



**MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY BUSINESS UNITS NATIONAL ORGANISING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2007 IN
SILVAN HOUSE, EDINBURGH**

Present:	Alistair Gillies	Chair, GMB
	Roy Laird	H & S Co-ordinator, GMB
	Laurence Villa	TGWU
	Paul Bullock	TGWU
	Bruce Hamilton	PCS
	Sue Gillingwater	FCTU Office

Minute Secretary:	Andrew Stewart	Prospect
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Apologies:	Eric Williams	TGWU
	Norrie Russell	TGWU

1. Introduction

AG introduced new members to the FBUSC Laurence Villa who was attending as a guest, and Paul Bullock who is a new member of the NOC, he also welcomed Sue Gillingwater as the NOC support officer from the TUS office.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the last meeting.

3. Matters Arising From Last Meeting

The Restructuring of MES England has been settled and has been dismissed from the agenda.

4. FBUSC Agenda discussion

The NOC discussed upcoming issues for the meeting on the 1st March 2007; these included Business Briefing by our new director, Michael Ansel.

An update on the "On the Ground" initiative will be requested as this issue has resurfaced with respect to the FCE Peebles office. BH to lead

Information was also requested on the "New Business Unit" referring to the Sustainability post and the implications, and challenges this would have for Units within the Forestry Business Units.

The Post 2005 employee survey MES action plan was discussed, and welcomed by all NOC members; our input will be put before the FBUSC at the next meeting.

FCE Job evaluation Programme, given the reorganisation of FCE, an undertaking was given to JEG posts at senior Pay Bands, followed by an evaluation of other Pay

bands once the new structure had embedded. Assurances were to be sought from management and to look to produce a timetable for this JEGS evaluation.

5. On the Ground

This item was incorporated into item 4.

6. Report From PROSPECT ADC

AS introduced this item to discuss issues that had been brought up at the Annual Delegates Conference in early February.

Lord Clark 's comments were welcomed for the praise he offered the FC as "can do " organisation, bringing projects in on budget and on time, these included the 1 million trees planted in Wigan, and the development of ideas such as " Green Gyms" to help reduce obesity and improve health.

Also the challenges to ensure that the 2012 Olympics left a green legacy from the use of wood in the construction of the Olympic Village to ensuring a woodland park as a lasting legacy.

He also mentioned the important role the FC could play in the wood fuel strategy and the opportunities this could bring.

Lord Clark summed up by saying the FC had a responsibility to continue to deliver what was required but must prove itself "Fit for purpose" and proving what people wanted from the estate. He also commented that in one area we let ourselves down, this being the promotion of what benefits we do to for the general public and the nation as a whole.

Pension concerns were also raised at the PROSPECT ADC in particular the " shared responsibility clause introduced to deal with the increased costs of the schemes. Meaning that the employer contribution was fixed at 20% and that there was a shared responsibility between employer and employee above that. Figures calculated in 2003 put this figure at 19.4% . They are now due for recalculation in 2007 and there is a chance that the 20% figure has already been exceeded. The hypothesis is that the changes to the pension for new entrants from July 2007, and an increased retirement age will start to reduce this figure.

7. Discussion of Arrangements for the forthcoming NOC elections.

Sue Gillingwater gave a report on the procedures that must be adhered to, to follow the NOC constitution. A healthy debate followed on the procedures and on the constitution. Thanks were given to Sue the clarity she brought to the discussion.

8. H & S

LV sought Clarification on the PPE with reference to the type of hard hats Mechanics require.

Emily Ramsey was also seeking Health & safety Co-ordinators to work with to deal with Health & safety issues. Robert Beaney would be co-ordinating this, although NOC's should be aware of their role too.

9. AOCB

(PB) The problems around the pay progression of apprentice mechanics was discussed and would be brought up and discussed at the FBU and NOC and the correct format to take their issues forward.

10. Date of next meeting

TBC