

**CIPFA IN THE MIDLANDS
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 6th MARCH 2009
AT AFC TELFORD UTD**

Present

Carole Mills-Evans	John Haste
Steve Wellings	Ben Jarrett
Chris Gill	Sue Smith (SSm)
Brian Berry	Steph Simcox (SScx)
Paul Hector	Melanie Brittain
Jon Crockett	Drew Cullen
Lisa Commane	Lesley Piper
Mark Lawrie	Mike Burns
Brian Roberts	Mo Chatra
Nick Harvey	

MANAGING WELL

Apologies

Clare Powell	Alison Jarrett
Sean Pearce	Chris Lees
Dianne Colley	Paul Simpson (Psi)
Neil Farquharson	Mark Lovell
Colin Sharpe	Kelly Watson
Andy Morley	
Phil Spencer (PSP)	

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed

CME welcomed Mo Chatra to the meeting.

TAKING ACTION

- **Area reports**
 - Western Area – paper noted
 - Northern Area – It was reported that Phil Spencer is standing down as Chair, but will continue to be part of the Northern Area Exec. Phil is trying to find a replacement chair person.
 - Southern Area – Melanie Brittain reported that she would be able to commit more time to CIM now that work issues had been resolved.
- **CATS**

Neil Farquharson has agreed that the CATS stand should show the new CIPFA logo and the CIM logo and email address, and not be specific to CATS. There was a short discussion regarding the merits of all the stands being the same and just showing the CIPFA and CIM logo and the CIM website address. The new CIPFA logo has not yet been agreed, Lisa Commane to contact Robert Street for an update.
- **Website update**

Ben Jarrett reported that CIM is keeping up with CIPFA SE for the number of website hits. The student society pages need updating, Nick Harvey agreed to look at this. It was agreed that after each CIM meeting the meeting papers would be archived on the secure area of the website in PDF format.
- **CIPFA in the NHS**

Mo Chatra gave a presentation on the low percentage of CIPFA students in the NHS, CIMA is the qualification of choice. The East Midlands now has a graduate scheme which is for CIPFA only. The West Midlands NHS and the national NHS graduate schemes offer a choice between CIPFA and

CIMA. The CIPFA Business Development Team is working with the NHS to try to promote the qualification with undergraduates and to try to improve the relationship with the NHS. There followed a discussion where those involved with the NHS said that there has been no progress with regard to the CIPFA qualification being made attractive to the NHS or NHS graduates, CIPFA needs to engage the NHS and the finance staff in the NHS, and make the qualification relevant to them. The Council asked Drew Cullen to take details of this discussion back to Robert Street, and asked for assurance that the NHS issue is dealt with as a matter of urgency. Steve Wellings thanked Mo for a very informative presentation and raised the question of personal links with heads of profession and potential CIPFA students so that they are aware of what CIPFA offers. This led to a discussion about CIPFA being present at university careers fairs.

Drew Cullen responded by firstly thanking Mo for an excellent presentation, and asked whether he could take it back to Robert Street. He said that the Business Development Team are looking at the pattern of CIPFA students throughout the public sector, not just the NHS, to try to identify why numbers are low. Drew was asked to report back to the next Council meeting with what CIPFA is doing to address the problem.

PLANNING AHEAD

• AGM preparations

- Presidents Annual Report

Carole Mills-Evans went through the Annual Report and Development Plan which were included in the AGM papers.

- Annual Accounts

As neither Andy Morley or Paul Simpson were able to attend the meeting Paul Hector had agreed to present the Annual Accounts at the AGM. He went through the accounts which showed a small surplus for the year. The Council also discussed the budget for 2009 and raised the question as to whether the income figures were realistic in the current economic climate, stating that reserves should be used to cover any deficit for the year. The Council needs to endorse the Reserves Policy at a future meeting.

It was agreed that a small team (Andy Morley, Paul Simpson, Paul Hector, Mike Burns) should carry out a risk assessment of all reserves.

- Nominations

The link between the Regional Representative and the CIM Council was discussed and Brian Berry was asked to amend the Constitution so that this link would be maintained. The post of Regional Rep would remain as a co-option for this year.

Mike Burns to become the HFMA representative. Mike to inform the HFMA of this.

- It was agreed that the CIM Secretary should receive and maintain a central data base of all CIM information, reports and documents.

• CIPFA Conference

6 delegates to be paid for by CIM. Brian Berry (partly funded by R St), Paul Hector, Steve Wellings, Mark Lawrie, Melanie Brittain, Sue Smith.

• Conference for the Regions

It had been agreed that the team organising the 2010 CftR in the Midlands would attend this years conference, in addition to other members of CIM Council. A total of 10 places would be funded for this year only. There are 9 delegates at present Ben Jarrett, Mark Lawrie, Kelly Watson, Suzanne Jones, Steve Wellings, Steph Simcox, Lisa Commane, Paul Hector, Sean Pearce and Sue Smith.

• Seminar and Dinner update

Lisa Commane advised that Paul Hector has secured some sponsorship already, and that the team would recommend no increase in the price this year due to the economic climate. The theme this year will be 'Innovation', KPMG have already offered a speaker, and there is the possibility of Chris West doing a case study from Coventry. There is no decision yet on the entertainment for the evening.

• Management Team Games 2009

It has been decided that there will be 5 games this year, and 4 venues have been secured already. Steph Simcox said that Lesley Piper had been working on the new game as Steph had been ill recently, but the two of them will be finalising the game very soon.

GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE

- **President's Report**
Covered under AGM preparations.
- **Treasurer's Report**
Covered under AGM preparations
- **Regional Representatives Report**
Lesley Piper asked that the action points at the end of her report be noted.
- **Student Society**
Nick Harvey offered to step in and help out as Simon Bentley has stepped down. He does not want to take on the position of Chair, but will try to find a volunteer from the Committee. The Constitution and the budget are already in place; and there is an IPDS event planned for the summer. CIM will support 10 CIPFA students to attend the NSF Conference in Manchester in June, by paying for their travel and accommodation (the conference is free to attend). Nick Harvey to email the members of the student society to try to find 10 students to attend. Sue Smith to contact Michael Page to find out whether sponsorship might still be available to the Student Society.
- **Regional Funding Update**
Brian Roberts gave the Council an update on Regional Funding. He said that Chris Harris had suggested that subvention should be looked at in terms of total size as well as the share that goes to each region. Different options will be put forward but nothing will happen before 2010. There was some discussion about the role of the regions and the need for more funding.
- **AOB**
Carole thanked everyone on Council for all their help and support during her time as President. She thanked the Seminar & Dinner team for organising a showcase event that goes from strength to strength, she thanked all the event organisers, and the Past Presidents for all their wise Council, and Steve for his work as Vice President over the last 2 years. But Carole especially thanked Chris Gill for all his work on the 6th form games and for being her representative on the Board for the Regions. Steve thanked Carole for all her work and good leadership during her term as CIM President.

The meeting closed at 11.30