

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 24 JULY 2008 AT 09.30 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM AT SOUTH EFFORD HOUSE, NEAR LYMINGTON

#### **Present:**

##### *Members*

Clive Chatters (Chairman)  
Barry Rickman (Deputy Chairman)

Lee Dunsdon  
Peter Frost  
Tony Gentle  
Kathy Heron  
Maureen Holding  
Ted Johnson

Bob Morris  
Leo Randall  
Alan Rice  
Stan Wade

##### *Officers:*

Lindsay Cornish, Liz Ellam (Deputising for Monitoring Officer), John Ward, Sarah Applegate, David Stone, Rosalind Alderman and Helen Matthews.

##### *By invitation:*

Richard Read, Head of Planning Development at Hampshire County Council

## **PART I – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

### **18. Apologies for absence**

18.1 Diana Halford, Roger Heape, Julian Johnson, Mel Kendal, Clive Maton, Vicky Myers, John Sanger, Alan Weeks and Pat Wyeth.

### **19. Declarations of interest**

19.1 On advice from Liz Ellam, Local Authority members accepted and declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in agenda item 23 (Minerals Plan Development Plan Document – Submission Draft) in so far as this related to any role they may have as a member of another authority on which they had taken part in the debate and voting on this item. Members who notified a personal interest in accordance with this guidance were Lee Dunsdon, Tony Gentle and Alan Rice.

19.2 Liz Ellam further advised that such involvement would not preclude members from sitting on the Authority's Planning Development Control Committee to consider specific applications in relation to any of the sites that came forward for a decision, notwithstanding that such sites may be within their constituent division, ward or parish – Kathy Heron declared a personal interest in that Plumley Wood fell within her electoral division.

19.3 By way of further explanation, Liz Ellam added that the Minerals Plan was a policy document and any decision related to this meant that members would not come to any definitive view as regards specific sites referred to in the Plan. However, if a member or a relative or close friend of a member in the immediate

vicinity of any of these sites could be adversely affected through any impact on the value of a property, the member concerned would have a prejudicial interest.

## **20. Chairman's announcements**

20.1 The Chairman introduced Liz Ellam who would be acting on behalf of the Monitoring Officer for the duration of the meeting. He also announced that a short members' briefing would take place immediately following the Authority meeting to update members on the forthcoming Peer Review.

## **21. Public Question Time**

21.1 There were no questions or statements from the public.

## **22. Appointment of Authority representative to the New Forest Business Partnership**

22.1 Lindsay Cornish introduced the report (NFNPA 264/08) and explained that, as two expressions of interest had been received, it would be necessary for the appointment to be determined by ballot.

22.2 Following the above-mentioned ballot, the Chairman declared that Barry Rickman would be appointed as the Authority's representative on the partnership, with Peter Frost being appointed as substitute.

**Resolved:** That Barry Rickman and Peter Frost be appointed as representative and substitute respectively on the board of the New Forest Business Partnership for the period up to the next Annual meeting of the Authority in 2009.

*Voting: By ballot*

## **23. Minerals Plan Development Plan Document - Submission Draft**

23.1 John Ward briefly introduced the report (NFNPA 265/08) and drew members' attention to the revised recommendation which had been tabled at the meeting following the decision by the participating authorities to reduce the Core Strategy apportionment figure to 1.82 million tonnes of extraction per annum of sand and gravel from the original figure of 2.63 million tonnes. He then introduced Richard Read, Head of Planning Development at Hampshire County Council and lead officer for the work on the Minerals Plan.

23.2 Using a powerpoint presentation, Richard Read updated members on the progress made towards developing the Minerals Plan and the next steps in the process. He also reported on the legal challenge by Associated British Ports and details of the High Court judgment on the Core Strategy (*a hard copy of this presentation is filed with the signed copy of these minutes*).

23.3 Members raised the following key points during discussion on the strategic overview of the Minerals Plan:

- Questions were raised over the potential risk of relying on the lower apportionment figure, which might be subject to challenge. Officers were mindful of this legal vulnerability as well as the procedural difficulties which could be created.

- Members emphasised that the term 'safeguarding' as it related to mineral wharves at Dibden Bay needed to be explained fully, in particular that this did not imply a presumption of such development.
- Local communities had concerns over the landscape changes whilst extraction was taking place.
- The timetable for the Wiltshire and Dorset plans was behind that of Hampshire but local communities needed to be given a picture of the full impact of mineral working in their area, irrespective of whether it was in Hampshire or Wiltshire/Dorset; the maps should accordingly be amended to reflect this 'overview' as far as was possible. The Authority would be consulted on applications for sites in the vicinity of the Park boundary and restoration proposals in due course.
- Members emphasised that restoration plans needed to be robust and that more specific information was needed in the Minerals Plan.

23.4 Members then raised the following issues during ensuing discussion on specific sites within the plan:

#### Forest Lodge Farm

Although this site was more acceptable given its likely limited life of five years, members raised concerns that this site was in the Health and Safety Zone - consequently, the Health and Safety Executive might object to any proposed mineral extraction. Richard Read said that there would be a consultation on these issues.

Further points raised with regard to this area and the adjacent Frost Lane Valley were its importance as a gateway to the National Park, potential hydrological and biodiversity issues, the need to minimise disruption to the local community and environment and for a community-based restoration scheme.

Responding to a query on how the recent licence for extended working at Badminton Farm compared with the proposed site at Forest Lodge Farm, officers undertook to revert back to Lee Dunsdon on this particular issue.

#### Ringwood Forest sites

Members agreed that Natural England needed to be involved in monitoring species and habitats of restored sites and that the Authority should be kept informed of the frequency and results of the monitoring. Restoration should be beneficial to the National Park and subsequent uses should not generate excessive noise.

#### Roeshot Hill

Members expressed concern over traffic problems associated with this site, particularly the existing problems with the junction near the Cat and Fiddle public house.

23.5 Members also felt that it would be helpful to the public to have an overview of the proposed sites and the surrounding areas, with more information on restoration uses.

23.6 Following brief clarification by Sarah Applegate on further aspects specific to restoration uses such as back up grazing land and public open spaces, members approved the revised recommendations as tabled, subject to the following amendments:

- the words ‘subject to comments concerning text on restoration’ to be added at the end of recommendation 1, and
- the word ‘adversely’ to be added between the words ‘not’ and ‘affect’ in the third line of recommendation 2.

**Resolved** that:

1. The draft Hampshire and New Forest National Park Minerals Plan in Annex 2 of the submitted report be approved for public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulations 27-30 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 as amended, subject to comments concerning text on restoration.
2. The Director of Strategy and Planning be authorised to make any necessary minor amendments to the Plan in advance of the public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State, as long as they do not adversely affect the National Park, do not change the overall direction, shape or emphasis of the document and do not raise any new issues.
3. The Director of Strategy and Planning be authorised to liaise with the partner authorities to review and, so far as necessary, amend the provisions in the Core Strategy and Minerals Plan relating to depots and wharves to give effect to the recent court judgment; and to review Policy S8 of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy to ensure conformity with the Plan for the provision of 1.82 million tonnes of extraction per annum of sand and gravel.

*Voting: 10-1*

23.7 Following the vote, Lee Dunsdon elaborated as to why he had voted against the recommendations, owing to his concerns with the Forest Lodge Farm site.

**24. Urgent Items by the Chairman**

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

The meeting closed at 11:20 hours.

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

Date:.....