



**MINUTES OF KIMO UK BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY 10TH MARCH 2003
HELD IN: CONVENTION OF SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES
(COSLA) – EDINBURGH**

Present:

Councillor Jurgen Thomaneck – Aberdeen City Council (Chairman)
Councillor Joanna Strathdee - Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Angus Nicolson – CNES (Western Isles Council)
Mr Ian Robertson – Aberdeenshire Council
Mr Sandy Taylor - Argyll & Bute Council
Mr Harry Miller – Camhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council)
Mr Tony Lyman – North Lincolnshire Council
Mr John Mouat - Save the North Sea Project Co-ordinator

UK Co-ordinator: Mr Rick Nickerson – Shetland Islands Council

Apologies:

Councillor Jenny Watson - Aberdeenshire Council
Councillor Robin Banks - Argyll & Bute Council
Hon Pamela Crowe MHK – Isle of Man
Councillor Gordon Caselton – Kingston Upon Hull City Council
Councillor Ann Sutherland - Orkney Islands Council
Councillor Iris Hawkins – Shetland Islands Council
Councillor Gi Edwards – Ceredigion County Council
Councillor Mark Kirk – North East Lincolnshire Council
Mrs Valerie Cameron – Orkney Islands Council
Mr Stewart Halkett – Moray Council
Mr David Evans – Carmarthenshire Council
Mr Bryan Thomas – Ceredigion County Council
Mr Martin Hall - Isle of Man Government
Mr David Brooks – Kingston Upon Hull City Council
Mr Nick Wheeler – Pembrokeshire Coastal National Park Authority
Mr Alistair Hamilton – Shetland Islands Council
Mr Ian Livingston – Aberdeen City Council



	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>Item 1: Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Councillor Thomaneck welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced Mr John Mouat, the Save the North Sea project co-ordinator, to the members. <u>The apologies were noted.</u></p> <p>Item 2: Draft minutes of the KIMO UK business meeting held on Monday the 5th of March 2002, in Edinburgh.</p> <p><u>The minutes were approved</u></p> <p>Matters rising:</p> <p>Chemical Weapons and Munitions Dumps Conference</p> <p>Mr Nickerson announced that the planned conference on chemical weapons and munitions dumps had to be postponed, as there was not enough interest from delegates to cover the cost of the overseas speakers. However, Mr Nickerson stated that he was currently looking into alternative sources of EU funding. Mr Lyman suggested that a change of venue might increase the number of delegates wishing to attend. <u>It was agreed that the UK Co-ordinator should continue to seek funding</u></p> <p>UK National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan</p> <p>Mr Nickerson informed the group that he had not written to the government asking on the progress of the Green Paper on Statutory powers for Local government although he had raised the point with the Environment Minister Allan Wilson MSP. He had also raised the issue with the MCA who stated there were currently no plans for a paper. There had also been no review of the Contingency plan since its conception and <u>it was agreed that the UK co-ordinator should campaign on this issue.</u></p> <p>Councillor Thomaneck requested a copy of the Danish Oil Compensation Programme that had been translated into English in order to check its accuracy.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>UK Co-ordinator</p> <p></p> <p>UK Co-ordinator</p> <p>UK Co-ordinator</p>

	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>Humber Forum</p> <p>No answer had been received from the Humber Forum to KIMO UK's offer to give a presentation on their work. <u>Mr Lyman agreed to bring this up with the forum.</u></p>	<p>North Lincolnshire Council- Mr Lyman</p>
<p>Clean Coast Scotland Steering Group</p> <p>Mr Nickerson suggested that now that Mr Mouat had been appointed Project Co-ordinator for the Save the North Sea Project that he should attend the steering group meetings on behalf of KIMO. <u>This was agreed.</u></p>	<p>SNS Project Co-ordinator</p>
<p>Letter from Kevin McNamara MP re Cost of inspections at RAF Donna Nook</p> <p>Members considered information provided by Mr Lyman after correspondence with his local MP and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the cost of inspection and cleaning Donna Nook air weapons range. <u>After some discussion it was decided that KIMO UK should write to Mr McNamara thanking him and asking him to continue to pursue the issue.</u></p>	<p>UK Co-ordinator</p>
<p>Councillor Nicolson stated that he had written to the MOD about dumps in the Western Isles but to date had received no reply. <u>The Chairman suggested that KIMO UK continue to campaign on the issue and this was agreed.</u></p>	<p>UK Co-ordinator</p>
<p>Item 3: Special KIMO UK Business Meeting 20th October 2002, Aberdeen</p> <p><u>The minutes were approved.</u></p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>SEPA Policy & Financial review</p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that he had written to the Scottish Executive asking when the results of the consultation would be published but had received no reply.</p>	

	ACTION
<p>Item 4: KIMO International Board Meeting 17th March 2002</p> <p><u>The minutes were noted. Councillor Thomanek pointed out that Mr Horns name had been spelled incorrectly (Olf should read Olav).</u></p> <p>Mr Robertson inquired if any savings had been made as a result of using the KIMO Corporate card. Mr Nickerson informed the meeting that he had applied for a card but not received it yet. However substantial savings for travel on budget airlines had been achieved using his own credit card.</p> <p>Item 5: KIMO International Board Meeting 20th October 2002</p> <p><u>The minutes were noted</u></p> <p>Item 6: Finance</p> <p>(i) KIMO UK Audited Accounts ending March 2002</p> <p>The accounts were approved and Councillor Strathdee and Councillor Nicolson were authorised to sign them. It was agreed that the current auditors Baker Tilly should be retained. It was agreed that the UK Co-ordinator could sign the other documents required.</p> <p>(ii) Annual Budget for 2003/2004</p> <p>The Chairman raised the point that the cancellation fee for the conference on chemical weapons and munitions dumps not yet been invoiced and therefore the budget might be in deficit when this was presented. <u>The 2003/2004 KIMO UK Budget was approved.</u></p> <p>(iii) Membership Campaign</p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that there were no new members and that any new initiative to increase membership would have to wait until after local elections in May. Mr Nickerson suggested that it might be advantageous to split KIMO UK into three regional forums for England, Scotland and Wales and hold an annual conference. This would enable the forums to concentrate on more relevant issues and reduce travelling for members. <u>It was agreed</u></p>	<p>UK Co-ordinator</p>

	ACTION
<p><u>that Mr Nickerson should investigate this matter and report back at the next meeting</u></p> <p>Mr Nickerson also informed the members that there had been unsolicited interest from Borders Council and a representative had been invited to attend the meeting but had been unable to because of personal reasons. Mr Lyman inquired whether any members had actually been lost and the Chairman stated that only Fife Council had cancelled their membership and that he was disappointed by their decision. Mr Taylor requested that Mr Nickerson attend a meeting with Argyll and Bute Council and give a presentation on KIMO UK's work as they were considering their membership of the organisation. <u>It was agreed that Mr Nickerson should attend.</u></p>	UK Co-ordinator
<p>(iv) Atlantic Frontier Environmental Forum Membership</p> <p>Mr Nickerson suggested that KIMO UK apply for membership after June 2003 for the next year. Mr Taylor suggested that as some Councils were already represented on the forum it might be possible for a Councillor to present a joint brief. However Mr Nickerson stated that individual Councils agendas may differ from KIMO UK's and there may be a conflict of interest. <u>It was agreed that KIMO UK should apply for membership</u></p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that KIMO UK had been invited to attend the next meeting however he was unable to attend. <u>The Chairman and Mr Robertson both agreed to check their schedule and see if they were able to attend in his stead.</u></p>	UK Co-ordinator
<p>Item 7: Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR)</p> <p>(i) Summary Record of OSPAR WG on the Use and Impact on the Seabed (SEABED)</p> <p>Mr Nickerson informed the meeting that it was likely that SEABED may be disbanded and its work programmes would be incorporated into a new Working Group under the auspices of the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee (BDC). He did wish to raise the substantial amount of progress on the Conventional and Chemical weapons Work Programme. (pg 16/17 SR)</p>	

	ACTION
<p>(ii) Summary Record of the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee (BDC)</p> <p>Mr Nickerson highlighted that the issue of encounters with munitions due to cable and pipe-laying activities was not considered until he brought it to the Committee's attention. Mr Nickerson had also given a presentation on the Save the North Sea project and had pushed for the extension of the Marine Litter Monitoring Program for another three years. Not only was this agreed but also Sweden agreed to fund the project as Lead Partner.</p> <p>The Chairman was pleased that concrete results had been achieved on marine dumped conventional and chemical weapons after five years of lobbying. However that continued pressure should be kept up on Iceland, Portugal and Spain to disclose the sites of their weapons dumps. Mr Nickerson stated that draft guidelines were being drawn up for fisherman by Ireland the lead partner and also a draft recommendation that all contracted parties set up a central point for reporting of events and report to the committee once every three years was being considered.</p> <p>Councillor Nicolson inquired whether seamen were still prevented from identifying conventional and chemical munitions dumps by the Official Secrets Act. Mr Nickerson stated that he had received a letter from the MOD stating that seamen would not be prosecuted under the Act for providing information about dumps sites and that reports of any encounters should be forwarded to him. <u>It was agreed that Mr Nickerson should forward the MOD letter to members to use in local press to encourage seamen to come forward.</u></p> <p>Mr Nickerson raised the presentation made by Spain to BDC on the wreck of the Prestige and how it was supported by KIMO although this did not appear in the Summary Record.</p> <p>(ii) (a) OSPAR Reporting Format on Encounters with Conventional and Chemical Weapons.</p> <p>Mr Nickerson explained the reporting procedures and stated that although they still and to be agreed by the Committee he expected them to be approved with some small amendments by Ministers in June.</p>	<p>UK Co-ordinator</p>

	ACTION
<p>Mr Lyman raised the point of fishermen's obligations relating to reporting encounters with munitions and Mr Nickerson informed him that anything caught in nets and thrown over the side should be marked with a buoy and reported to the UK Coastguard. Ireland as Lead Partner was to develop draft fishermen's guidelines for consideration by OSPAR next year. The Chairman said the main issue was the collection of information rather than non-reporting of incidents.</p> <p>Mr Lyman inquired as to whose responsibility it was to remind the fishermen to report encounters. Mr Nickerson stated that the MCA issued a Marine Notice stating their requirements. Mr Lyman suggested that KIMO should be involved in promoting reporting of encounters in the UK.</p> <p>Item 8: Letter from Western Isles Council re RIFE 6/7 Reports on Radioactivity in the Environment 2000/2001</p> <p>(i) SEPA Letter re Radioactive Substances (Basic Safety Standards) (Scotland) Direction 2000</p> <p>Mr Nickerson believed that SEPA appeared to not understand the concerns of coastal communities over the marine dischargers from Sellafield and were content to leave the matter to their sister organisation the Environment agency (EA) who have responsibility in England and Wales. The letter stated, "Reciprocal arrangements exist between SEPA and the EA relating to the consultations on applications for an authorisation which may impact on Scotland". However Mr Nickerson stated he had not found this in the public domain. <u>It was agreed that Mr Nickerson should write to SEPA and ask for their response on consultations with EA</u></p> <p>(ii) NENIG Report on SEPA Radioactive Monitoring (tabled)</p> <p>Councillor Nicolson wished to thank KIMO and NENIG for producing such a comprehensive report. Members considered the recommendations of the report. Mr Nickerson stated that the report did not refer to the levels of discharges but only to the quality of the monitoring. Reporting of the results in the RIFE Report was a particular issue as it was not graphical and was difficult to analyse.</p>	<p>UK Co-ordinator</p>

	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>Mr Taylor stated that the RIFE Report did not include all local authority radioactivity reports although these did not include Tc-99. The Chairman suggested that KIMO should write to all local authorities requesting information on what testing is undertaken, what elements are tested for and what is done with the results. Mr Robertson suggested that Dr Macdonald, Chairman of the Scottish Food Enforcement Agency Liaison Committee might be able to get this information. <u>It was agreed this should be undertaken.</u></p>	UK Co-ordinator
<p>Several members were concerned with the lack of monitoring of seaweed for Tc-99 as it is used as a fertiliser and for industrial production of alginate. <u>It was agreed that KIMO should continue to raise this point with SEPA.</u></p>	UK Co-ordinator
<p>(ii) (a) Press Release on NENIG Report (tabled)</p> <p><u>It was agreed the press release should be circulated within all member authorities and a hard copy sent to all KIMO international members as well as Scottish Environment Minister Allan Wilson, Environment Minister Michael Meacher and the Food Safety Agency (FSA).</u></p>	UK Co-ordinator
<p>(iii) Early Day Motion - EDM 984 Nuclear Plant Discharges</p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that the number of signatures on this early day motion had nearly doubled due to the intervention of KIMO and thanked members for their help in contacting local MP's.</p> <p>Item 9: Draft minutes from 12th Anniversary KIMO International Conference and AGM 18th, 19th and 20th October 2002 (tabled)</p> <p><u>The minutes were noted</u></p> <p>The date of the next KIMO International AGM and Conference is 3rd, 4th and 5th of October 2003 at Blåbjerg Kommune in Denmark.</p>	

	ACTION
<p>Item 10: Summary of Record of the Committee of North Sea Senior Officials (CONSSO) Meeting – 13/14th November 2002</p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that he had successfully been able to effect a change in the terms of reference obliging the Network of Prosecutors to report to CONSSO annually. In February he had also attended the CONSSO Issue Group meeting on Sustainable Shipping and was pleased this issue had been raised on their agenda. The Issue Group was being convened to implement Ministerial decisions agreed in the Bergen Declaration up to the next Ministerial Meeting in 2005/6 on shipping.</p> <p>Item 11: Press release and Meeting with Allan Wilson - Scottish Environment Minister -</p> <p>A full version of the record of the meeting with Mr Wilson was tabled as pages were missing in the original documents. Mr Nickerson stated that it was good that KIMO UK was involved in meetings of a Ministerial level and although little actual progress was made the Minister had taken many issues on board. Members welcomed the initiative and expressed the wish that regular meetings would be useful.</p> <p>Item 12: Activity Report (2002) for Save the North Sea Project</p> <p>Mr Nickerson presented the SNS Activity Report for 2002 pointing out that some of the three-year targets had already been exceeded in the first year. However the target of 250,000 visitors to the website was well behind with only 33. <u>It was agreed the members would look into placing links on their authorities websites to the Save the North Sea website.</u></p> <p>Mr Nickerson stated that the fishing for litter project was almost half way to its target of 60 boats. He hoped that the Shetland project would be underway by May 2003 Peterhead and Sweden following later in the year.</p> <p>Mr Lyman stated that he had put Dr Franeker in contact with Prof. Lynn Frosdick at Hull University who had contact with bird groups on the east coast.</p> <p>Considerable discussion took place on the UK management of the project and how to implement the timetable for launching the project in Peterhead and</p>	<p>All Members</p>

	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>Item 15: Lofoten Against Sellafield Conference – April 22nd/23rd 2003</p> <p>KIMO has been invited to give a presentation at the Lofoten Conference, which will be attended by the Norwegian Environment Minister. <u>It was agreed Mr Nickerson should attend and give a presentation.</u></p>	UK Co-ordinator
<p>Item 16: Article from the Look out – re Pollution from Cruise Liners</p> <p>The article highlighted the situation in the US where prosecutions were being brought against Cruise Lines for oil pollution. Mr Nickerson that there was still no compensation fund for non-hazardous goods onboard containerships. <u>It was agreed that KIMO should continue to campaign on this issue.</u></p>	UK Co-ordinator
<p>Item 17: Date and location of next KIMO UK Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting would take place in August 2003 at COSLA in Edinburgh.</p>	
<p>Item 18: AOCB</p> <p>(i) Letter from Western Isles Council (tabled)</p> <p>The Chairman raised the letter from Mr Henry Miller inviting Mr Nickerson on behalf of the Western Isles Council to give a presentation on Tc-99 and Marine Litter to the Environmental Services Committee. <u>It was agreed Mr Nickerson should attend</u></p> <p>(ii) Letter from Mr George Totten (tabled)</p> <p><u>Councillor Nicolson raised Mr George Tottens letter concerning the Empire Woodlark and agreed to look into this ship and others vessels.</u></p> <p>Mr Nickerson suggested that EU End of Life Vehicles Directive (2000/53/EC) was an issue that KIMO should be campaigning on. This was a major issue for not only coastal local authorities but all Councils and he believed it was appropriate for KIMO UK to take a view. He suggested that a campaign which had been initiated</p>	

	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>some years ago by the Shetland Amenity Trust and Shetland Islands Council for a deposit on all new vehicles, which would be reimbursed at the end of the vehicles life, should be investigated. <u>It was agreed that the issue should be investigated and a report made to the next meeting.</u></p> <p>(iii) Chairman Retirement</p> <p>As the Councillor Thomanek was stepping down as Chairman after the meeting he was presented with a present from KIMO UK. All the members thanked the Chairman for his many years of excellent service to the KIMO cause.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 12:20</p>	<p>UK Co-ordinator</p>