

IFCI Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday 25th January 2007 at VOICE, Upper Mount St., Dublin 2

Present: Ruth McGrath (Chairman), Barbara Maguire (Treasurer), Declan Little (Secretary), Anja Murray, Peter Sweetman, Fran Igoe, Tara Ryan, and Tony Mannion.

Apologies: Ken Gill, Alistair Pfeifer.

Observers: Brian Tobin, Mary Flaherty and Walter Evans.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the SC meeting of December 11th, 2006 were agreed with minor amendments.

Proposed: Tony Mannion **Seconded:** Declan Little

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Correspondence

(a) Peter Sweetman as replacement for Caroline Lewis, FIE: This was ratified by the Steering Committee.

(b) Grievances from FIE: The Grievance Committee convened earlier today and discussed some of the Grievances received since early December. It was decided to refer the matter to the Steering Committee meeting as there is a considerable volume of material involved.

(c) Walter Evans correspondence: The SC discussed a grievance Mr Evans has vis a vis Coillte Teo. After consulting the FSC Manual on the matter it was decided to advise Mr Evans that since he has had no satisfaction in resolving his dispute with Coillte at local level, that he seek a meeting with the Soil Association and relay his concerns directly to it (as they are the auditors of Coillte's FSC certificate).

Action: The SC agreed that IFCI - via the Secretary - write to the Soil Association stating that Mr Evans had attended this meeting re his concerns, that IFCI advised that he contact the Soil Association directly and that the Soil Association should keep IFCI informed of how this matter is being dealt with.

(d) Save Tara: The Chair received correspondence from same re the M3 Motorway and trees that are being felled. Mr Brendan Kelly was nominated by the Tara group to rep[resent their interests.

Action: The Chair will inform the Tara group that IFCI will not accept Mr Kelly as their representative due to his history with IFCI. However the Tara group may of course nominate someone else to represent their views.

4. Public consultation

Administrators report

Brian Tobin prepared a report on the consultation process. Additions were sought re the people who attended (by name) and this will be circulated to the SC in due course.

It was agreed that all submissions received re the standard will be acknowledged and subsequently, reasons will be provided for including/rejecting their content. Any general comments received will be discussed but will not constitute an official submission. Stakeholders

will be provided an opportunity to make a formal submission against the standard with a time limit of one month (where general comments are received).

5. Website

Changes have been made to the website including putting the Draft standard on as a Word document.

Action: The SC agreed that the FIE response to the Philips report should appear as a stand alone document so that it has the same status as the Coillte Philips reports. The administrator will do this as soon as possible.

5a) The SC also agreed to put SC minutes on the website minus any sensitive material, from this point onwards. The Chair will address the Minutes of all SC meetings since the accreditation report and provide edited versions to the administrator so that they can go online. (The edited minutes in the accreditation report cover all meetings from 1999 to 2005 and these can go online as they are). **Proposed:** Peter Sweetman **Seconded:** Ruth McGrath

6. Grievances

Considerable debate ensued on this topic. It is not tenable for IFCI to deal with grievances on an ongoing basis as time and resources are not there to do so.

Action: After considerable discussion it was decided that the Chair and Secretary discuss the matter with Peter Sweetman so that the situation might be resolved to the satisfaction of FIE and IFCI.

7. Code of Conduct

This was circulated and debated. It was agreed that amendments would be sought from all present to be presented at the earliest opportunity. The code was designed to encourage trust and confidence in the process and is considered a fundamental procedure toward achieving an agreed standard.

8. IFCI and facilitation

Mary Flaherty who attended this meeting observed the business of the day and will utilise the information gleaned in a synopsis of IFCI.

9. AOB

The Treasurer noted that the 2nd instalment of public consultation funding was received from the Forest Service. There is a small amount outstanding from a previous funding submission from the Forest Service. Tony Mannion and Declan Little will look into this and ascertain what that proposal entailed – details will be passed on to the Treasurer.