

**SUMMARY OF THE PORK SECTOR COUNCIL MEETING
ON THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2024**

**AHDB BOARD ROOM, AHDB, MIDDLEMARCH BUSINESS PARK, SISKIN PARKWAY EAST,
COVENTRY, CV3 4PE**

PRESENT: Mike Sheldon (MS) – Chair, Jodie Bolland (JB), Mark Haighton (MH), William De Klein (WDK), Hugh Crabtree (HC), Tim Bradshaw (TB), Rupinder Ashworth (RA), Chris Aldersley (ChA), Robin Thompson (RT), Mike Wijnberg (MWi), Mark Westgarth (MW), Charlotte Duggleby (CD) (v)

IN ATTENDANCE :

Angela Christison (AC)
Charlotte Evans (CE)
Ken Boyns (KB) – specific item
Tony Holmes (TH) – specific item
Dave Craig (DC) – specific item
Liam Byrne (LB) – specific item
Chris Gooderham (CG) - specific item
John Gilliland (JG) – specific item
Mandy Nevel (MN) – specific item
Will Jackson (WJ) (v) – specific item
Roseanne Thomas (RT) (v) – specific item
Caroline Burniston (CB) – minute taker

Apologies for absence

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.30am and welcomed those in attendance. No apologies were received.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were submitted.

Minutes from the meeting held on 4 December 2023

The minutes from the meeting held on the 4 December 2023 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters arising.

AC confirmed all actions were complete or in progress.

Pork Dashboard

HC is assisting the Evaluation team with development of the dashboard.

The council agreed that this evolving system of reporting was useful and was an excellent tool for stimulating discussion

Management Accounts

TH presented the accounts by recapping and highlighting the key aspects.

Levy Increases

MS confirmed that the Levy Increase had been approved in full by Ministers and would be implemented in April 2024. Mixed responses had been received from levy payers from all AHDB sectors. MS asked for views and feedback from the Council members from their areas. Overall, the

feedback was that the industry had a general acceptance that the increase needed to happen due to rising costs but that they would want to see value for money.

Budget 2024/2025

Overview – AC and TH gave an overview of the proposed budget. The Council were notified of Phil Hadley leaving AHDB, and formally thanked Dr Hadley for his work within the industry. The proposed budget was approved.

African Swine Fever

MN delivered a verbal update clarifying the current situation and referring to the summary document within the pack.

MN confirmed that new legislation was expected in the spring, with revised restriction zones to be confirmed.

In the event of an ASF case Defra would lead, MN confirmed an industry plan was being reviewed, but it would be sensible to formulate communication to levy payers once Defra confirmed any changes to the rules. A webinar was suggested with an expert panel to give Levy Payers the opportunity to understand more and to ensure it was understood there would be a great deal of disruption that would be unavoidable. Prevention confirmed as paramount so it would be explained what was being done to try to help prevent entry of the disease, minimise its impact and recover from it.

AOB

MS thanked MH for his service to the Pork Sector Council over the last six years. The Council also thanked MS for all he had done for the industry and AHDB over the years as Chair of the Sector Council.

Dates of future meetings/Close

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 5th June. MS closed the meeting at 2.30pm thanking everyone for their attendance.