

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF AHDB DIARY SECTOR COUNCIL MEETING  
ON FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT  
AHDB BOARD ROOM, STONELIGH PARK, KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE**

**PRESENT:** 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), Scott Shearlaw (SS), David Craven (DC), Joe Towers (JT), Peter Rees (PR)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Flanagan (PF)  
Nic Parsons (NP)  
Tony Holmes (TH)  
Phil Hadley (PH) – specific item  
John Bates (JB) – specific item  
Chris Gooderham (CG) – specific item  
Marco Winters (MW) – specific item  
Anna Hughes (AH) – minute taker

**Apologies for absence**

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.30am and welcomed those in attendance.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no new declarations of interest.

**Minutes from the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**Matters arising.**

PF explained that all matters arising had either been completed or were being dealt with on the agenda.

**Chair Report/Levy Payer Feedback**

LE told the Sector Council that he had attended Semex in January. There was a particularly interesting presentation from Frank Mitloehner from Davis University in California regarding dairy and red meat and climate change. LE also attended Dairy Tech which had a great atmosphere adding that the AHDB stand was busy all day long. Agri-Leader took place a few weeks ago which again was excellent and the exports teams had attended the Winter Fancy Foods event in Las Vegas last month which was a great success.

The group were told that appraisals are due. LE will be in touch in due course to arrange these. The group were also told that MQ is due to finish her 6 years however she had kindly agreed to stay on for another 6 months. The group discussed the changes to the DSC members and how/when the changes will take place.

**Sector Lead Reports**

PF explained to the group that Patty Clayton is retiring as Senior Market Analyst in April and Susie Stannard will be taking over Patty's role. The Council wished to put on record its thanks to Patty for the work that she has done over the years.



### **Approval of the 2023/23 budget**

PF said that the aim of this agenda item was to sign off the budget for 2023/24. He explained that the Dairy sector is in a tight financial position due to the running down of Reserves in 2023/24.

The Sector Council accepted the 2023/24 budget.

KB to be invited to give an update on LI at the next meeting.

### **Business case for a levy increase**

PF advised the Council of the processes required to seek Ministerial approval of a levy increase for any AHDB sector. The first step of which would be the creation of a business case to form a key part of any stakeholder consultation.

### **Genetics update**

CG went through the main points of the genetics paper explaining that the aim is to talk to the industry next week with the changes starting in October. There has been some discussion with SRUC around the options are and what the new structure will be. The next working group will take place in a few weeks.

### **Update on the environment**

CG told the group that Delyth Lewis-Jones, currently part of the DIP team, will become the new Head of Environment from 1<sup>st</sup> March and Professor John Gilliland will be starting on 1<sup>st</sup> March support the team for 9 months. John and Delyth to attend the next Dairy Sector Council meeting

### **BVD free**

CG explained that his team had briefed relevant parties on the Council's decision to stop activity in this area. Subsequently, two letters were received asking AHDB not to stop BVD free. Reason given was to ensure that BVD Free work did not lose momentum, particularly as this is a priority of DEFRA's newly launched Pathway.

The Sector Council agreed to this proposal to fund BVD Free with £17k until the end of March 2024. This date was a hard stop and the Sector Council would not fund activity post this date.

CG gave the group an update on mastitis. Discussions had taken place with Nottingham University who are the main interface to the industry for work in this area. CG asked for the Sector Council to provide £20k for 23/24 only; the purpose of this is to allow a transition to a model that does not require AHDB funding.

The Sector Council agreed to this proposal to fund Mastitis activity with £20k until the end of March 2024. This date was a hard stop and the Sector Council would not fund activity post this date.

### **International Dairy Federation**

PF explained that for several years Dairy UK and AHDB had funded the UK subscription for the International Dairy Federation (IDF). PF explained that over the last month he and LE had asked the NFU Dairy Board if they would joint fund the IDF and they had seemed keen to do. PF to continue discussions with NFU.

### **AOB**

Media training to be arranged for Sector Council

