

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF AHDB DAIRY SECTOR  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 25 MAY 2023, AHDB STONELEIGH PARK**

**IN PERSON ATTENDEES:** Lyndon Edwards (LE) - Chair, Mary Quicke (MQ), Mike King (MK), Rob Nancekivell (RN), Gemma Smale-Rowland (GSR), Andrew Fletcher (AF), Liz Haines (LH), Ian Harvey (IH), Peter Rees (PR)

**REMOTE ATTENDEES:** Scott Shearlaw (SS), David Crane (DC)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Paul Flanagan (PF), Will Jackson (WJ), Nic Parsons (NP), Tony Holmes (TH) (Item 9), Ken Boyns (KB) (Agenda item 10), Phil Hadley (PH) (Item 7), Lucy Randolph (LR) (Item 7), Chris Gooderham (CG) (Items 11 & 12) Delyth Lewis-Jones (DLG) (Item 12), John Gilliland (JG) (Item 12), Anna Hughes (AH) – minutes

**AGENDA ITEM 1 - WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chair, LE, opened the meeting at 8.30am and welcomed those in attendance. PF, DC and SS were welcomed online.

**AGENDA ITEM 2 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

PR told the group that his term at Lantra had come to an end.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2023 were approved.



#### AGENDA ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING

PF explained that there had been discussions on providing regular updates between meeting and that the first newsletter update would be sent in June.

KB to give an update on LI during agenda item 10

PF waiting for the 'We Eat Balanced' costs which will be circulated to the group once they are available.

DEFRA have confirmed that the salary increase has been agreed at 4.5%.

Working groups for the Levy increase has met twice in preparation for today's meeting.

John Gilliland will be joining this meeting for agenda item 12

AH explained that media training had been arranged for SW on 30<sup>th</sup> May, date for the North Midlands to be agreed with the media team.

**ACTION: Arrange media training day for North Midlands (AH)**

#### AGENDA ITEM 5 – CHAIR REPORT/LEVY PAYER FEEDBACK

LE the told the group that he had recently completed the Sector Council appraisals with the main feedback being the group would all like more updates from AHDB between meetings.

LE told the group that he had recently set up a monthly call with WJ, PF and Colin Bateman, chair of B&L sector council, to discuss linking B&L and Dairy.

TR had written a letter to the Lancet to challenge the misinformation on effects of eating meat.

LE explained he had attended a meeting of the genetics team with SRUC. LE added that he had recently taken part in a discussion with Semex looking at the methane index. In addition SRUC and AHDB are looking at how to progress discussions between then with regards to genomic indexes.

LE told the group that four sector council members will be stepping down next year which will result in a gap in Scotland, Wales and Cheshire/North of England. LE added that the links to the applications for next year had gone live and encouraged the group to pass on the links to anyone who may be interested.

**ACTION: Sector Council to promote applications for 4 new Council members**

NP explained that the recruitment of strategic dairy farms was ongoing. A number of adverts were out and there had been 25 expressions of interest. NP also explained that new starter, Daisy Green had recently joined his team and will be looking after the south- east region.

The group were told that on 15<sup>th</sup> June the AHDB teams will visit two beef and dairy farms as part of their staff summer conference/away day.

#### AGENDA ITEM 6 – SECTOR LEAD REPORTS

PF explained that the Sector lead report had been circulated as part of the pack.

#### AGENDA ITEM 7 – LEVY INCREASE

PH and LR were welcomed to the meeting and the group were told they would give an overview of the exports function. LR gave a breakdown of the current budget and what could be covered with an uplift.



Exports team are working with the Food Exports Council to set up a Dairy Exports Round Table. The group discussed the recent Food Security Summit led by the Prime Minister and the announcement that there would be extra funding for Dairy.

**ACTION: Get clarity from Government on how extra dairy funding will be allocated (PH/LR)**

The group discussed the proposed levy increase and agreed an increase to the ceiling level of 0.08 pence per litre.

The council agreed to the levy increase.

The group noted that HCC have linked their increase to inflation. LE suggested that future levy rate moves be added as an agenda item at a subsequent meeting.

**ACTION: Add discussion on future levy rates to subsequent meeting (LE/AH)**

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – FINANCE UPDATE**

TH briefed Council on 22/23 year end final position. This has improved by c. £300k compared to number in budget signed off in February. This means that Dairy Budget is targeted to hit Reserves target level by end 23/24 rather than dip below that level during the year.

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – UPDATE ON LI**

KB gave the group an update on the current position with LI. Some frustration from the Council on the amount of money that has been spent on LI over the years and the value for money to the levy payers.

**ACTION for PF to share the LI brief with the group**

**AGENDA ITEM 10 – GENETICS UPDATE**

CG gave the group an update on genetics explain that the agreed new fees would commence from 1<sup>st</sup> October. Marco Winters has spoken to industry and feedback has been good. CG explained that they are looking to deliver in NI with the service starting in April 2024.

**AGENDA ITEM 11 – UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENT**

DLJ, new Head of Environment and JG were introduced to the group. JG gave a presentation which was well received by the group. Council keen to increase the focus on Environment but want to see proposals around priorities and what happens next.

**ACTION to detail proposals for priorities and sequencing of work on Dairy (CG/DLJ)**

**ACTION to share the Environment slides with the group (AH)**

TR explained that we need to up our game in that area, building on the current capability.

CG told the group that the carbon calculator too had recently been updated on the AHDB website: <https://ahdb.org.uk/carbon-footprint-decision-tool>

**AGENDA ITEM 12 – AOB**

LE told the group that he had recently had a discussion with PF and NP regarding sharing messages



with external boards and groups. The group agreed for this to be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

**ACTION: Share relevant information from external groups at future meetings (Sector Council)**

Expenses – PF reminded the group that the undated policy was shared at the last meeting and any questions or queries should be sent to Ian Ashcroft

WJ presented the measurable dashboard. The group were pleased with the format however DC raised concern that some of the sections don't have enough detail.

**ACTION: Follow up on Dashboards to address varying levels of metrics being proposed (PF)**

LE asked the Sector Council members if they would be happy with a longer session pre-dinner before the next meeting with a suggested meet up at 4pm instead of the usual 7pm.

