



**HGCA BOARD MEETING  
27 January 2010  
AIC offices, Peterborough**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Matters Arising**

A recent meeting with NFU Regional Crops Board discussed more regular contact between HGCA and both the national and regional crops boards.

The modified AHDB GM statement would be presented to the AHDB Board.

**Chairman's Report**

The Scottish Market Outlook conference had been very well received and feedback from delegates was positive.

The Farmhouse Breakfast launch had been very successful although poor weather conditions had a slight impact on attendance figures but the launch had attracted a good deal of publicity.

Planning permission for the new building had been delayed pending a traffic survey requested by the Highways Agency. It was expected to go to the February planning committee meeting.

Interviews were expected to start on 1 February to replace AHDB's CEO.

The process to appoint AHDB's Director of HR was currently underway.

**Sector Director's Report**

Key points of Rebecca Geraghty's sector report included:

Meetings had been held with Committee Chairs to discuss the situation at Stoneleigh, HGCA finances, identify challenges for the future and the current Committee review.

An update on the CEL review would be given at a forthcoming Board meeting.

There are 16 current vacancies across HGCA included 6 long term vacancies. Martin Grantley-Smith was currently standing in as Head of MI.

Andrew Birnie, new Director of MI, would be producing a plan for restructuring of the MI team; any changes to structure were not expected to come into force for at least 12 months.

There was a great demand from industry for HGCA to speak at meetings and a large programme of risk management workshops was being undertaken.

Following a recent meeting, John Pidgeon reported problems with continued funding of TSB.

The Corporate Plan would be presented to Defra and other devolved Governments for their approval before publication on the website.

### **HGCA Committee Review Update**

A team had been reviewing the committees to ensure that the current structure was fit for purpose, reflects the changing organisation and would look for ways to improve both efficacy and efficiency.

To date Chairs of Committees and staff had been asked for their input on the current structure and function and where they saw that improvements could be made for the future.

### **Finance and Strategy**

An update from the Finance Committee meeting held earlier that day was given.

Options for financing the new building had been presented to the Finance Committee. The head counts used in the model require amendments and Central AHDB services were to be included in the model.

Items included in Hannah Dumper's financial report included:

- Additional costs were incurred at Stoneleigh for central services for the first quarter of this year.
- Additional charges had been included for AHDB's CEO, his PA and team.

David Caffall joined the meeting to give his AIC presentation on 'Agricultural Industries Confederation's View of HGCA'.

Roz Reynolds presented an update on the Marketing Department which included such items as supply chain partnership, BCE and Farmhouse Breakfast week.

### **HGCA Vision and Mission**

Anna Farrell presented suggestions to update the current vision and mission statements to:

*"Delivering a world-class arable industry through independence, innovation and investment" and "To create a dynamic UK arable supply chain where all were able to profit from a sustainable arable sector".*

**Minutes of the Board and Advisory Committees** were received and approved by the Board.

### **Strategy Day 2: 3 March 2010**

A follow up Strategy Day in March would include a review of Corporate Plan themes and a review of the role that our stakeholders play.

### **Approval of New Directors for CEL**

Nominations for Susannah Bolton to replace Graham Jellis and Stuart Shand to replace David McCreath on the CEL Board were approved by the Board.

### **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next HGCA Board meeting would be held on 10 March 2010.