17. **Apologies for absence.**

17.1 Apologies for absence were received from David Harrison, Ian Hibberd, Julian Johnson (Chairman), Chris Lagdon, Clive Maton, John Pemberton and Marian Spain.

18. **Declarations of interest.**

18.1 No declarations of interest were received on this occasion.

19. **Chairman’s announcements.**

19.1 The Chairman made no announcements.

20. **Minutes of meetings on 27 June 2013.**

20.1 The minutes of the meeting on 27 June 2013 were agreed as a true record.

21. **Public Question Time.**

21.1 Cllr. Russell Horne, Brockenhurst Parish Council, spoke on his concerns with regard to the funding of £3.57 million that had been awarded to the New Forest following the successful ‘New Forest Family Cycle Experiences’ funding application. Cllr. Horne felt that the Parish Council of Brockenhurst, which was the area most likely to be affected by the funding owing to its railway station, cycle hire businesses and central location, should have been involved in the process leading up to the bid being made by the NPA. He hoped that officers from the NPA would now work with the Parish Council and local residents to ensure the best possible
use of this income, which would include improving links between particular cycling routes, and other work to make family cycling safer, whilst seeking to protect the New Forest’s unique landscape and heritage.

22. **Chief Executive’s Report**

22.1 Alison Barnes introduced her report (NFNPA 440/13), drawing members’ attention to a number of highlights. She congratulated those involved in the Community Wildlife Plans Project, with which Godshill, Landford, Wellow, Hordle, Marchwood, Milford on Sea and New Milton had been working over the last few months to establish what local communities wanted to see in terms of improving wildlife and how this could be sustained after the project period was over. There had been a large number of successful ranger led events; in particular, regular events such as the ‘Explorer Roadshows’, ‘Wild Wednesdays at the Reptile Centre’, and the ‘New Forest in a Nutshell’ walks had been well-received. Approximately 700 volunteer days had been achieved in respect of the World War II Project. Following the NPA meeting in June, a permanent exhibition had been opened at the New Forest Centre by Dan Snow, the patron of the Centre, which had elicited positive feedback from visitors to the exhibition. An event was scheduled for October to celebrate the work of the volunteers.

22.2 An Open Art Exhibition had been launched by the NPA, which included a number of beautiful images and artworks in other media inspired by the New Forest. A number of VIP visits had taken place over the last three months. Richard Benyon MP had attended the England Biodiversity Stakeholder Group, which had been hosted by the NPA and included a tour of the Bisterne Estate. David Heath MP had attended the New Forest Show, as had the Earl and Countess of Wessex. The Earl presented an award (at the CLA / NPA Awards event) to Setley Ridge in respect of New Forest Marque produce; it was intended that this awards event would be repeated annually. New Forest Marque members had achieved great success at the Hampshire Food and Drink awards, receiving seven out of the total of eleven awards. Sarah Richards, the New Forest Marque Manager, was recognised as a ‘Local Food Hero’ thanks to her work with local producers and Alison Barnes congratulated her for this award, which was well-deserved.

22.3 The Chief Executive also reported on the successful pilot project whereby Sustainable Travel Ambassadors had delivered onward travel advice and visitor information to visitors from an innovative cargo tricycle. The NPA had hosted the ‘Two National Parks’ Local Sustainable Transport Fund Stakeholder conference in Brockenhurst; Alison Barnes congratulated all staff who had been involved with the LSTF, which had made rapid progress.

22.4 Alison Barnes explained that the DfT investment for ‘New Forest Family Cycle Experiences’, referred to by Cllr. Horne under minute item 21, was expected to create more than 30 new jobs in the New Forest and generate income for local businesses as well as improve cycling facilities and management for residents and visitors. The proposed projects would promote active family lifestyles, respect the sensitive character of the New Forest and replace an estimated 127,000 private car journeys replaced with cycle trips every year. There had been positive and less positive responses to this; it was vital that all relevant stakeholders worked together to determine how this money could be spent most usefully by the deadline of March 2015.

22.5 NPA officers had recently attended a number of Parish Quadrant meetings to discuss the impact of the proposed changes to permitted development rights, which would allow agricultural buildings to be developed. The NPA welcomed the interest shown by Parish Councils, which had been instrumental in collecting evidence of the likely impact these changes would have on sensitive areas. Alison Barnes summarised for members the NPA’s engagement with Local Enterprise Partnerships, particularly the M3 LEP and the Solent LEP. The NPA had been liaising with these groups, together with NFDC and HCC, to
ensure that the New Forest’s needs were on the radar in deciding how EU and growth funds might best be spent. Finally, Alison Barnes thanks Sue Palma and the education team for their successful recent work; 17 schools had demonstrated a real commitment to using the New Forest Curriculum to its greatest potential, across a range of subjects.

22.6 A number of members discussed the cycling funding and the potential impact it might have in Brockenhurst, with some concerns being expressed that the village was already subject to a great deal of pressure caused by cycling activities and it was important that these should not be increased by the impact of the award of funding. All agreed that it was important to work together constructively to achieve the best result from the funds. In response to a point made regarding the sustainability of local project based work such as the Community Wildlife Plans Project the Chief Executive agreed that as core funding was reduced and the NPA led more short term project funded work, there were challenges to be faced in this regard; she would work with Angela Peters, the Community Wildlife Project Plans Officer in place until March 2014, to achieve the maximum amount of sustainability going forwards. One member also commended the programme currently being undertaken by the planning enforcement team in sending questionnaires to the occupiers of properties that were the subject of agricultural occupancy conditions, in order to safeguard this stock of housing for the future. In response to a request, the Chief Executive also agreed to write formally on behalf of the Chairman to congratulate the New Forest Marque Members on their recent successes. Members then noted the report.

23. Oral report from the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee meetings on 9 September 2013

23.1 On behalf of the Chairman of the Committee, Pat Wyeth highlighted key points in the draft minutes that had been tabled at the meeting; these were noted by members.


24.1 Bob Jackson presented the report (NPNPA 441/13), and advised that the report had been considered in depth by the Resources and Performance Committee and had been recommended for approval.

Resolved, that the Financial Report, the Annual Governance Statement contained therein and the Letter of Representation be approved.

Voting: None voting against

25. New Forest Landscape Action Plan and New Forest Landscape Character Assessment

25.1 Sarah Kelly introduced the report (NPNPA 442/13) reminding Members that the Landscape Action Plan and Landscape Character Assessment were approved for the purpose of public consultation at the Authority meeting in March. A 17 week period of public consultation had been held and the report summarised the responses which had been received and which had been taken into account in the documents submitted for members’ approval.

Resolved, that:

1. the responses received to the consultation on the Landscape Action Plan and Landscape Character Assessment, the NPA’s response to those and the amendments to both documents be noted;

2. the revised Landscape Action Plan and Landscape Character Assessment documents be approved; and
3. responsibility for the final design, illustration and layout of the documents be delegated to the Director of Park Services.

Voting: none voting against

26. Adoption of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan

26.1 Sarah Applegate introduced the report (NFM 443/13) commenting that the report had been a joint process over several years with partners Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and the South Downs National Park.

26.2 In recommending adoption of the plan, she advised Members that the draft plan had been through a rigorous examination process and the Inspectors report had been received concluding that the Plan was 'sound'.

Resolved, that:

1. following receipt of the Inspector’s Report, the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan be formally adopted and brought into immediate effect to form part of the statutory ‘development plan’ for the New Forest National Park; and

2. authority be delegated to officers to undertake all necessary steps to secure the process of statutory adoption including the publication of formal notices on the adoption of the Plan.

Voting: none voting against

27. Adoption of the Sway Village Design Statement and the Boldre Parish Design Statement as Supplementary Planning Documents

27.1 In the absence of Nick Evans, David Illsley presented the report (NFM 444/13) which outlined the Village Design Statements for both Boldre and Sway. He then introduced 2 representatives from the Parish’s, Ted Watts from Sway Parish Council and Ian Wild from Boldre Parish Council.

27.2 Both Ted Watts and Ian Wild elaborated on the process leading up to the finalisation of the village design statements and thanked the NPA for their help in producing the documents.

Resolved, that the Sway Village Design Statement and the Boldre Parish Design Statement be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents.

Voting: none voting against
28. Appointment of replacement members on the Planning Development Control Committee and Review of Lead Member Scheme

28.1 The Deputy Chairman introduced the report (NFNPA 445/13) advising Members that following the departure of Bob Morris there was a vacancy on the Planning Development Control Committee, Sally Arnold had previously indicated her interest in filling this vacancy and therefore Members were asked to formally confirm her appointment onto the Planning Committee.

28.2 The Deputy Chairman reminded Members that they had requested a review of the Lead Member Scheme and invited members to suggest any improvements that could be made to the Scheme.

28.3 Following discussion, Members were of the view that significant issues which arose in the various areas could be addressed via a members' task and finish group, members were also free to liaise with any of the officers in connection with their areas of work. Consequently, Members agreed to dissolve the current scheme, with the exception of those lead areas such as health and safety and diversity where it was important to retain a member lead.

Resolved, that

1. Sally Arnold be appointed to the Planning Development Control Committee until the next annual Authority meeting in June 2014 or such earlier time as the NPA wishes to amend the membership of this committee; and

2. the with the exception of the areas of health and safety and diversity, the Lead Member scheme be dissolved.

Voting: none voting against

29. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

29.1 There were no items of urgent business.

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

Resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, namely the need to avoid disclosing sensitive information relating to the Authority's financial affairs.

30. Restructure Proposal

30.1 Oliver Reichardt presented the report (NFNPA 446/13), which related to a proposed restructuring of the NPA.

30.2 This is a summary of a minute that contains exempt information.
31. **Members’ Task and Finish Group to look at the future financial implications for the Authority**

31.1 Members appointed a task and finish group as per the report (NFNPA 447/13).

31.2 This is a summary of a minute that contains exempt information.

32. **Purchase of land**

32.1 Members authorised the Chief Executive to source funds towards the possible purchase of land in the National Park.

32.2 This is a summary of a minute that contains exempt information.

The meeting closed at 12.20 hours.

Signed: ................................................................. Date: .........................  (Chairman)