concerns over deck space and sponson puncture. Officers have been investigating the proposal of replacing Protector Bravo with a more suitable fibreglass, twin-hulled vessel to be moored in Whitehaven Marina. The new vessel would be designed and equipped to assist officers in inspecting gear and catches effectively and safely. He outlined the design specifications of the new vehicle which was expected to last 15 years, stretching to 25 with a mid-term refurbishment. He directed members to quotations from Cheatham Marine, Audacious Marine Boats and Blythe Catamarans, sought approval for the proposal and welcomed comments and questions from the meeting.

Cllr P Williams reiterated comments from the finance and personnel committee meeting regarding obtaining three to four quotes for the new vessel and the possibility of part-

exchange of the old vessel. Mr J Moulton confirmed Protector Bravo “still has significant value attached to her” but perhaps a part-exchange would be easier than a separate sale. Dr J Andrews raised a concern about staffing. Would “we have sufficient staff with suitable qualifications for both this new vessel and the larger patrol boat to be out simultaneously?” Mr H Thinnesen confirmed sufficient staff in Whitehaven.

Mr S Brown expressed general support but questioned “Are we possibly losing some of our alongside boarding capabilities when the vessel is further from home?” Mr J Moulton outlined the other vessels which cover this capability. “Boardings are not the main priority of this vessel; it is designed for lifting pots and inspecting nets.” Mr S Brown accepted this response, adding a comment about awareness about how many assets are going to be taken up by the new potting byelaw.

Mr R Benson commented that instead of increasing costs, “I personally think you would better off making more use of what you have already got up there.” Mr H Thinnesen outlined that operating the big boat at a short sea area was uncomfortable. Until boat was up and running the true costs would not be known. Councillor J Williams proposed that a discussion on technical specifications should happen outside this meeting.

Cllr A J Markley added the comment that the new proposed vehicle is a completely different vessel, the finances are in place for it and expressed support for the replacement.

Proposal to proceed to a formal resolution on this that the authority proceeds to obtain a minimum of three detailed estimates for the specification required and seeks to part exchange the existing vessel against the successful tender.

Proposed: Cllr P Williams Seconded: Cllr A J Markley

RESOLVED

The vote passed with Mr R Benson voting against.
Mr M Taylor, Mr B Leigh and Dr J Andrews abstained.

Mr R Benson added a comment about the hours done by North Western Protector and the possibility of double crewing and using the smaller boat on the back to get into shallow water. He said, “It makes sense to use what is there.”

44 TO MAKE BYELAW 1 MINIMUM CONSERVATION REFERENCE SIZES (Agenda Item 5)

Mr J Moulton outlined the byelaw. Following the November TSB he met with Dr. J Andrews and Mr S Brown within a week to resolve issues (mainly around carriage of certain undersized species through the district if they had been fished outside the authority area). He praised their contributions and underlined the productivity of this method. Following a meeting with Simon Pengelly (Senior Scientist, Southern IFCA) the wording of the byelaw was changed to “No person shall take, retain on board, tranship, land, transport, store, sell or display or offer for sale from a fishery within the district.” The definition of vessels within the byelaw was changed to a specific definition, two paragraphs in the prohibitions have been moved to the exceptions area. Wordings of the revocations have been made consistent with the expectations of the MMO and other byelaws. He thanked TSB members for their previous comments, which had been considered and invited questions and comments from this meeting.

Dr E Baxter highlighted a typo. Mr S Manning asked for clarification on the issue of whitebait and sprats. Mr J Moulton drew Mr S Manning’s attention to paragraphs 6 and 7 where this issue is addressed. Mr S Manning underlined the importance of legislation in this area as, “I know at the moment it’s just a couple of people working in the Lune Estuary, but it could develop again at some point in the future.” Mr S Manning raised a hypothetical situation about larger scale whitebait fishing and Mr J Moulton stated that those people would need permits that would be issued and new fisheries would be assessed, however this byelaw

was crucially needed by officers and “this is an effective way of not imposing any extra regulation on people that didn’t have it in the first place.” Mr S Manning thanked Mr J Moulton for his comments.

Mr B Leigh commended the process of members working with officers to enable speedier progress with byelaws and the chair endorsed this view. Dr J Andrews and Cllr P Williams both later echoed this.

Mr M Taylor commented that the herring minimum size will still apply because of national legislation. Mr J Moulton clarified that the wording is a direct transcription of the EU current regulation and a duplication into the byelaw of regulation this is already in place. In response to a further question from Mr M Taylor, Mr J Moulton confirmed “ten percent exception because of sorting practicalities.” Mr M Taylor thanked him for clarifying. Dr J Andrews added, “It’s not something that is contrary to national or EU legislation or that we need to change; it is filling a gap that that legislation doesn’t cover,” and expressed a hope that this had been done neatly.

Proposal to make the byelaw outlined at annex A.

Proposed: J Andrews Seconded: S Brown

RESOLVED

The vote passed unanimously.

45 TO MAKE BYELAW 2 NORTH WIRRAL FORESHORE BIVALVE MOLLUSCS
(Agenda Item 6)

Ms M Knott outlined the background on the issue of unregulated hand-gathering of bivalves on the North Wirral Foreshore. She said that following the expiration of the emergency byelaw, options are limited because there is very little stock of larger clams left on that area. Depending on the meeting today a six-month extension on the emergency byelaw from DEFRA may be required.

She confirmed comments from Dr J Andrews had been considered and incorporated where appropriate into her draft of the full byelaw. Concerns from Mr S Brown had also been incorporated leading to the inclusion of a three-year review on the byelaw. Mr S Brown’s concerns about discrimination against recreational gatherers had been considered, however it was agreed that due to unavoidable enforcement concerns the recommendation to make the full byelaw should be continued. Ms M Knott outlined some further proposed changes to wording. The wording will now read: “This byelaw does not apply to a person fishing under a permit issued pursuant to the dredge byelaw.” She invited comments from the meeting.

Mr S Brown further highlighted his concerns about the potential discriminatory nature of the byelaw, and the need for a specific boundary. “I think we are going down a wrong track, and I think we are digging ourselves an exceptionally deep hole on this one.”

Mr B Leigh declared an interest in the issue and said he would abstain from the vote. However, although he shared Mr S Brown’s concerns about the public fishery he expressed overall support for the byelaw due to the need to protect the stock of large clams in the area.

Mr J Andrews echoed the comments of Mr S Brown regarding the definition of the area covered by the byelaw. He further commented that the words “within or from a fishery” in paragraph 3 implied the byelaw encompassed the entire district. Ms M Knott confirmed this should read “within the area defined in the schedule.”

Proposal to make the byelaw as drafted and subject to the two changes outlined.

Proposed: K Thompson Seconded: C Salthouse

RESOLVED

The vote passed.

Four abstentions: Mr B Leigh, Mr S Brown, Mr R Benson and Mr S Manning

In response to the abstentions, CEO and Mr B Leigh debated the procedural issue of whether you need to abstain if you have a disclosable interest (non-pecuniary as opposed to pecuniary). Mr B Leigh outlined that he found it appropriate to abstain as his vote might be clouded by his interest, but he maintained the right to express a view as he represents a sector and, "I think it is right for them to know why I have voted or not voted in a certain way."

46 FINANCIAL REPORT (Agenda Item 8)

Finance Officer confirmed the budget and levy was approved by the finance and HR sub-committee. She presented the budget review up to the end of September and the balance sheet. She invited comments and questions.

Ms C Salthouse asked for clarification on the figure of 121,000 for the replacement vessel. Finance Officer clarified that this is the annual figure set aside for the replacement of North Western Protector in ten years' time and represents the fourth year of savings. The amount for the replacement of the RIB vessel discussed earlier is a separate figure. Ms C Salthouse thanked her for the clarification.

Mr B Leigh asked for clarification on the levy to local authorities. CEO clarified the New Burdens Funding from central government is guaranteed until March 21 but expected to be rolled over for 21/22 as well. Dr J Andrews commented that if that funding were in jeopardy it would be a concern but other than make contingencies and representations to the government options for action at the moment are limited.

Mr S Manning questioned if there were minutes produced by the finance committee and if these were available to members. Finance Officer clarified that there was no problem with this as long as no confidential HR matters discussed, however confirmed that the Councils contributing money were members of the sub-committee and have access to the minutes.

Proposal to accept the finance report.

Proposed: W Friend Seconded: B Leigh

RESOLVED

The vote was passed.

47 DATES OF MEETINGS 2021 (Agenda Item 9)

The acting clerk presented a list of dates of meetings and proposed these are kept digital for the moment. Cllr P Williams thanked the acting clerk and commented that this was also saving on costs.

48 PATROL & ENFORCEMENT REPORT (Agenda Item 10)

Mr J Moulton highlighted the "excellent joint working" happening at the moment with the constabularies around the coast and other agencies. He explained that two new IFCOs had been appointed at Whitehaven and were progressing through training. Regarding the COVID situation he said this is still a learning process but they are continuing to develop risk assessments and the patrol vessel is now COVID safe despite initial difficulties. Regarding the EU exit, "We are operating jointly with the MMO and working through the joint maritime and operations control centre, National Inshore Marine Enforcement Group on a joined-up

approach to having a good, strategic enforcement plan ready for 1st January, which NWIFCA will be a key part of.”

He highlighted some recent successful prosecutions and that the reporting statistics for byelaw 3 have been received into the office but not yet updated digitally because of staffing shortages. The report from Mr H. Thinnesen on the North Western Protector showed sanctions were quiet, demonstrating good compliance. He invited questions, but highlighted that this report was mainly for information.

In response to a question from the chair, Mr J Moulton confirmed the Leasowe team had been thanked on behalf of members.

Proposal to accept the patrol & enforcement report.

Proposed: Mr N Baxter Seconded: Cllr M Wilson

RESOLVED

The vote was passed.

Mr S Manning asked for clarification on whether he was able to vote on this as a commercial fisherman. The chairman and Mr B Leigh agreed he was as this was just a factual report. CEO agreed this report did not concern Mr S Manning’s disclosable interests and Cllr P Williams agreed.

49 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT (Agenda Item 12)

Regarding communications, CEO confirmed an association of IFCA meeting had taken place. He highlighted that a lot of time was spent on budget control and, “Paul has brought in a reserves policy and an organisation to the finances that, I think, will be very beneficial.”

Quite a bit of time was spent on the problem of appointing members. The MMO have launched a recruitment drive for MMO appointees to the IFCA’s but have refused to extend any members who have reached ten years’ service.

A national Lead Training Officer is being recruited to pick up on the training programme. A response had been prepared in response to the report by RPA to DEFRA on the evaluation of IFCA’s but the report itself has not been published yet so this is not yet needed.

Funding was discussed and the issue of council funding/government funding. He extended his thanks to Cumbria and Lancashire and expressed the view that local authority funding was working well, and a move towards government funding may eventually result in the absorption of the IFCA’s into a larger, single agency.

He invited comments and questions from the meeting.

Dr J Andrews highlighted the most significant aspect of the report was the departure of Ms M Knott, “that is going to be a significant gap to fill,” and he questioned what planning had been done to ensure continuity. The CEO confirmed Mr J Haines will be appointed acting senior scientist, he outlined his experience and the senior post will be advertised in due course. The finance and HR committee will be brought in when the appointment of the senior scientist happens. There are currently two vacancies in the science team to be filled. There is a short list of ten applicants ready to go.

Mr S Manning expressed concern about the lack of commercial fishing expertise on the TSB Committee. Councillor Williams commented that unfortunately not much can be done about which members are voted onto the committee and which are not. Mr S Manning further expressed concern that the cross-section of MMO appointees does not properly represent

the whole cross-section of interests. He commented, "Sometimes you get the feeling that people don't want local fishermen on that TSB committee."

Cllr P Williams invited comment from Dr E Baxter and she added, "The TSB membership and the process for appointing members is set out in the constitution, so there's not much we can do about that." She felt that it was fairly representative but commented that since the move to Zoom some members have not been able to attend. Appointment is annual, so the chance for appointments will come up again in the next year.

Dr J Andrews confirmed that as he is now vice-chair and therefore ex-officio he has vacated a seat. Dr E Baxter asked if it would be appropriate to take a vote if several members were interested. The chair enquired if this was permitted under the constitution and CEO clarified that, "What we would normally do in that situation is move to the next person who was not quite voted on in the last election," until the situation could be formally rectified in June. Mr B Leigh added, "The constitution provides for TSB to co-opt expertise should the need arise, so the issue is for TSB to consider, not the authority," and he hoped the TSB could resolve this issue at its next meeting. The chair agreed.

In response to Mr B Leigh describing himself as representing the angling sector, Mr S Manning clarified members are supposed to represent the whole of the activities in the district and sign a declaration that they do not represent one sector. Mr B Leigh responded, "It's a matter of record that I am appointed as a representative for the recreational angling sector and leisure, but I think much wider than that, hopefully I have demonstrated over a period of years that as an individual member I try to represent all the authority's interests." Mr S Manning apologised and confirmed he did not, "want to point the finger at you, Brian."

Mr A Graham confirmed the next person on the list to join the TSB meeting would be Mr R Benson. Dr J Andrews supported him getting the job, but highlighted that perhaps Mr G Pidduck could stand down for future meetings where Zoom access was required to allow for a replacement with requisite commercial experience. Mr B Leigh underlined this is what he had been trying to get across. Mr S Manning concluded by saying if Mr Benson and Mr Pidduck are represented at the meeting that is enough for him, and Councillor Williams suggested it might assist if Mr Pidduck could attend the Zoom meeting by telephone.

Proposal to accept the Chief Exec's report.

Proposed: Ms C Salthouse Seconded: Cllr M Wilson

RESOLVED

The motion was passed unanimously.

50 SCIENCE REPORT (Agenda Item 13)

The chair welcomed the Senior Scientist to her last science report.

She outlined a couple of areas of key work. Nothing had really happened on the razor clam collaborative research due to COVID, but progress has been made in setting things in motion for the New Year.

The Mersey Estuary Tidal Barrage Environmental Workshop meetings have been well attended. The mayor of the Liverpool City region is very keen on using tidal power to regenerate the region, so Mandy reported that she was in the middle of collating as much data of all the fishing activities and area in the zone of influence from any possible tidal power schemes. However, she said she had warned partnership agencies of her imminent departure and to expect the science team to have limited capacity temporarily.

Solway Subtidal Mussel survey work had been put on hold by COVID, and then was unfortunately affected by bad weather. There will be surveys conducted in 2021 to get the

data that is needed to inform the Habitat Regulations assessment to be able to look at authorising a dredge mussel fishery in the Solway. She underlined the huge amount of work that goes into surveys and encouraged everyone to support the science team in the coming year.

Mr S Manning made a comment regarding the EU exit that, "We need to be able to send Class B cockles and mussels to Europe." Ms M Knott responded that the officers had been pushing this point for at least two years. "The fact that it is still in this very sorry state is not down to any inefficiencies or inadequacies of officers of the North Western IFCA." Mr J Moulton further added that the issue had been raised with other stakeholder groups over the past four years.

Mr T Jones praised the Solway mussels report as a marvellous piece of work and offered the support of equipment of the Menai Strait Management Association to assist.

Dr J Andrews asked to formally thank Ms M Knott for all of her hard work over the years. "I think we all owe her a debt of gratitude, and I, personally, would like to wish her all the very best for her future career with Natural England. We will miss you." Councillor Williams seconded these comments on behalf of the members. Mr T Jones reiterated Ms M Knott will be sorely missed.

Proposal to accept the science report.

Proposed: J Andrews Seconded: E Baxter

RESOLVED

The motion was passed unanimously.

51 TECHNICAL SCIENCE AND BYELAWS (Agenda Item 14)

Dr E Baxter also praised Ms M Knott for all of her hard work.

Regarding the meeting of the TSB on 3rd November, she said a large amount of time was taken up discussing administrative matters. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the TSB on 4th August were agreed but unfortunately the minutes of the TSB meeting on 11th August could not be. This has been resolved by a more comprehensive version being circulated for approval by email.

She outlined other areas covered in the meeting including an update on byelaws and the byelaw review, and it was agreed that the byelaw review strategy and process for dialogue would be taken forward to the February meeting to try and progress the matter.

Reports were presented on the Nephrops creel research project there was a proposal for NWIFCA officers to engage in consultation with fishermen alongside Cumbria Wildlife Trust was approved. A report on the Leasowe clam survey indicated stock levels of clams were very low, which has resulted in the proposal to make the current restriction on hand-gathering bivalves into a full byelaw, as discussed at the current meeting. The occurrence of Chinese mitten crab findings and the findings of a survey on the South America seed mussel fishery were discussed. The issue of members who are not able to attend the TSB and resulting lack of expertise/input was also discussed and, "it was agreed that we would look to co-opt another member for the February meeting if Gary was unable to attend, and I think that still stands after today's discussion, despite that additional vacancy, so we will definitely look to take that forward."

Proposal to accept the TSB report.

Proposed: Mr T Jones Seconded: Dr J Andrews

RESOLVED

The motion passed was passed unanimously.

52 REVIEW OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GOVERNANCE (Agenda Item 15)

CEO reported a contract has been agreed with RPA. It has been agreed to provide them everything they need for their research, He invited comments from the committee on the inception meeting. Councillor Williams commented that it was a good meeting and he was impressed with RPA. Dr J Andrews agreed that it was a very positive, productive meeting. He hoped that they understood that, “we were after them looking a bit more at the nuts and bolts of how we do our work rather than blue sky thinking about where we might like to go with it all.” Mr B Leigh echoed these comments and shared the hope that the review would highlight both positive messages and areas for improvement. Mr T Jones agreed and questioned timescales. CEO clarified the next meeting is hoped for January and the work is expected to be a seven-month project.

53 ANNUAL PLAN 20-21 Monitoring Q2 (Agenda Item 16)

No comments were raised,

54 ANNUAL PLAN 21-22 Draft (Agenda Item 17)

No comments were raised.

53 ANNUAL REPORT 19-20 (Agenda Item 18)

Dr J Andrews questioned, “To what extent does the annual plan inform the objectives and the day to day working of individuals within the organisation?” CEO clarified that the idea was that all officers pick up elements of the plan in their work D J Andrews commented that using the annual plan as a box ticking exercise was a wasted opportunity that it ought to be used in a strategic manner. He questioned if RPA could be directed towards the annual plan, so that the annual plan could inform day-to-day what people are doing.

Mr B Leigh discussed his experience of annual plans and suggested workshops and engagement with staff so that they understood how high level objectives related to their everyday work practice. Ms C Salthouse urged caution that incorporating high level objectives into staff appraisals could make them less meaningful. “I think what we have here with the annual plan here is something which is designed for reporting to government. I think in terms of operational activity an annual plan would look slightly different.”

Dr J Andrews questioned whether using five-year-old DEFRA success criteria as the foundation for the annual plan was as useful as working out objectives “that are meaningful to us.”

CEO replied that, “A few years ago I did try to depart from the DEFRA success criteria, and members really didn’t want me to do that.” He acknowledged the DEFRA success criteria were not “very clear and very useful in many cases,” and that having the annual plan process as well as the significant reporting that is already done is “a little over the top”. He reported that the Chief Officers had already mentioned to RPA in response to the recent report to Defra that “in many ways IFCA are quite over-monitored.” He concluded that, “We are one of ten IFCAs, and at the moment DEFRA want us to all report to the same standards and the same set of criteria, so I feel we are kind of stuck where we are.”

Mr S Manning commented that inshore fisheries people were being “unfairly picked on” regarding the catching of bass and asked if there was anything that could be done to put pressure on CFAS or DEFRA to bring this case to light. Mr M Taylor replied that this was an MMO/DEFRA issue and the restrictions will stay in place for the foreseeable future but he was happy to pass on Mr S Manning’s comments.

CEO drew attention to a particular map in the report which outlined the large percentage of the area dedicated to marine protected areas which explained why the pressure on the science team has been so great.

Proposal to accept the annual report.

Proposed: Dr J Andrews Seconded: Cllr P Williams

RESOLVED

The motion passed unanimously.

54 DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS (Agenda Item 19)

Regarding disclosable interests dispensation procedure implementation, CEO announced this procedure was ready to be implemented. He outlined the new process, including members filling out a disclosable interests form. Mr B Leigh highlighted the importance of the forms in ensuring compliance with legislation, but highlighted the need for continuing assessment about newly emerging interests.

CEO confirmed he would take charge of amending the constitution and he and Anthony would monitor forms coming into the office. 7th January was agreed as the deadline for the forms.

Dr J Andrews asked for clarification if residential property needed to be declared as “any beneficial interest in land we have to declare.” Councillor Williams confirmed yes. Mr B Leigh stated, “If you have any doubt whatsoever, declare it... for the purposes of safety and certainty.”

Mr S Manning welcomed the changes but also sought clarification. Mr B Leigh clarified that the scheme of dispensations is there to allow members to discuss and contribute towards the debate but members, “absolutely acknowledge that they will never do so to incur personal favour or benefit.”

Dr E Baxter questioned if the forms could be circulated as a Word document attachment for accessibility and CEO agreed.

Proposal to agree the disclosable interests paper and process to be followed.

Proposed: Mr B Leigh Seconded: Dr E Baxter

RESOLVED

The motion passed.

55 AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION (Agenda Item 20)

CEO, “It is kind of similar in that it is amendments to the constitution, and it contains corrections which were given to you in a previous meeting and then, under our standing orders, they have stood adjourned from a previous meeting and now we can approve those corrections and I can include them and just do all the corrections for both this paper and the last paper in a new version of the constitution which we can send out hopefully before too long early next year.”

Dr J Andrews felt in paragraph 2 the meeting was agreeing to something that was not in the minutes but previously it had been noted “If it is not in the minutes that were subsequently agreed, it didn’t happen.” Cllr Williams agreed a need for consistency. The acting clerk

clarified that the approval of changes had been validly proposed in the minutes of 18th June and therefore paragraph 2 was incorrect.

Cllr M Wilson underlined the need for rigour when recording resolutions.

Proposal to agree the amendments to constitution

Proposed: Dr J Andrews Seconded: Mr B Leigh

RESOLVED

The motion passed unanimously.

CEO resolved to amend the constitution and issue another version of it.

56 AOB (Agenda Item 21)

1. Cllr P Williams raised the draft whistleblowing policy and said he would endeavour to ensure it was circulated before weekend.
2. Mr B Leigh raised the issue of litter. He said he had approached Keep Britain Tidy to propose a sticker campaign targeting recreational anglers, "Good anglers take their rubbish home." He was thanked by Councillor P Williams and praised by CEO.

MEETING ENDED