

DRAFT Extract of MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FULL COMMITTEE, HELD AT ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS OFFICE, SWANSEA, FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2006, COMMENCING AT 10.10 HOURS

PRESENT

Mr N O'Sullivan (Chair)
Cllr H James (Vice Chair)
Cllr L W Willis
Cllr K Marsh
Cllr J Newbury
Cllr B Hall
Cllr Mrs E Hughes
Cllr K Hyde
Mr D Bray
Mr B Williams
Mr I Wisby
Mr L Lammas
Dr J Lancaster
Mr S De-Waine
Mr R A Phillips

REPRESENTING

Fishery Member
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
City & County of Swansea
City & County of Swansea
Pembrokeshire County Council
Bridgend County Council
Cardiff County Borough Council
Fishery Member
Fishery Member
Fishery Member
Fishery Member
Fishery Member
Fishery Member
Fishery Member

Also in attendance: P J Coates, M Stafford, L Llewellyn, M Rees, R Dolbear (151 Officer).

12. WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE WELSH FISHERIES

Director provided background to the 12th September announcement and on subsequent meetings with G Rees (new WAG Fisheries Policy Officer) and representations. He said that WAG were receptive to SWSFC views on Marine Bill, fishery management functions and Human Resource issues. WAG/HR managers were to meet with staff of SWSFC and NWNWSFC separately as matter of priority to try and allay their concerns.

Director laid for information the WAG Summary log of consultation responses. Mr Wisby said that his response was missing. Mr L Lammas said that he had supported Option 1 (IFCAs) but this was incorrectly attributed to supporting Option 3 (WAG).

Various members said that the decision reflected their previous view that the consultation was a paper exercise, and that the decision was pre-conceived.

I Wisby said that now WAG had made the decision it would be important that Committee and officers work to influence the outcome to get the best output. Dr Lancaster expressed concern that fishermen would only, in the future, have advisory input and would be ignored (as per the Consultees in this exercise). Political influence would ruin fisheries as had been amply shown elsewhere in the world.

Various Councillor members said that even though they were Council appointees, Local Authority Cabinet structures had precluded their input. Cllr Hall said that he had expressed concern but that officers' management team 'ruled the roost' and members followed their advice/Council Whip. He predicted it would cost more to achieve less under new WAG regime.

Mr Bray said the Ministers' letter wished to allay fears. He was not allayed. Cllr Marsh feared a wider hidden agenda with loss of services from LA to WAG.

The Director noted that officers were now placed in a very difficult position to be able to respond as future WAG employees (under TUPE provision). SWSFC Solicitor and Counsel had been employed in constructing SWSFC response (cost c £5k). Advice now was unclear in legal terms.

Mr Dolbear/Deputy Director considered the importance of ensuring that staff were best looked after within the transfer process. Mr Dolbear said that most successful *re-organisations retained* local bases if possible. Director had already made such representation to WAG.

It was RESOLVED to utilise Human Resource advice to that effect.