



**MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION TRADE UNIONS' ENGLAND
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2011
AT FOSS HOUSE, YORK**

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| Present: | Allan MacKenzie | FCTU England Chair |
| | Mick Hoban | PCS |
| | Paul Cody | Prospect |
| | Martin Johnston | PCS |
| | Robert Beaney | FCTU GB Chair |
| | Roy Laird | FCTU DC GMB |
| | Ian Everard | PCS |
| | Stephen Smith | Prospect |
| | Kevin Penfold | Prospect |
| Minute Secretary: | Helen Daniels | PCS |
| Apologies: | Steve Holdsworth | PCS |
| | Jim O'Neill | PCS Co-opted |
| | Mary Irvine | FCTU DC PCS |
| | Lorraine Adams | FCTU DC Prospect |
| | Imogen Radford | PCS Research Unit |
| | Sue Gillingwater | FCTU Office Communications |

1. Introduction

Allan welcomed members and acknowledged the short timeframe had made it impossible for other invitees to attend.

2. Current state of play

- An extension to date for response to consultation had been requested.
- Sunday 20 March, World Forest Day would be used as an Action day at Dalby. Local MP's and media would be attending with the objective of keeping politicians interested and involved.
- Allan would be speaking to Pam Warhurst to try to secure FCTU representation on the Review Panel, who would then need to formally request this of the Secretary of State. The Government's decision to abandon the PFE consultation had been based around the timber trade reaction. It would be up to Committee members to influence NGOs and Allan would work up who will do this with the aim of demonstrating that FC is the correct vehicle to deliver timber production, recreation and

learning, but in the meantime Kevin agreed to draft a letter seeking a meeting.

Action: Allan and Kevin

- The '38 Degrees' campaign group would now move away from FC but it was hoped that a final 'sign-off' could be achieved with a campaign of '30p letters' to Caroline Spellman or Treasury to tie in with a press release. Allan would investigate cheque processing costs.

Action: Allan to investigate cheque processing costs

- It was reported that staff have expressed disappointment the DG did not appear to be robustly leading the FC and had not attended any staff meetings. Allan and Robert reassured the Committee the DG had been fighting hard with DEFRA on behalf of the FC but agreed to make representations to the DG about his perceived remoteness at their next scheduled meeting.
- It was unclear where Caroline Spelman's statement that "the FC acknowledges the need for change" had come from, but Allan surmised that it was likely she had taken an FC remark out of context.

3. SR10 Staff structures

At this point in the meeting Allan was able to confirm that an extension of one month for formal response has been agreed.

- It was decided therefore that feedback from the membership was needed and a further round of meetings, for union members only, should be held at the 13 venues plus additional locations as necessary.
- A Chair would be required for each meeting, someone to deliver the Questions and Answers as per Annex 2 and a note-taker. Kevin agreed to draft the invitation letter and explain the purpose of the meeting was to obtain views and alternative proposals from members. Allan had already asked for additional information of (1) current organograms (2) restocking and harvesting plans and (3) Equality Impact Assessments. Helen would draw up a list of venues and leaders. FCTU reps need to gather responses from all Unions on both the Protocol and the structures. Responses from all meetings to be sent to Helen by 23rd March.

Action : Kevin to draft invitation

Action: Helen to draw up meetings list and co-ordinate responses

Action FCTU : Responses to Helen by 23rd March

- It was agreed the FCTU meeting on 8th March would focus on trying to establish savings in staff salaries, FC objectives and mission

statements to identify the purpose for each new district.

Action: Allan and Kevin to collate thoughts, Helen to Agenda

- Allan would be meeting Jean Lindsey to discuss the Staff Protocol and Matrix for assimilation. A request would be made to have a union observer on each of these panels. Clarity was still needed regarding the situation with FTAs.

Action: Allan to seek clarity from Jean re FTAs

- Allan confirmed the aim of the FCTU's involvement was to engage with and protect members, make any imposed changes as fair as possible and to try and ensure the new structures were strong enough to deliver a viable future for the FC. It was regretted that management had gone straight to restructuring whilst missing out the 'business process re-engineering' stage.
- Kevin and John Bates have a watching brief on the working group on regulatory reform.
- No visitor centre staff or foremen at Kielder were identified on the organograms which seemed to imply pre-decisions and not consultation.

4. Chair of the Committee

The chairmanship needed to be transferred by 1st April and Allan undertook to speak to Steve Holdsworth to ascertain if he was able to take this on.

Action: Allan to speak to Steve regarding Chair

5. Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 8 March - Staff Council (Pre-meeting 9.00)
Ergon House, London