

HORTICULTURE FORUM NI

Minutes of the Horticulture Forum
Monday 24th September 2018, 7.30pm in
The Manor Suite, at CAFRE
Greenmount College

Member Present:

Barbara Erwin (Chair), Paul Mooney, Roy Lyttle, Elaine Shaw, Phil Fox , Benedict Fox and Sarah Morrell (Secretary)

Apologies

Barclay Bell, John Shannon, Neil Cummings, Kieran Hughes, Adrian McGowan, Robin McKee, Hamilton Loney, Shane Donnelly, Doug Thompson.

Matters Discussed:

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Welcome and apologies	The Chair welcomed the group and introduced Sarah as the new Secretary	
2. Minutes of the last meeting	These were agreed as an accurate record	
3. Matters arising	There was a response from the Permanent Secretary to the letter sent by the Chair following the speech at the DAERA breakfast when Horticulture did not feature.	
4. Correspondence	Neil Cummings suggested the Chair should write requesting financial support from the HTA. To date there has also been no response. Neil Cummings plans to step down from the forum and put Sally Cullimore – the	

	Policy Executive- as the HTA representative to the Forum	
5. Treasure's Report	Elaine gave a positive report of the Forum's finances. A cheque for £1200 was sent to Perennial following the fund raising at the Balmoral show. Invoices were available for this year's subscriptions but these would be sent out to individuals who were absent. Refunds from the 2017 Balmoral Show – had been received.	Elaine to post invoices to those organisations who had not yet paid. Barbara To post the cheque with accompanying letter to Perennial.
6. Response to the strategic document – Northern Ireland's Future Agriculture Policy Framework	The Chair expressed thanks to the Sub-committee members who had helped frame the response which had taken many hours to write. The group were happy to endorse the response	Sarah to tidy up – adding questions and correcting typos. Barbara to agree the final document and forward to DAERA.
7. Response to AHDB consultation	The AHDB has launched a consultation that seeks views on the AHDB (what should its priorities and key services be). Responses are to be submitted by the 9 th November 2018. It was confirmed that literature is now free to all. Associate membership is not required.	
8. Arrangements and agenda for visit of Permanent Secretary: 5 th October 2018	Agenda for the visit were discussed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara to arrive at Roy's Farm for 1pm, the Permanent Secretary at 2pm where he will be given a tour of Roy's facilities. • William Donnan from Flavour First will give an overview of his business either 	Barbara to speak with William Donnan. Barbara to write to the Permanent Secretary's Secretary to confirm arrangements

	<p>at Roy's or his own facility depending on what suits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara may also take the Permanent Secretary to a Trainview Flowers. <p>The Chair, Roy, Hamilton and possibly Elaine will attend the visit.</p> <p>Issues for discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horticulture's Significant contribution to the economy • DAERA overlooking horticulture production • More support required • Supermarket pressures 	
<p>9. Future of the Horticulture Forum</p>	<p>The results of the workshop were discussed.</p> <p>Elaine praised Barbara for her work as Chair.</p> <p>The diversity of the group growers and food producers was recognised. It was suggested that a wider body meet twice yearly with a sub group meeting more frequently.</p> <p>The idea that those who do not attend should send a replacement was discussed or a strike system introduced.</p> <p>It was suggested that industry provided investment and that DAEARA could be asked to</p>	

	<p>match fund after seeing commitment from industry.</p> <p>It was suggested that the profile/ awareness of the forum needed to be raised</p> <p>It was agreed that the while secretarial support was being provided the Forum should make the most of it and if this proved unsuccessful then significantly reduce the number of meetings in the year.</p>	<p>Sarah to check with Patricia/UFU if articles from the forum could feature in the UFU Watch</p>
AOB	No other business	
Dates and venues for meetings in 2018 – 2019	The Chair gave committee a schedule of meetings	
Date of next meeting	November 26 th 2018	