



## Annual General Meeting, 18 October 2023, 17.30 – 18.15

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### MINUTES

The fifty fourth Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Fisheries Management was held at 17.30 on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at The University of Edinburgh.

There were 25 members present, including 4 by Zoom. As there should be at least 20 members present to be quorate, the AGM was valid and could continue.

The meeting was chaired by the President, and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Chris Mills.

A recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

#### 1. Apologies for absence.

- Apologies were received from: Si Smith, Alan McGurdy, Tony Rees, Tony Bostock, Graeme Storey, Adrian Saunders and John Solbe.

#### 2. To confirm the Minutes of the fifty third Annual General Meeting of Tuesday 8 November 2022.

- The AGM minutes of 2022 were approved. Proposed by Heidi Stone, seconded by Steve Axford and all were in favour.
- The 2022 AGM minutes can be referred to [here](#).

#### 3. The Annual Report of the Board of Trustees

- Chris Mills, President and Chair of the Board of Trustees presented the annual report of the Trustees.
- The slides for the report can be viewed [here](#).
- Chris reported that Valerie Holt, MBE, was retiring from the Board of Trustees. He thanked and congratulated her on many years (since the late 1970s) of outstanding service to the Institute and wished her well in the future noting that she would continue as a Vice President of the Institute.

#### 4. The Annual Report of the Executive Team.

- David Bunt, Chief Executive Officer, presented the annual report of the Executive team by Zoom.
- The slides for the report can be viewed [here](#).

#### 5. The Financial Report and Accounts

- Nicola Teague, Finance Director, presented the Financial Report and Accounts for 2022.
- The slides for the report can be viewed [here](#).

#### 6. Election of President

- Adrian Smith, Trustee, took the chair temporarily whilst the election of President took place.
- There were no other nominees, and Chris Mills was duly elected to serve for another year. Proposed by Heidi Stone, seconded by Steve Axford and all were in favour.

## **7. Election of Trustees**

- Adrian Smith was elected for a further term of three years. Proposed by Ian Wellby, seconded by Paul Coulson and all were in favour.

## **8. Subscriptions**

- The Board had recommended that there are no changes to subscriptions for 2024.

## **9. IFM Charitable Status**

- The Board had asked that the membership consider and vote on the proposals:
  - That the Institute does not currently progress an application to become a charity.
  - That the Institute registers to become a Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Chris Mills gave a brief overview of why the Board was making these recommendations and this was followed by a question and answer session.
- In that discussion, Trustee, Steve Axford, stated that he had voted against not re-applying for Charitable Status and that, in his opinion, the case as to whether or not charitable status would benefit the Institute required further consideration through the development of a business case. Chris Mills agreed to this proposal being considered by the Trustees at their next Board meeting and that, if agreed, a group would be set up to develop the business case requested. In the meantime, reapplication would be suspended at least until the next AGM in 2024 when if there was a positive business case the matter would be put back to the membership for a final decision (It was made clear that this was subject to the members supporting the motion not to reapply at the current time)
- It was agreed:
  - That the Institute would not currently progress an application to become a charity, and that a group, independent of the Executive, would investigate whether there is a robust business case to become a charity. Votes for: 27 Votes against: 2 The motion was carried.
  - That the Institute registers to become a Company Limited by Guarantee. Votes for: 29, Votes against: 0; all were in favour.

## **10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**

- The IFM Board had recommended that Girling & Company Chartered Accountants are appointed as auditors for 2023, and that there is a review of the provision of accountancy services from the financial year 2024.
- This was approved by members. Proposed by Ian Wellby; seconded by Adrian Smith and all were in favour.