



**DRAFT MINUTES OF KIMO UK BUSINESS MEETING
Friday 5th June 2009**

HELD IN: Woodhill House, Aberdeen

1530 – 17:00

Present:

Councillor Joanna Strathdee – Aberdeenshire Council (Chair)

Councillor Len Scoullar - Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Norman MacDonald – CNES

Councillor George Farlow – Highland Council

Councillor Jim Henry – Shetland Islands Council

Councillor Iris Hawkins – Shetland Islands Council

Ian Robertson - Aberdeenshire Council

Austin Taylor – Shetland Islands Council

Jan Falconer – Aberdeen City Council

UK Coordinator – Tom Piper

KIMO Secretariat – John Mouat

Observers:

Colin Mulvana – Deputy SOSREP MCA

Tony Morris – West Sussex County Council

Richard Stone – Devon County Council

Apologies:

Mike Sullivan – Aberdeenshire Council

Stewart Turner – Argyll & Bute Council

Belinda Miller – Aberdeen City Council

Jim Foubister – Orkney Islands Council

Kevin Stewart – Aberdeen City Council

Robert Thomas – Aberdeenshire Council

Rick Nickerson -

Elizabeth Riches – Fife Council

Bob McLellan – Fife Council

Harry Miller - CNES

Bryan Thomas – Ceredigion Council

Item 1: Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed all those present and the apologies were noted.

Item 2: Draft Minutes of the KIMO UK Business Meeting held on 5th March 2009, in Stornoway.**Matters arising**

Mr Piper stated that he had written to CalMac in relation to the type of fuel being used onboard their vessels and was awaiting a reply. Cllr Farlow raised the shipment of radioactive metal from Rosyth to Sweden for recycling that we need to find out what the limits were for shipping this type of material.

The draft minutes were approved.

Action: Mr Tom Piper

Item 3: Finance and administration**(i) Update on Membership Campaign**

Mr Piper informed the meeting that he had visited Cornwall, Devon and Dorset County Councils and given presentations on KIMO with a view to encouraging them to join. However none had been in a position to join immediately there was interest in the organisation. There had also been initial interest from Northumberland, Angus and South Ayrshire but this needed following up on. Cllr Farlow asked if the travel was a problem for councils in the southwest and if we would need to alter the structure of the organisation and was informed that in Devon's the fee was more problematic. Mr Mouat stated that ultimately if there were a significant number of members in the southwest that we might need to develop separate Scottish and English/Welsh Forums.

Item 4: KIMO Conference: Lessons Learnt from MSC Napoli. Taking today's conference forward

Mr Piper stated that we had seen some very interesting presentations earlier in the day at the conference however it was important that we now followed up on the issue. He thanked Mr Mulvana, Mr Morris and Mr Stone for staying to discuss this point further.

The first point discussed was the issue of compensation and Mr Morris felt that in the aftermath of an incident involving non-toxic pollution the Department of Transport needed to take on more of a coordination role rather than everyone submitting individual claims. Mrs Falconer stated that the government should establish a central fund that could compensate local authorities in the short term whilst they were perusing compensation from the

owners and insurers. Cllr MacDonald thought that it was more important to ensure that ultimately compensation is in place however Mrs Falconer commented that in the current financial climate at Aberdeen it would be extremely difficult for them to respond to a significant accident.

Mr Morris thought there should be a properly funded statutory responsibility for coastal cleanup and not only on local authorities however the grey area of responsibility between low and high water need to be addressed. However he felt that the greatest need was for feasible and effective local plans.

Mr Stone suggested that the National Contingency Plan needed to be rewritten to consider all types of pollution and that KIMO should look at the LGA report on the Napoli. Mr Piper informed him that a review process was being initiated NCP. Mr Mulvana thought that the conference had been very good and raised many useful points and suggested that the legal issues should be raised directly with the DfT.

Cllr MacDonald stated that it was important for local authorities to have the security to take actions quickly and Mrs Falconer thought that there was a need to develop a project on the various aspects raised today.

Mr Mouat stated that himself and Mr Piper would review the LGA Report, Devon Local Inquiry and conference outcomes and develop a report for the next meeting. It was also agreed that Members would write to their local MEP's and other relevant officials to highlight the issues and to give presentations at any relevant council meetings.

Mr Mulvana, Mr Morris and Mr Stone left the meeting.

Action: Mr Mouat, Mr Piper and all Members

Item 5: Fishing for Litter initiatives

Scotland

Mr Piper stated that Fishing for Litter had exhibited at Fishing 2009 at the SECC in Glasgow. The presence had proved a valuable opportunity to engage with fishermen already in the scheme and 16 new vessels and been signed up including the first pelagic boats. Richard Lochhead MP Cabinet Secretary for the Environment had also visited the stand to find out how the project was progressing. Mr Piper was still trying to arrange a launch date for the project in Troon however this would depend upon securing a vessel.

Mr Piper also informed the group that he had started work on developing a national strategy for FFL to secure funding for the project post 2011. This would take the form of a series of national seminars in each of the devolved administrations, where there was interest, with funders, governments and stakeholders to map out a way forward.

Cllr Scoullar also informed the group that he had discussed the development of FFL in Argyll and Bute with Richard Lochhead at a recent meeting. Mr Piper informed him that there wasn't room in the budget for any more harbours however that he would happily discuss how they could take the project forward with Argyll and Bute officials. Cllr Farlow though we should be developing a zero waste policy for the marine environment

Action: Mr Piper

South West

Ms Henshall the Fishing for Litter South West project coordinator had submitted a report outlining the progress on the project so far. The main activity had been the establishment of the project in Newlyn where 12 boats were already signed up to the project. An official launch was also held on the 13th March where the press were invited to learn more about the project. As the BBC was unable to attend on the day they returned the following week to record a piece that was shown on both local and national news. Newquay harbour had also approached the project with a view to taking part and as the project had started late there was room in the budget to accommodate another harbour.

Action: None

Item 6: The Brent Field decommissioning stakeholder process

Mr Piper informed the group that he had attended the latest stakeholder meeting. The event concentrated on the sampling of the storage cells and the possible re-use options for the platform. As yet Shell is yet to identify a cost effective method of sampling the cells and work will continue to try and identify a safe and effective method of sampling. Due to the remote nature of the Brent Delta platform the no serious re-use options have been identified. Mr Mouat stated that it was important to keep up the pressure on the oil companies, as they were looking increase the number of derogations for leaving parts of the platforms in situ. Mr Piper stated he would be attending the next meeting and would follow up on this issue.

Action: Mr Piper

Item 7: Radioactive Emissions at Faslane Naval Base

Mr Piper explained that recent articles in the press have brought to light radioactive leaks at Faslane, the country's main nuclear submarine base, the information has been released following a freedom of information request. The worst breaches include three leaks of radioactive coolant from nuclear submarines in 2004, 2007 and 2008 into the Firth of Clyde. The documents showed that SEPA had given warning it would consider closing the base if it had the power to do so. Although civil radioactive safety regulations do not

apply to MoD sites, the department has previously said it would volunteer to uphold them at the base.

Cllr Scoullar stated that the Base Commander had invited Argyll and Bute councillors to the base and had stated that they had implemented measures to ensure that there were no more leaks. Cllr Macdonald and Farlow were also both concerned that standards had slipped so badly at the base as submarines regularly exercised in the Minch.

Mr Piper planned to write to the Base Commander, the Defence Minister and the Environment Minister to ask what improvements will be made to site practices.

Action: Mr Tom Piper

Item 8: Marine Bill Developments

Mr Piper informed the group that this paper was just for information and noted that Marine Scotland had been established on the 1st April and that the Marine Bill had been introduced to the Scottish parliament on the 29th April. The UK Marine Bill had also finished its Committee stage on the 21st April and had entered the report stage on the 5th May.

Cllr Henry stated that it was important that Local Authorities had control over marine planning, however Cllr MacDonald noted that it was difficult in maritime areas where there was more than one local authority.

Action: None

Item 9: Future consultations

Mr Piper informed the group that there were two ongoing consultations firstly a DEFRA consultation on Delivering Marine Conservation Zones and European Marine Sites: A draft strategy for marine protected areas for which he was preparing a response. Secondly the coordinator attended the initial Scottish Government Stakeholder Seminar on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive & the UK Marine Policy Statement in Stirling. This process is likely to be ongoing and the UK Coordinator will monitor future meetings.

Action: Mr Piper

Item 10: KIMO International Website and Leaflet Update

Mr Piper outlined the report that highlighted the new website beta address where members could review it and pass on any comments to Mr John Young the KIMO Marketing Assistant. A draft copy of the new KIMO International leaflet was also passed around for comment and most Cllr thought that it was very professional. Cllr Hawkins asked if a smaller version of the leaflet would be produced at a "top pocket" size. Mr Mouat informed her that Mr Young was

currently working on a series of thematic leaflets on KIMO's action areas that would be that size.

Action: Mr Young

Item 11: Update of KIMO International activities

Mr Mouat updated the group on recent activities at KIMO International. The Secretariat and KIMO Policy Adviser had coordinated the OSPAR ICG Marine Litter in Vigo where the main points of discussion had been finalising the statistical analysis of the data and assisting in the development of criteria and methodological standards for the MSFD. The following that meeting the EU had held the first Working Group on Good Environmental Status and Marine Strategy Coordination Groups in Brussels where they had outlined the proposed timetable for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

The Secretariat had also attended the OSPAR group that was working on reviewing the OSPAR structure and working towards the ministerial meeting in 2010. Mr Mouat felt that it was important to ensure that KIMO's views were represented as it could have a big impact on how OSPAR worked in the future. Finally the secretariat had attended the EU Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference in Rome, which was discussing the Maritime Policy. Mr Mouat stated that as the MSFD was supposed to be the environmental pillar of the Maritime Policy it was rather alarming that there was almost no mention of it thought the conference and that he would be raising this issue in the future

Action: None

Item 11: Date and location of next meeting

After some discussion it was decided that the policy of members hosting the meetings should be changed with the venue reverting to COSLA in Edinburgh to make it easy as possible for everyone to attend. However it was decided that a member should host the conference each year. The next meeting would be held on the 11th September.

Action: Mr Piper

Item 12: AOCB

There was no AOCB.