

**FORESTRY COMMISSION WALES NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009  
IN PORTMEIRION**

**Present:** Jon Owen Jones, Chairman                      Judith Webb  
Geraint George    Roger Cooper  
Trefor Owen    Rory O'Sullivan  
Peter Garson    Clive Thomas

**Also attending:** James Laing - Minutes Secretary

**INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

1. There were no apologies.

**NEWBOROUGH**

2. JOJ thanked Forest District staff for arranging the informative visit to the Prichard Jones Institute and Newborough Forest, Anglesey. At this point GG declared an interest in the matter and reminded the committee that he is a CCW Council Member. JOJ noted the declared interest.
3. There followed and detailed discussion on the challenges facing management regarding Newborough Forest. TMO outlined the need to work through due process and have a clear position for staff to deliver management objectives through an agreed management plan. ROS reminded the committee that WAG is the competent authority in regard to EU directives, and CCW are the statutory advisors to WAG. He would work closely with Mathew Quinn, DESH to ensure clarity regarding the position of WAG, FCW and CCW. TMO welcomed this offer with a view to getting the regulatory process in order.

**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

4. The minutes of 3rd July 2009 were approved as a true record.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

5. Director presented his report WNC24.09. He started by stating how pleased he was to be so closely involved in the development of Glastir. The National Forest Estate Wind Farm Programme draft planning application submitted to FCW had been withdrawn due to weaknesses. TMO reported that the landslip works at Tintern were completed and FCW did not have legal liabilities at this site. The sift for the non-executive post on the committee had been completed with interviews planned for September 24<sup>th</sup>. RC requested a copy of the Harvesting Resource Strategy for the Wales Forest Business Partnership. He

also registered concern about the e-recruitment process and accessibility for all interested parties to recruitment opportunities.

**Action: Provide a copy of the Harvesting Resource Strategy to the WFBP  
Provide more information on the e-recruitment process to NC**

PG  
TMO

## FINANCE REPORT

6. TMO presented paper WNC22.09 and confirmed that FCW could expect a 2% reduction in baseline in FY10/11. He outlined the scenario mapping that was now taking place, and informed the committee that Head of Finance was engaged in strategic financial planning at this stage. JW asked if there were any concerns regarding the delivery timetable for the new International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). TMO reported that Keith Gliddon had confirmed that IFRS is progressing in all three countries with 90% of the work completed in Wales. There followed detailed questioning of the financial data. The committee noted the current position.

**Action: Clarify £500k spend over budget on the social programme to NC**

TMO

## TAKING FORWARD THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT WOODLAND ESTATE

7. CT introduced paper WNC21.09 and explained that the context for this paper includes the ambition inherent within *Woodlands for Wales*. The question being asked was if the public estate was working hard enough and delivering as many of the outcomes from the strategy as it might. FCW now had to provide clear advice to the Minister together with the consequences of those actions. TMO wanted FCW to learn from the experience of the FC England study, and get options to the Minister.

**Action: Revised paper to reflect the suggestions made by members  
Progress discussion with the Minister**

CT  
CT

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT POLICY

8. CT presented paper WNC20.09. RC commented on the text and maps. ROS highlighted that the key policy issue related to access in areas of deprivation. The committee approved the policy position.

## FOREST RESEARCH

9. Hugh Evans presented WNC25.09 and reported progress on a range of issues. The Research Forest / National Laboratory initiative would bring together different disciplines, integrate and demonstrate issues on the ground. TMO added that the forest / laboratory needed to be the right forest, in the right location and have the right partners. He let the committee know that a proposed plant health project on pine wood nematode was in the final stages of assessment. If the project were successful it would lead to a better understanding of these issues in a European context. The committee noted the update.

## **WOODLAND EXPANSION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

10. CT tabled paper WNC23.09 and highlighted the crucial stage in the development of the Wales Climate Change Strategy. The paper outlined the potential role for forestry in meeting government targets, through a programme level approach. The main audience for the strategy is the Minister's Climate Change Land use group which is formulating policy options for the land use sector in Wales to help reduce emissions, as well as by wider green house gas abatement through sequestration. TMO welcomed the soil carbon emission data, which put forestry at the forefront of this debate. ROS identified cost data as being key to informing the discussion on carbon trading. RC added that the paper would benefit from including the underlying assumptions on climate change and carbon related issues.

**Action: Final submission to the land use group to be circulated to members**

**CT**

## **FORWARD LOOK**

11. JL presented the Forward Look confirming dates and forthcoming business for the remainder of 2009 and 2010. He requested any additional business items be passed to him for inclusion.

**Next Meeting - 20<sup>th</sup> November in RICS Office, Cardiff**