



**Minutes of a meeting of the Directors of Hybu Cig Cymru held at
The Falcondale Hotel, Lampeter on Friday 22 January 2010 at 1.00pm**

Present: Rees Roberts (Chairman)
John Brereton, John Collins, Huw Evans, Rhodri Evans,
Alan Gardner, Nic Lampkin, Graham Probert, Glyn Roberts,
Wyn Williams and John Yeomans.

By Invitation: Wynfford James (WAG).

In Attendance: Julie Davies-Jones, Gwyn Howells, Siôn Aron Jones, Bill Joyce,
Alan Morris, Bryan Regan, Kirsten Smith.

Board Training - Insight visit to Dunbia, Llanybydder

The Board agreed that the insight visit to Dunbia had been worthwhile in terms of gaining a better understanding of the processing sector.

The Chairman on behalf of the Board expressed his thanks to Wyn Williams and colleagues in Dunbia for organising the visit.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Will Haresign, William Jenkins and Lionel Walford.

2. **Minutes of the Board meeting – Friday 4 December 2009 (HCC 306)**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 4 December 2009 were taken as read, adopted and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising**

Suckler Calf Production Costs

Following on from the previous meeting, the Industry Development Manager confirmed that the statistics provided by the Farm Business Survey on the live weight price per kg for calves were accurate.

Rounding of Lamb Carcase Weights

Correspondence had been issued to the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) with regard to the above. A response was awaited.

Video Image Analysis

The outcome of the application was awaited from WAG.

4. **HCC Reports**

General

Market Development Manager

The first round of interviews for the above had been undertaken. The second round interviews of shortlisted candidates would be held in the near future.

a. Activities (HCC 307)

The above was taken as read.

Export Development - China

HCC had recently met with Mr Zhou Xiaoming, Minister Counsellor of Economic and Commercial Office from the UK's Chinese Embassy to discuss market access of Welsh Lamb to China.

Whilst Welsh Lamb was currently being exported to Hong Kong, further work would be required by Defra to agree a health certificate to gain access into China.

HCC had subsequently contacted the office of Mr Xiamong to continue dialogue on this matter.

PGI Approvals

It was agreed to note within future reports where abattoirs had co-located processing plants.

b. Market Bulletin (HCC 308)

The above was taken as read.

Despite a decline in supply, it was noted that clean sheep sold through Welsh auction markets had increased during 2009 by 2% compared to 2008.

EU Lamb Prices

A fuller definition of the terms “heavy” and “light” lambs would be included in future editions of the Market Bulletin.

c. Financial Update

The Corporate Services Manager reported that Levy income and expenditure to 31 December 2009 was in line with the 2009/2010 Budget.

Credit Control

Item withheld – commercial in confidence.

d. Forthcoming events (HCC 309)

The above was taken as read.

5. **To consider HCC’s draft Business Plan for 2010 / 2011 (HCC 310)**

The above was taken as read.

The Business Plan for 2010 / 2011 had been prepared against a backdrop of declining Levy income. Therefore, prioritising and setting budgets had been a challenging process and was reflected in the proposed activities to be undertaken for the new financial year.

The Executive ran through proposed departmental activities and the Board offered a range of comments which would be taken into account in the document.

The final version of the Business Plan would be presented to the Board for approval at the 5 March 2010 meeting. Subsequently the document would be submitted to the Welsh Levy Board for approval.

HCC’s three year Corporate Plan would be updated, informed by the 2010/11 Business Plan. A draft would be available for the Board’s consideration at the 5 March 2010 meeting.

6. **To receive an update on the Red Meat Measure (Wales)**

The proposed Measure seeks statutory provision, through a legislative framework, for the development and promotion of the Welsh red meat industry. In particular, it seeks to confer powers on Welsh Ministers to set, raise and distribute Welsh Red Meat Levy, thereby removing the need for the Welsh Levy Board.

A Scrutiny Committee considered the general principles of the proposed Measure in October, November and December 2009. A debate on the general principles of the proposed Measure was then held in Plenary on 12 January 2010, where AMs voted in favour of the proposed Measure.

The Scrutiny Committee will now consider the proposed Measure and any amendments that AMs raise, on 03 February 2010. Plenary will then be asked to further consider the proposed Measure prior to approval.

The final stage of the Measure's passage through the National Assembly for Wales will be seeking Royal Approval.

Levy Distribution

Item withheld – commercial in confidence.

7. **To adopt the Minutes of Audit Sub-Committee held on 4 December 2009 (HCC 311)**

The minutes of the Audit Committee held on 4 December 2009 were taken as read and adopted by the Board.

8. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

9. **Date of next meeting**

The next Board meeting would be held on Friday 5 March 2010.

Signed.....
Chairman of HCC