



The one hundred and seventeenth meeting of the
Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held
at 08.45 on 29th November 2018
JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY

This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion
or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for
Committee's position on the paper.

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Joint Nature Conservation Committee 116th Meeting Minutes Unconfirmed

Date: 20 September 2018	Time: 08.45
Venue: Doubletree by Hilton, St Maurices Road, York, YO31 7JA	

Present

Professor Melanie Austen
Independent member

Mr Charles Banner
Independent member

Professor Ian Bateman
Independent member

Ms Cath Denholm
Scottish Natural Heritage

Professor Colin Galbraith
Independent member

Professor Chris Gilligan
Independent Chair

Dr Madeleine Havard (on the telephone for
items 1-6 and 10, 12 and 14)
Natural Resources Wales

Dr Joe Horwood
Natural England

Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside

Professor Marian Scott
Independent member

In attendance

Mr Chris Brooks
JNCC

Dr John Goad
JNCC

Miss Yessica Griffiths (items 1-6 and 10, 12
and 14)
JNCC

Dr Tim Hill
Natural England

Professor Christine Maggs
JNCC

Mrs Tracey Quince
JNCC

Mr Paul Rose
JNCC

Professor Jason Weeks
JNCC

Mr Steve Wilkinson
JNCC

Mr Marcus Yeo
JNCC

Apologies

Members

Dr Mike Cantlay
Scottish Natural Heritage

Professor Howard Platt
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside

Attendees

Mr Mike Evans
Natural Resources Wales

Dr Steve Gibson

JNCC

Mrs Sally Thomas
Scottish Natural Heritage

Observers

Professor Michael Winter
Natural England

1. Closed session for members only

1.1 There are no minutes for this item.

2. Chairman's opening remarks

2.1 Professor Gilligan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that this would be Dr Horwood's last meeting and thanked him for his valuable contribution on behalf of the Committee including chairing the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Group. Dr Havard was unable to join the meeting in person due to a clash of dates with a Natural Resources Wales Board meeting. It was Dr Havard's last meeting, and Professor Gilligan thanked her for her work on behalf of the Committee.

2.2 Professor Gilligan informed members of a number of membership changes. Ms McCrea had resigned as Chair of Natural Resources Wales and Dr Havard had been appointed acting Chair. Welsh Government would be appointing an interim Chair shortly. Dr Hilary Kirkpatrick has had her appointment as Chair of the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside extended to 28 February 2019 and Professor Platt's appointment had been extended until 30 April 2019. Lord Blencathra (David MacLean) has recently been appointed Deputy Chair of Natural England and would be joining the Joint Committee. Mr Sells, Natural England Chair, leaves on 31 January 2019. Professor Gilligan advised that he awaited confirmation of Natural England's second member to the Joint Committee.

2.3 Professor Gilligan noted the superb engagement event the previous day and thanked Dr Hill for jointly arranging the event with JNCC staff.

2.4 Mrs Quince advised members that the Committee quorum is six members (four independent members and two independent members. Members have to be in attendance for the relevant items. Dr Havard had provided written comments on papers in advance of the meeting. Members agreed that to avoid any doubt regarding decisions made, an email note would be circulated after the meeting for members to formally agree decisions required on papers.

2.5 Professor Gilligan advised that to aid the flow of business going forward, agenda items for information and requiring no discussion would be asterisked to clearly identify them in future meetings. Members could still raise queries on these items in advance of or at the meeting as required.

3. Declaration of interests

- 3.1 No new declarations were made. Professor Gilligan informed members that the register of interests would be circulated to members shortly so they could check their declarations of interest were up to date.

Action point(s)
AP01. Mrs Elliott to circulate the register of members' interests.

4. Confidential minutes of the June 2018 meeting (JNCC 18 31)

- 4.1 The minutes of the March meeting were confirmed.

5 Matters arising (JNCC 18 32)

- 5.1 There were no matters arising.
- 5.2 The Committee noted the report of outstanding actions in Annex 1.

6 Chief Executive's report on topical issues (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 33)

- 6.1 This item was taken in confidence.

7 Report from Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Sub-Group (Official) (Oral report)

- 7.1 Dr Horwood reported that the Marine Protected Areas Sub-Group had not met since the last Joint Committee meeting in June. The next meeting was due to take place on 12 October. Professor Austen will take over the chairmanship of this sub-group. The 12 October meeting will consider sign-off of advice on Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zones in England. Quality assurance checks will be completed at the meeting and the sub-group will advise the Joint Committee accordingly.

8 Report from ARAC (oral)

- 8.1 Professor Galbraith gave a presentation on the key issues discussed at the ARAC meeting on 19 September.
- 8.2 The meeting had focussed on a number of matters and the Committee was informed that:

- i. a replacement for the Unicorn CITES licensing IT system would be after EU Exit Day 1 (March 2019);
 - ii. there was a need for an assessment of potential impacts on JNCC of the new environmental body to be established post Brexit;
 - iii. good progress had been made implementing outstanding audit recommendations and the internal audit plan for 2018/19 had a clear timeline agreed. The transformation audit would be undertaken on a consultancy basis to inform management's thinking;
 - iv. one additional risk concerning turnover on Joint Committee membership had been added to the significant risks register and the rating of the risk around funding had been reduced. A risk on cyber security was to be added to the register to reflect current concerns;
 - v. overall, the results of a recent effectiveness survey had indicated ARAC is an effective committee. There were some areas for development including better communication with Defra, ensuring there are appropriate IT skills within ARAC, and an improved induction process and handover for new members;
 - vi. legislative compliance had been maintained in 2017/18 with one minor breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007);
 - vii. the annual assessment of external audit had shown that overall the performance of the auditors was good. There were some issues around the use of junior auditors that had been communicated to the National Audit Office; and
 - viii. ARAC had welcomed more detailed environmental reporting and had highlighted the need for a regular review of the equality and diversity policy.
- 8.3 Professor Galbraith informed members that work was now being undertaken to map JNCC's assurance across the organisation with the development of an integrated assurance framework.
- 8.4 The Committee thanked Professor Galbraith for an excellent report, noting the clarity of content.

9 Report from Chief Scientists Group (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 34)

- 9.1 This item was taken in confidence.

10 External factors affecting JNCC (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 35)

- 10.1 This item was taken in confidence.

11 Update on JNCC's EU exit activities (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 36)

- 11.1 This item was taken in confidence.

12 Quarter 1 performance report 2018/19 (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 37)

12.1 This item was taken in confidence.

13 Updated financial delegations (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 38)

13.1 This item was taken in confidence.

14 Corporate communications strategy (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 39)

14.1 This item was taken in confidence.

15 Progress towards a Business Development Strategy for JNCC (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 40)

15.1 This item was taken in confidence.

16 Business planning and Spending Review (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 41)

16.1 This item was taken in confidence.

17 Science audit in JNCC (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 18 42)

17.1 This item was taken in confidence.

18 Joint Committee forward programme (Official) (JNCC 18 43)

18.1 Professor Gilligan introduced the item. Dr Kirkpatrick asked for an advance conversation with CNCC and DAERA before the planned meeting in Northern Ireland in June 2019.

19 Any other business

19.1 Dr Horwood thanked JNCC staff for their help throughout his time on Committee, in particular those involved with marine protected areas with whom he had worked closely.

19.2 The next meeting is to be held in Peterborough on 28-29 November 2018. There will be no engagement event but a workshop on developing JNCC's strategy is planned for the afternoon before the meeting. Full attendance at the workshop is expected.