

FORESTRY COMMISSION WALES NATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2009 IN CARDIFF

Present: Jon Owen Jones, Chairman
Roger Cooper
Trefor Owen
Clive Thomas

Judith Webb
John Lloyd Jones
Rory O'Sullivan
Peter Garson

Also attending: Antony Wallis
James Laing (Secretariat)

INTRODUCTION

1. There were no apologies. JOJ welcomed John Lloyd Jones (JLJ) to his first meeting.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

2. The minutes of 4th September were approved after minor amendments to paragraphs 5 and 9.

Action: Share Harvesting Resource Strategy with WFBP by 15th Dec

PG

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3. TMO confirmed that FCW would be able to maintain planned programmes despite the reduction in baseline for FY10/11. JOJ asked if FCW could influence the timber market price by controlling volume supplied. TMO pointed out this was a complex area and added that many factors influence prices.
4. TMO updated the committee on Phytophthora species. JW requested clear lines of communications to deal with cross border issues. TMO responded that FC GB leading on communications and FCW was working closely with FCE and GB Communications.
5. TMO reported that he had signed off the draft planning application from Nuon UK. Nuon UK is expected to submit their planning application soon. FCW will update its communications plans in response to increased activity by Option holders.
6. TMO completed his report by highlighting affordable housing developments and the decrease in media attention at Newborough Forest. He added that the

Management Board was focussing on a small number of underperforming Performance Measures and that the FR Development Plan in Wales was completed.

Action: Send Management Board summary paper on Performance Measures to NC
Send FR Development Plan in Wales to NC

CT
JL

7. CT provided an update on the Public Forest Estate Study. The next step was to commission specific areas of research and provide recommendations to the Minister. FCW will report to the Minister next summer.

FINANCE REPORT

8. FY08/09 – DS confirmed that FCW's FY08/09 Accounts had been restated in line with the International Accounting Standards. This met the timetable agreed with the Wales Audit Office and took account of FC's particular complexities when accounting for the element of the Assembly Woodlands, that under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 41, is treated as a "biological asset".

Action: Explain the changes to the accounts arising from IFRS at the February 2010 NC meeting

DS

9. FY09/10 – DS stated that there had been little change in the financial position since the last report. The financial position remains stable. Finances in future years will be tighter and this was confirmed by ROS. The committee noted the current position.
10. RC requested more information on biomass expenditure, income and programmes.

Action: Biomass briefing paper to NC

TMO

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS POLICY

11. CT presented the WAG policy position on Education, Learning & Skills in support of delivering *Woodland for Wales*. The committee discussed the policy focus, confirmed it was written as a WAG policy and that it should link to other strands of WAG policy e.g. healthy lifestyles. The committee asked that all the policy positions state more explicitly what their purpose is and whom they are for and how they should be used. The committee asked to approve the revised

draft via correspondence.

Action: Email comments on policy to CT
Seek NC approval on policy position by correspondence

RC
CT

HERITAGE, LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL VALUE POLICY

12.CT presented the Heritage, Landscape and Cultural Value policy position. The committee discussed several aspects including the key audience, length of document, potential areas of trade-off, constraints on woodland creation and inclusion of wood pasture. CT responded that wood pasture would be covered in greater detail in the biodiversity policy and the document was for a policy audience. JLJ highlighted CCW work on landscape characterisation maps, which may be relevant. As well as these changes, the committee asked for the same generic changes as discussed under the earlier policy position to be made and that the revised draft be circulated for approval.

Action: Seek NC approval on policy position by correspondence

CT

FC WALES STRATEGIC VISION

13.TMO led a discussion on the future strategic direction of FC Wales, looking beyond the current Corporate Plan period. The committee agreed there was a need for this discussion in anticipation of forecasted budget constraints, and consideration of different ways of delivering the desired organisational outcomes. The committee encouraged Director FCW to take the matter forward with the Management Board. TMO confirmed he would progress the matter with the board at the meeting planned for January 2010.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE REPORT

14.JW shared the ARC report with the committee. The committee noted the report and approved the recommendation that future reports could take the form of draft/approved ARC minutes.

Action: Reschedule 2010 ARC meetings to 3 weeks before NC

JL

WOODLAND STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL REPORT

15.RC tabled his report, which the committee noted.

WOODLAND FOR WALES ACTION PLAN

16. CT explained the Plan, which would be refined before being presented to the Minister for adoption. RC pointed out that WSAP members would want to know which actions from the Plan have priority within the FC Wales Corporate Plan.

Action: Sequencing/status column to be added to the WWS Action Plan

CT

MANAGEMENT OF UNSTABLE SLOPES ON THE ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT WOODLAND ESTATE

17. Antony Wallis presented the paper and explained the control measures developed by FCW. PG added that these measures were now embedded in the operational planning processes.

Next meeting – Friday 12th February 2010 - RICS Office, Cardiff