

**SUMMARY OF THE CEREALS & OILSEEDS BOARD MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2020 AT 8.30 A.M.**

WOODSIDE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, KENILWORTH

PRESENT:

Paul Temple (Chairman) (PT), Ian Backhouse (IB), Tony Bell (TB), Bob King (BK), Howard Leland (HL), Andrew Moir (AM), David Neal-Smith (DNS), James Price (JP), Mark Wood (MW)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Grantley-Smith (MGS), Susannah Bolton (SB), David Eudall (DE), Richard Meredith (RM), Simon Oxley (SO), Caroline Burniston (notes) (CB)

IN ATTENDANCE FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:

Steve Dunkley (SD), Tess Howe (TH), Professor Huw Jones (HJ), Jane King (JK)

CHAIR WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PT welcomed the Board members to the meeting.

CEO ANNUAL UPDATE

JK gave an update on the recent fire within the building and also a detailed summary on AHDB Chair recruitment and how it impacts on strategy.

The recent Request for Views survey and the findings was also discussed and debated and key survey areas, for example Sector Board feedback, the importance of KE teams working with levy payers on the ground and issues around Skills and ELMS supporting to farmers to access work we are delivering leading to greater survey engagement was debated.

Agri – Hort Leadership slides were delivered to the group, with primary production being key along with confirmation of a new strategy roll to support professionalising the industry which currently suffers from fragmentation. JK covered the strategic aims of this project and stated at the heart of this professional body will be a database that will help build labour market data. Government interest in supporting this and providing money was confirmed with national conversations commencing around lifelong learning and how critical it will be to the industry. Synergies with construction industry, with no reason why we cannot emulate lots of what is already out there

Questions around Chartered status and its roll out in Scotland were debated by the Board along with confirmation that AIC were also in support.

SKILLS

SD and TH introduced themselves offering background to the team and an overview of their role and responsibilities. TH delivered a presentation on a LEAF based competency



framework bringing strategy and finance skills forward linking in data from external sources along with micro credentials and how they would support and streamline areas of work leading to a more positive view of the industry. Budgets were confirmed as required in the first year to get it up and running along with the costs and risks shared to the group.

MW confirmed the benefits of a whole multi-pronged approach stating the importance of finding out if industry will support this before money is spent. The importance of making this cross sector to encourage staff retention along with issues around differing industry's competency frameworks was also discussed. JP debated how this fits with the KE strategy and also confirmed the support this would give to people coming out of further education Approval given.

JK, TH AND SD left the meeting

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Jane Biss and Russ McKenzie.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2019

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION POINTS FROM THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2019

MGS recapped on the matters arising and action points, confirming all items were either ongoing, on the agenda, completed or covered in the SSD/Chairman's report.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

PT reflected on the Election and exiting the EU tomorrow confirming there was still an uncertain trade deal ahead, with a cabinet reshuffle planned leading to frustration over simple government decisions that should have been made beforehand. Confirmation of the Agri bill as being very vague, hence open to interpretation. Confirmation of the 'What Works' agenda becoming increasingly important with new technology available resulting in a new capacity to build and the infrastructure now available to help this happen. PT stated that the Corona virus was moving up the business agenda and debated how this affects the industry confirming any damage to the Chinese economy could have an impact, stating China is seen as a key part for market development within the meat sectors. PT confirmed Jonathan Tipples had stood down from the Pensions Board and was replaced by George Lyon.

PT shared an excellent response to C&O Board recruitment.

SECTOR DIRECTORS REPORT

Forecasting the 2020 harvest – The Board agreed to David Eudall's proposal to repeat our November Early Bird planting intention survey, given the state of planting in the Autumn.



IPM – Whilst the Board has previously agreed to our IPM programme, they wished to add that we need to look at the wide duplication of variety trials work and pesticide testing. They believe that this is costing the industry a huge amount of money and asked AHDB to look at whether we could pick some of this work up.

eGrain Passport – An update was shared on the second meeting of the working group. The group is now moving the work forwards. However, the original eGP needs updating and re-trialling. The Board expressed concern in funding this without some clear commitments from industry sectors that they can persuade enough members to use it. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

David Eudall left the meeting at 10.45am

C&O MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS, LEVY UPDATE AND DEBTORS AGE ANALYSIS

Figures reviewed up until the end of December. Finances debated and confirmed focusing on overspend and underspends where appropriate. Total expenditure confirmed. Accurate for this. End of year forecast also confirmed.

Levy update – confirmed as an unusual year this and next year – more grain in store that would generate levy but has not come forward this financial year. PT suggested to remain committed to the risks which we financially can support. Board agreed

RL LOOK AHEAD REPORT

SO delivered an overview and a time line associated to the programme and asked what the future is for the RL. PT asked for views on the summary, JP questioned the robustness. It was confirmed that the project and consortium was agreed and this will be presented back to the March meeting.

GENE EDITING PRESENTATION – PROFESSOR HUW JONES

12.1/19 Professor How Jones delivered an information presentation on Gene editing in relation to the sector. Various questions were debated by the Board including the political element of this topic going forward and how as an organisation we can support this in the outside world. PT thanked Prof Huw Jones.

AOB

There was no AOB.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2.30pm

Dates of future meetings: -

Thursday 19th March 2020

