

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017 AT 10.00 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, LYMINGTON

Present:

Members

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman)

Edward Heron (Deputy Chairman)

Gordon Bailey

Richard Clewer

Richard Frampton

David Harrison

Patrick Heneghan

Penny Jackman

Mel Kendall

Keith Mans

Phil Marshall

Harry Oram

Gavin Parker

Neville Penman

Leo Randall

Barry Rickman

John Sanger

Marian Spain

Richard Taylor

Pat Wyeth

Officers

Alison Barnes

Steve Avery

David Illsley

Vicki Gibbon

Frances Connolly

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director, Strategy and Planning

Policy Manager

Member Services Administrator

Executive Assistant

30. Apologies for absence.

30.1 An apology for absence was received from George Bisson.

31. Declarations of Interest.

31.1 Edward Heron declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute item 33 as a Member of New Forest District Council and as a Planning and Development Surveyor.

Marian Spain declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute item 33 as a Trustee of Campaign for National Parks.

32. Chairman's announcements.

32.1 The Chairman paid tribute to Ken Thornber who had recently passed away, he explained that Ken had been a founding Member of the Authority in 2005 and had spent a lifetime in public service. He then asked members to join him in remembering Ken with a moment of silence.

32.2 The Chairman reminded Members that, following the meeting Hilary Makin would give a brief presentation on the new website and that there would then be the opportunity to get together with staff for coffee and mince pies in the breakout area.

33. Public Question Time

33.1 There were no questions by members of the public on this occasion.

34. Draft Local Plan

- 34.1 Steve Avery introduced the proposed Submission draft Local Plan, commenting that this represented a major milestone and was the culmination of two and a half years work, numerous consultations and close liaison with neighbouring authorities. He said that the current Core Strategy (2010) had served the Authority well but that a key challenge of the review has been the need to accommodate future housing requirements whilst securing the protection of the National Park's landscape and wildlife.
- 34.2 David Illsley presented his report highlighting that the Core Strategy had been adopted seven years ago and that work on the revised Local Plan commenced in 2015. This revised Local Plan would reflect the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework, along with the Authority's purposes and related socio-economic duty. At the last full Authority meeting in October 2017 Members considered a report which summarised the position reached in the Local Plan review and established a timetable for the remaining stages. Mr Illsley advised that this current report now sought Members' endorsement of the Submission Draft Local Plan document for a final six week consultation to begin in January 2018, with submission to the Secretary of State for examination in Spring 2018 and full adoption in a year from now.
- 34.3 David Illsley drew Members' attention to section 4 of the covering report which summarised the main Local Plan policy approaches and highlighted where changes had been made in light of representations received in 2016/17 and the completion of a number of evidence-base studies.
- 34.4 Mr Illsley stressed that even with site allocations and a windfall allowance, the full housing need in the National Park of 60-65 additional dwellings per annum would not be met. The Authority would continue to work with neighbouring authorities to explore whether this unmet need could be met in surrounding areas. He also explained that a limited number of housing site allocations were proposed and the aim of these sites would be to deliver a significant proportion of affordable housing for local people. None of the greenfield sites proposed for development in the Local Plan lie within 400 metres of the New Forest Special Protection Area.
- 34.5 He explained that a major focus of joint work with New Forest District Council over the last year had been on the proposed redevelopment of the former Fawley Power Station site. Paragraphs 7.32 and 7.33 of the draft Local Plan summarise the assessment of how the proposals for the former Power Station site relate to the NPPF's major development tests. The draft Local Plan was clear that development in the National Park alone could not be justified. The Authority's support for the comprehensive redevelopment of the Power Station site was predicated on clear public benefits being demonstrated in relation to the design of the scheme.
- 34.6 Finally Mr Illsley advised Members of the proposed next steps beginning with a final six week period of consultation commencing in January 2018. He also emphasised that the Authority would be publishing what it considered to be a 'sound' Local Plan, with scope for making further changes following this consultation limited. Should any major changes be required this would trigger the need for further consideration at a full Authority meeting. He then asked Members to endorse the recommendations as set out in the report.
- 34.7 Following detailed debate a proposal was made and seconded to endorse the proposed Submission draft Local Plan, with the deletion of the policy support for the redevelopment of Fawley Power Station as they believed it would not be beneficial to the local economy and the case for inclusion against the major development

tests and the statutory National Park purposes had not been made. Following a vote of 4:16 this was not carried forward. Members were then minded to endorse the Officer’s recommendation as set out below with a vote of 17:0, with 3 abstentions.

Resolved, that

- 1. the submission draft Local Plan (Annex 1) be approved for public consultation under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), subject to any minor changes that are deemed necessary prior to the start of the consultation being agreed by the Executive Director (Strategy & Planning) and the Chairman of the Authority, and
- 2. authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Strategy & Planning) in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority to make any minor changes arising from the consultation and submit the Local Plan to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) for independent examination; and
- 3. if major changes were required to the submission Draft Local Plan (Annex 1) it be noted that a further public consultation and decision by the Authority would be required.

35. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent

35.1 The Chairman advised Members that New Forest District Council had recently changed the name of its Planning Development Control Committee to Planning Committee and asked Members if they would agree to change the name of the NPA Planning Development Control Committee in line with the corresponding change by NFDC.

Resolved that, the name of the Authority’s Planning Development Control Committee be changed to Planning Committee with effect from 1 January 2018.

Voting; Unanimous

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

There were no Part 2 items to be considered.

The meeting closed at 11.40am.

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: