

IFCI Steering Committee Meeting Tuesday 11th December 2006 at VOICE, Upper Mount St., Dublin 2

Present: Ruth McGrath (Chairman), Barbara Maguire (Treasurer), Declan Little (Secretary), Anja Murray and Tony Mannion.

Apologies: Fran Igoe, Ken Gill, Tara Ryan, Alistair Pfeifer and Brian Tobin (Observer).

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the SC meeting of October 10th, 2006 were agreed without amendments.

Proposed: Ruth McGrath. **Seconded:** Tony Mannion

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Correspondence

(a) Caroline Lewis – resignation letter as Director and SC member of IFCI Ltd.

Action: The Secretary will respond accepting the resignation and a B10 form will be sent to the Companies Office with regard to Directorship.

(b) Subsequent to e-mails received concerning the current membership database, the Secretary queried the status of the representation of members and their respective organisations on the SC. It was clarified that SC members represent the organisations they belong to and as such organisations should take out membership of IFCI. The individuals concerned may take out separate membership on their own behalf if they so wish.

(c) An Taisce – SC substitute: an e-mail was received from Anja Murray nominating Caroline Lewis as her substitute in the event of Anja not being able to attend meetings.

Action: The SC accepted the proposal but noted that it considered it unusual that Ms Lewis resigns as an SC member for health reasons - not helped by travelling long distances - yet makes herself available as a substitute to travel to meetings, albeit less frequently, in future.

(d) Grievances of Mr Tony Lowes: Subsequent to Grievances received from Mr Tony Lowes on November 16th and 27th, and December 3rd the Grievance Committee was convened earlier today. A letter ratified by the SC will be sent to Mr Lowes at the earliest opportunity. The following points are also relevant:

- Any errors regarding the consultation process will be acknowledged and measures adopted to rectify same.

- Members of the SC are expected to inform their constituent stakeholders of IFCI activities such as consultation dates and locations. These were known as of October 10th last.

- Mr Lowes received correspondence from IFCI Ltd re the consultation process in a private capacity as he appears on the IFCI member's database provided to the administrator as a private individual as opposed to a Director of FIE. His 2005 membership form is signed Mr Tony Lowes with no mention of FIE. His 2006 membership form received on November 8th, 2006 by the Secretary does refer to FIE membership and the database has been updated to reflect same.

(e) Cypermethrin derogation: Gus Hellier, Soil Association

Correspondence was received from the Soil Association regarding the position of IFCI re Coillte's derogation request for the use of cypermethrin. A response will be issued subsequent to a debate on the issue today. The Economic chamber SC members voted for the derogation the environmental members against and the Social chamber representative present abstained. The views will be passed on to the Soil Association. (The Coillte representative on the Economic chamber was not present and let it be known that he would absent himself from the debate on this issue as this would be a conflict of interest).

(f) Stiof MacAmhlaidh – Hands on Heritage: A view that the derogation on cypermethrin should not be allowed was received from the above and a request was made to make this view known *vis a vis* the debate and vote on the matter. The SC noted that the Soil Association had asked for submissions on the matter and that Hands on Heritage should communicate its view to it. As this group is not a member of IFCI the Secretary will suggest that it join in order to engage with the process directly.

4. Public consultation

Administrators report

Brian Tobin – who apologised that he could not attend today - provided a report in response to the grievances received. Every effort was made to contact stakeholders but due to the contacts database being out of date with some stakeholder contacts missing, a number did not receive adequate notification. In addition, the Examiner newspaper advertisement re the Cork meeting contained the wrong date and this error could not be rectified prior to printing.

The SC regretted the errors involved and decided as a matter of urgency to host two further consultation meetings in Cork (Jan. 16th) and Tullamore (Jan 18th). It is vital that as many stakeholders as possible engage with the process. All SC members were encouraged to pass on details of updated stakeholder contacts to Brian and letters/e-mails, along with a hard/electronic copy of the draft standard will be sent to same prior to the additional consultation meetings. In addition, the SC extended the deadline for submissions to the standard to February 28th.

5. Website

The IFCI telephone contact point: A line stating that contact should be made via this number should occur during business hours only.

The draft standard should be made available in Word format so that stakeholders can cut and paste submissions from same. A note will be added that stakeholders must not alter the original text but paste their wording beneath cut sections and that they must also send in hard copy of submissions to IFCI.

6. IFCI and facilitation

Mary Flaherty, facilitator of a number of the public consultation meetings offered as part of her studies to assist IFCI through analyses and recommendations in charting a way forward.

The Secretary will discuss the matter with Ms Flaherty and communicate further details to the SC. She will be asked to attend the next SC meeting as an observer.

7. AOB

The Treasurer noted that not all of the 1st instalment received from the Forest Service re public consultation, etc. had been spent to date and that all outstanding invoices should be sent to her ASAP.