

## ***National Coppice Federation***

### **Summary of minutes**

Conference call meeting April 14<sup>th</sup> 2014

1. *Membership update*

It was agreed that RT will send out a membership letter to all coppice groups and local reps requesting membership fees.

2. *Web site update*

It was agreed that the web site was a main priority at this time and was needed to help promote the gathering and improve communication.

3. *Insurance update*

Toni will seek additional quotes for higher turnover bands but it was agreed that it will be very useful to maintain the existing base quote as a way to promote.

4. *2014 Gathering update*

Paypal account will be set up to take bookings. Gathering steering group to meet again next week.

5. *Strategy sub group*

Following the email exchange and suggestions made by the Surry and Sussex Coppice group it was agreed that a strategy sub group should be set up to form a policy on key issues. It was agreed that to start with the immediate work should include:

- Membership – how to attract new members to join. A simple package on how to join and the benefits.  
Form an official policy on how to communicate with members to ensure NCfed is accessible, receiving information via reps, guidelines for reps.  
Find other forms of direct communication -minutes of meetings to all members or a summary issued in Cleft Stick?
- Procedure for networking – named individual within each group – which may not be the Ncfed director/rep.

Rebecca, Toni, Paul and Brian agreed to form a sub group to look at these issues.

In order to help guide the sub group – directors discussed the need for NCfed not to try and take on too much. The emphasis should remain on encouraging transfer of information, give coppice workers opportunity to meet and network. It was agreed that the main priority was membership, to be able to justly reflect the coppice sector, a desire to find a mechanisms to engage with them to seek their advice and endorsement, a recognised time scale and automatic system to receive feed back on actions.

6. *FISA*

Toby reported that there was no further action for NCfed to take at this time, information was now more easily available. The impact on Coppice workers will continue to be monitored and it was felt that the forum page on NCfed web site will be a good place for further discussion. Issues facing Dorset group are starting to be sorted out locally.

7. *Coppice Restoration Conference*

Brain reported that speakers are been contacted and costing's are been looked at.