

MINUTES of a MEETING of the
CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE of the
SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION
in 25 South Methven Street, PERTH
at 3.30 p.m. on Monday, 5th
NOVEMBER, 1990.

PRESENT: Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, J.G.H. Fenton, R.D. Hunter, D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie, J.O. Robertson and (by invitation) I.R. McKenzie and J.M. Swinton, with D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. J.R. McArthur, took the Chair and welcomed those present to the meeting.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr. R. Doig.

MINUTES: The Chairman proposed that consideration of the Minutes of the Committee's last meeting be deferred, to allow today's meeting to concentrate its attention on the single topic of the

S.S.P.D.C.: Taking up from the position reported to the meeting of SPTA Council on 17th October and a subsequent letter to and the reply received from the Chairman of SSPDC (Mr. Stobo), Mr. McArthur remained of the view that procedural shortcomings had occurred in respect of the un-intimated review of the SSPDC's Chief Executive's Salary at the SSPDC meeting on 11th October, 1990.

Adding to this background Mr. Fenton explained Mr. Stobo had telephoned him about a week before that meeting stating his intention to introduce a proposed salary increase which, Mr. Fenton believed, was linked to DAFS' Civil Service Scales. He recalled this had been the procedure with earlier Reviews and that such reviews are not minuted. Mr. I.R. McKenzie also explained that following submission of his apology for absence (on holiday) from that meeting, Mr. Stobo telephoned him about ten days beforehand seeking support for the proposal, which was given. Mr. Fenton confirmed the SSPDC meeting had been informed that should the possibility of "severance pay" arise, the calculation would not be based on the increased salary. Mr. McArthur withdrew his objection in this respect accordingly, but he maintained he had not been notified that any part of the SSPDC Meeting was to be a "private session", nor would he attend any "private meeting" of a statutory body.

In discussion of the Association's response to Mr. Stobo's reply letter Mr. Hunter's recommendation that lengthy correspondence should not be entered into received unanimous support. He suggested he write briefly, expressing thanks for clarification and reassurance, but pointing out that SPTA is entitled to write to SSPDC on behalf of Association Members. The Committee adopted this suggestion.

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In further discussion, Mr. K.A. McKenzie's view that Mr. Stobo's impartiality as Chairman of SSPDC was being questioned was shared by others present. It was agreed that the appointed representatives should ask for a copy of the Chief Executive's Contract of Service, since knowledge of its terms seemed imprecise and possibly causing confusion. Mr. Fenton voiced his support for Mr. Stobo's Chairmanship, ~~however, and regarded him as better at controlling the Chief Executive than Mr. Fotheringham, the previous Chairman, had been.~~ He also undertook to discuss with Mr. Stobo whether a procedure should be devised for the conduct of future reviews of the Chief Executive's salary.

The Committee's discussion included consideration of letters received from Mr. Loudon Hamilton (Secretary, DAFS) announcing continuation of SSPDC for a further period of five years from January, 1991 and from Ian McEwan (DAFS) inviting submission of nominations for Members of SSPDC Council. There was profound disappointment that SPTA's repeated and persistent calls for a Poll of SSPDC Levy Payers had again been overruled. A suggestion that Nominations be with-held pending replacement of Mr. Stobo was deferred for SPTA Council to decide later. It was also agreed that the only way forward on this last point is for the objectors themselves to campaign, if necessary "via the back door".

In respect of nominations, Mr. I.R. McKenzie stated he does not wish to offer himself for re-nomination and Mr. Cook stated his intention not to attend SSPDC Council meetings chaired by Mr. Stobo. Following discussion of the effects of various possible changes in SPTA-nominated representations, it was unanimously agreed to recommend submission of the required nominations and to defer further action on the Chairmanship issue until the Ministerial appointments have been announced. The Secretariat also undertook to draft reply letters to Mr. Loudon Hamilton and to Mr. Ian McEwan in readiness for the next meeting of SPTA Council.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

