

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2007 AT 09.30 HOURS IN THE FOREST ROOM AT THE FOREST LODGE HOTEL, LYNDBURST

Present:

Members

Clive Chatters (Chairman)
Barry Rickman (Deputy Chairman)

Susan Achmatowicz	Julian Johnson
Lee Dunsdon	Ted Johnson
Peter Frost	Bob Morris
Tony Gentle	Vicky Myers
Diana Halford	Leo Randall
Roger Heape	Alan Rice
Kathy Heron	Stan Wade
Maureen Holding	Pat Wyeth

Officers

Lindsay Cornish, Kevin Gardner (Monitoring Officer), Pat Higgins, Barry Holland, Steve Trotter, Martin O'Neill, John Clements, Nigel Matthews, Julia Mutlow, Claire Gingell, Sarah Kelly, Amanda Elmes, Jim Mitchell, Naomi Stone, David Stone, Rosalind Alderman and Carolyn Hoole.

PART I – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Mel Kendal, John Sanger and Alan Weeks

2. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority

2.1 The Chief Executive chaired the meeting during the appointment of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

2.2 Clive Chatters was duly proposed and seconded as Chairman of the Authority for the ensuing year. Lee Dunsdon made a short statement thanking Clive Chatters for his work over the previous months and mentioning the value of his expertise in the field of wildlife and conservation issues.

Resolved: That Clive Chatters be appointed as Chairman of the Authority for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority.

Voting: Unanimous

2.3 Barry Rickman was duly proposed and seconded as Deputy Chairman of the Authority.

Resolved: That Barry Rickman be appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Authority for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority.

Voting: Unanimous

- 2.4 Clive Chatters occupied the position of Chairman and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest

- 3.1 On advice from the Monitoring Officer, Local Authority members accepted and declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in agenda items which related to their role as County, District or Parish members. In particular, the Monitoring Officer explained that members' appointments to committees and external bodies under items 7 and 8 of the agenda would not constitute an interest as these appointments related to members' Authority roles, although existing membership of one of the external organisations in question would amount to an interest.
- 3.2 Lee Dunsdon declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in minute item 18 as the Hampshire County Council representative to the New Forest Access Forum.
- 3.3 Peter Frost declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in minute item 8 as the Natural England appointed Verderer.
- 3.4 Kathy Heron declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in minute item 16 as a member of the Hampshire County Council committee looking at the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and minute item 13 as a member of the New Forest Road Safety Committee.
- 3.5 Maureen Holding declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in minute item 17 as a member of the Hampshire joint authorities' gypsy and traveller panel.
- 3.6 Julian Johnson declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in minute item 9 as the Chairman of the South West Regional Spatial Planning and Transport Group.
- 3.7 Alan Rice declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in minute item 12 as a Countryside Education Trustee and in minute item 13 as a Council representative on the Calshot Activities Centre, Eling Tide Mill, Lepe Country Park, St. Barbe (Lymington Museum Trust), Tile Barn and the Red Horse Museum.
- 3.8 Pat Wyeth declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in minute item 8 as a Trustee of the Ninth Centenary Trust and in minute item 13 as the Chairman of the New Forest Road Safety Committee

4. Chairman's announcements

- 4.1 The Chairman welcomed Maureen Holding, the new Authority member. He announced that there were no items which would be considered under Part II of the agenda.

5. Minutes of meeting on 24 April 2007

- 5.1 Subject to the correction of a typographical error at paragraph 168.2(d), the minutes of the meeting on 24 April 2007 were agreed as a true record.

6. Public Question Time

- 6.1 There were no questions or statements from the public.

7. Appointment on Committees

- 7.1 Lindsay Cornish presented the report (NFNPA 184/07) and explained that as Lee Dunsdon had withdrawn his request to be on the Committee, the correct number of Secretary of State and local authority appointed members had volunteered to serve on the Authority's Planning Development Control Committee so no ballot was necessary.

Resolved:

That the Authority's Planning Development Control Committee comprise the following members for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority: Peter Frost, Tony Gentle, Diana Halford, Maureen Holding, Ted Johnson, Clive Maton, Bob Morris, Vicky Myers, Leo Randall, Alan Rice, Barry Rickman, John Sanger, Stan Wade, Alan Weeks and Pat Wyeth.

Voting: Unanimous

- 7.2 Lindsay Cornish explained that, following some recently notified changes to the list of volunteers, the correct number of Secretary of State and local authority appointed members had now volunteered to serve on the Resources and Performance Committee so no ballot was necessary.

Resolved:

That the Authority's Resources and Performance Committee comprise the following members for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority: Susan Achmatowicz, Lee Dunsdon, Roger Heape, Maureen Holding, Julian Johnson, Mel Kendal and John Sanger.

Voting: Unanimous

- 7.3 On further explanation by Lindsay Cornish, the Authority agreed to re-appoint the previous Committee membership.

Resolved:

That the Authority's Standards Committee comprise the following Authority members in addition to the two independent members, for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority: Tony Gentle, Bob Morris, Clive Maton and Pat Wyeth.

Voting: Unanimous

8. Appointment of Authority representatives on external organisations

- 8.1 Lindsay Cornish presented the report (NFNPA 185/07) and asked members to consider appointments to those posts where only one member had volunteered.

Resolved:

That the appointments to external organisations as listed at Annex 1 to these minutes, for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority, be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

- 8.2 A ballot was held to determine the appointment of a Trustee to the New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust.

Resolved:

That Peter Frost be appointed to act as a Trustee to the New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority.

- 8.3 A ballot was held to determine the appointment of a member to the Court of Verderers.

Resolved:

That Diana Halford be appointed to the Court of Verderers for a term to reflect her own term of appointment to the Authority, subject to a maximum term of nine years.

- 8.4 A ballot was held to determine the appointments to those existing posts where more than one member had volunteered.
- 8.5 Prior to a ballot being held on the appointment of a member to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Joint Members' Group, one of the two remaining candidates withdrew so no ballot was necessary.

Resolved:

That the following appointments to be approved for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority:

- (a) New Forest Access Forum – Vicky Myers
- (b) South East England Regional Assembly (reserve) – Julian Johnson
- (c) Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework Joint Members' Group – Kathy Heron

9. Chief Executive's report

- 9.1 Lindsay Cornish introduced the report (NFNPA 186/07) and told members that the Authority had signed the Agreement for an Association with The New Forest Ninth Centenary Trust, which would come into effect on 1 July 2007. She also said that the Authority had raised concerns over the Bournemouth Airport expansion plans; and a letter had been sent to the Government Office for the South West (copied to Defra and Natural England) setting out the view that Christchurch Borough Council had failed to carry out its "Section 62 duty" by not conducting a thorough impact assessment nor considering mitigation measures. The Authority would continue to pursue the matter and was taking advice from Natural England and Defra.
- 9.2 In response to a query from Julian Johnson, John Clements confirmed that officers had attended the South West Regional Spatial Strategy Examination in Public, but had not been invited to the session looking at transport issues. The Chairman would investigate this further.
- 9.3 Members noted the Chief Executive's report.

10. Oral report from Resources and Performance Committee

- 10.1 The minutes of the last Committee meeting were tabled at the meeting. Roger Heape explained that the Committee had looked in detail at the Authority's Statement of Accounts and Statement of Internal Control, and was recommending these to the Authority for approval. Members noted his report.

11. Final Accounts and Statement of Internal Control for Financial Year 2006/07

- 11.1 Pat Higgins introduced the report (NFNPA 187/07) and explained that the Statement of Internal Control need to be approved before approval of the

final accounts, which needed to be approved by 30 June for submission to the District Auditor. The Corporate Governance report would be taken to the Standards Committee.

Resolved:

- 1 That the Statement of Internal Control set out at Annex 1 to paper NFNPA 187/07 be approved.
- 2 That the Authority's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2006/07 set out at Annex 2 to paper NFNPA 187/07 be approved.
- 3 That the final out-turn position for 2006/07 as set out in Annex 3 to paper NFNPA 187/07 be noted.
- 4 That the transfer of £588,000 to the General Fund and £48,000 to the Sustainable Development Reserve be approved.
- 5 That the Treasury Management stewardship report and actual prudential indicators for 2006/07 as set out in Annex 4 to paper NFNPA 187/07 be noted.

Voting: Unanimous

12. Annual Progress Report of the Sustainable Development Fund

- 12.1 Barry Rickman thanked officers for their work on the Fund over the previous year. Claire Gingell introduced the report (NFNPA 188/07). Members congratulated officers on the diversity and quality of projects, and noted the progress made by the Fund and the projects it supported in delivering sustainable development within the New Forest National Park.

13. Signage in the New Forest National Park

- 13.1 Nigel Matthews introduced the report (NFNPA 189/07) and explained some of the differences between the proposed materials for the boundary markers. Peter Frost, reporting back from the Advisory Group, explained the thinking behind the design which was deliberately modest and intended to blend into the natural environment of the Forest, a particular feature being that the markers would be made from locally sourced wood and manufactured in the Park. The intention was that over time people would recognise the tree-shaped outline and whole National Park logo (with ponies and tree) as the primary indicator of the Park boundary, rather than the text of the logo.
- 13.2 Members raised the following points:
 - (a) although the removal and rationalisation of existing signs was not entirely within the Authority's control, the Authority should expedite such actions as far as possible. A number of members emphasised that there should be a net reduction in signage within the National Park and one member felt too many boundary markers were proposed;
 - (b) comments and criticisms of the markers included: the shape of the marker and the size and visibility of the font;

- (c) some members expressed a preference for the oak marker, which was locally sourced and taken from enclosures that needed to be thinned out; and
- (d) questions were raised about how the boundary would be signalled on the Motorway/ A31.

Resolved:

- 1 That the draft Signage Strategy be noted as a work in progress, especially the underlying principles in section 5.

Alan Rice and Stan Wade recorded their votes against the above decision.

- 2 That the proposals for boundary markers and priority locations for installation set out in report NFNPA 189/07 be noted, subject to individual site assessments with the Highway Authority and Highways Agency.

Voting: 13 (none voting against)

- 3 That progress on the Sign Rationalisation Action Plan be noted and the removal of signs where agreement had been reached amongst stakeholders be approved in principle (Section 2 of the Action Plan).

Voting: 15 (none voting against)

14. Education and Interpretation Strategy

- 14.1 Nigel Matthews introduced the report (NFNPA 190/07) and thanked Amanda Elmes and Jim Mitchell for their input. Amanda Elmes explained that the map at page 23 of the report showed education providers who delivered learning outside the classroom. Following a point made by Susan Achmatowicz, officers agreed to meet her to discuss possible partnerships with private sector organisations in the tourism sector missing from the existing list.

Resolved: That the draft Strategy at Annex A to NFNPA 190/07 be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

15. A Statement of Special Qualities for the New Forest National Park

- 15.1 Steve Trotter introduced the report (NFNPA 191/07) and highlighted the large number of responses that the Authority had received, thanking all those who had taken part.
- 15.2 Alan Rice commented that there were other common rights apart from grazing which should be referred to.

Resolved:

- 1 That the responses received be noted.
- 2 That the revised statement of special qualities be approved for inclusion in the forthcoming Management Plan.

Voting: None voting against

16. Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

- 16.1 The Chairman congratulated officers from all of the teams who had helped to secure approval of the Core Strategy. John Clements introduced the report (NFNPA 192/07) and explained that the Authority could now adopt the Strategy, subject to the inclusion of the minor amendments recommended by the Inspector.

Resolved: That the Inspector's binding report recommendations be noted and that the final Minerals and Waste Core Strategy incorporating the recommended changes (as set out at Annex 3 to NFNPA 192/07) be adopted.

Voting: None voting against

17. Accommodation Assessment for Gypsies and Travellers

- 17.1 John Clements introduced the report (NFNPA 193/07). Members noted that the Authority would liaise with neighbouring authorities to identify the most suitable sites for the region.

Resolved:

1. That the conclusions of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment be noted and the report be endorsed as a basis for informing the Authority's response to the South East England Regional Assembly partial review of the South East Plan on pitch requirements for gypsies and travellers.

Voting: Unanimous

2. That the Authority liaise with the neighbouring authorities set out in paragraphs 9 and 11 of NFNPA 193/07 to identify potential sites for gypsy and traveller accommodation in or around the New Forest National Park.

Voting: 15-1 (2 abstentions)

18. Report on New Forest Access Forum Meeting (4 June)

- 18.1 Members noted issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 4 June 2007, and the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting on Monday 3 September 2007.

19. Report on New Forest Consultative Panel Meeting (10 May)

- 19.1 Members noted issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 10 May 2007 and the date of the next Panel meeting on Thursday 5 July 2007.

20. Urgent Items by the Chairman

- 20.1 The Chairman advised that there were no matters of urgency which he intended to raise under this item.

PART II – ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPTED INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

- 21.1 There were no agenda items for consideration under Part II of the agenda.

The meeting closed at 12:00 pm.

Signed Date:.....
(Chairman)

Annex 1

Authority Appointments to External Organisations

- Bournemouth International Airport Consultative Panel – Roger Heape
- Council for National Parks – Bob Morris
- Dorset and South Wiltshire Planning and Transportation Liaison Committee – Kathy Heron
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association – Ted Johnson
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sub-Regional Improvement Partnership: Improvement Board – Susan Achmatowicz
- Lymington Harbour Commissioners – Vicky Myers
- National Park Authorities Electronic Government Group - Susan Achmatowicz
- New Forest Notifiable Animal Disease Liaison Group – Clive Maton
- Solent Forum – Vicky Myers
- Sustainable Development Fund Panel – Barry Rickman and John Sanger
- Ninth Centenary Trust Executive Management Group – Susan Achmatowicz
- North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, Elected Members Group – Clive Chatters, Vicky Myers (reserve).