

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JANUARY 2018 AT 10.00 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, LYMINGTON

#### **Present:**

##### *Members*

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman)

Edward Heron (Deputy Chairman)

Gordon Bailey

David Bence

Richard Clewer

David Harrison

Patrick Heneghan

Penny Jackman

Keith Mans

Phil Marshall

Harry Oram

Gavin Parker

Neville Penman

Barry Rickman

John Sanger

Marian Spain

Richard Taylor

##### *Officers*

Alison Barnes

Steve Avery

Nigel Stone

Julia Mutlow

Nigel Matthews

David Illsley

David Stone

Vicki Gibbon

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director, Strategy and Planning

Chief Finance Officer

Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Head of Recreation Management and Learning

Policy Manager

Corporate Services Manager

Member Services Administrator

#### **36. Apologies for absence.**

36.1 Apologies for absence were received from George Bisson, Richard Frampton, Mel Kendall, Leo Randall and Pat Wyeth.

#### **37. Declarations of Interest.**

37.1 Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre declared an interest in minute item 40 as a member of the New Forest Association.

Phil Marshall declared an interest in minute item 40 as a member of the New Forest Association.

#### **38. Chairman's announcements.**

38.1 The Chairman welcomed David Bence to the Authority as Secretary of State appointee, David would be replacing Russell Wynn who left in June 2017.

#### **39. Minutes**

39.1 The minutes of 12 October 2017 and 14 December 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### **40. Public Question Time**

40.1 John Ward, Chairman of the Friends of the New Forest (New Forest Association) addressed members in connection with the Association's concerns regarding the

proposed major housing development at Fawley (a copy of the full presentation is available from Member Services).

- 40.2 Brian Tarnoff Chairman of the Habitat and Landscape Committee of the Friends of the New Forest (New Forest Association) addressed members on the Association's concerns regarding the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership Strategy and the Recreation Management Strategy (a copy of the full presentation is available from Member Services).

**41. Chief Executives Report (NFNPA 537/18)**

- 41.1 The Chief Executive was pleased to present her report which covered the third quarter period since 12 October 2017, she also reminded members of the four themes which her report covered; Protect, Enjoy, Prosper and Aiming for Excellence.

- 41.2 Under the 'Protect' programme Ms Barnes drew members' attention to the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan which was published last week. She explained that although it was debatable to what degree an impact it had had on the last quarter, as an Authority a lot of the work which we had achieved was already resonating within some of the themes which were incorporated. The main themes of the plan included; the natural capital approach and that nature played a large part of our well-being, the principle of reward for delivery of public benefit for land managers, a clear principle of net environmental gain from development and the importance of education.

On 22 November the Green Halo partnership was launched at Ordnance Survey head office in Southampton, this was a significant achievement with over 100 people attending from 70 different organisational sectors. Partners were invited to 'sign up' to protect and enhance our 'natural capital', some very interesting and aspiring discussions took place during the breakout sessions on how to work together to bring to the forefront natural capital in our area.

The Chief Executive informed members that the final six week consultation on the proposed draft Local Plan was now open and would be until 28 February. This was the last formal stage for comments on whether the plan is legally sound and consistent with national policy.

Ms Barnes commented that since the new road signs had been erected and the #add3minutes campaign was launched at Beaulieu Sales Yard in the autumn, animal accidents had reduced compared with the same period of last year. The shared forest business group had now increased to 19 members, all of whom were now displaying signs on their vehicles and ensuring that being responsible forest drivers was now part of their culture.

- 41.3 Under the 'Enjoy' programme Ms Barnes highlighted the recent family trees event which took place at St. Nicholas's churchyard in Brockenhurst in early December, this was once again a great success with over 300 people attending and planting trees to celebrate their loved ones.

The year-long celebration of the Charter of the Forest recently came to an end culminating in an exhibition at the New Forest Centre, where the film which was created at the New Forest show was featured. Ms Barnes informed Members of the recent sad passing of Ednyfed Hudson Davies who had been president of the Ninth Centenary Trust.

In October the walking festival had taken place and although storms were prevalent more than 1500 walkers attended with 94% of those taking part saying they had learnt something new about the National Park.

Ms Barnes reminded members that the next volunteer fair would be taking place on 28 January at Lyndhurst Community Centre, this would feature over 40 organisations and the opportunity to meet some inspiring volunteers.

Ms Barnes said that she had been pleased to attend the opening of a new bird hide on Keyhaven causeway which the Authority had recently granted planning permission for a change of use from an old pumping house. This had been part funded by the Sustainable Communities Fund and would prove to be a wonderful community resource. The Chief Executive expressed her sadness of the recent passing of Cllr. Sophie Beeton who was a key figure in the work of environmental promotion in the Milford area and noted her contribution and legacy to the National Park.

A dog activity area had recently opened in Calmore, Totton with the aim to help mitigate the impact of recreational visits on the National Park, she said that this was a great example of how the Authority had worked together with NFDC to achieve this.

- 41.4 Under the 'prosper' programme the Chief Executive highlighted the recent success of the affordable housing scheme in Bransgore which had won the prestigious 'Excellence in Planning to Deliver Housing' category given by the Royal Town Planning Institute for Planning Excellence.

The New Forest Business Partnership Brilliance in Business awards had also recently taken place with Cyclexperience Brockenhurst winning three awards. Jane Overall, Chairman of the New Forest Marque recently won the National Park Hero award for her outstanding contributions to the Forest.

Ms Barnes advised that she had recently attended the opening of Burley YHA following a £700,000 revamp. Through the Department for Transport funding, the Authority had contributed £31,000 to introduce cycling facilities and design interpretation which would help to inspire young people to learn more about the National Park and how to travel sustainably.

- 41.5 Under the 'Achieving Excellence' programme, the Chief Executive drew Members' attention to the new corporate clothing which was produced by Columbia Clothing who would be the official outfitters for all NPA's over the next five years under a sponsorship deal.

Members were asked to note the report.

## **42. Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership Strategy Adoption (NFNPA 538/18)**

- 42.1 David Illsley introduced his report highlighting that following the endorsement from the Planning Committee in December, Members of the full Authority were now being requested to fully adopt the updated SRMP strategy.

- 42.2 Mr Illsley then went on to explain that significant areas of the Solent coast were designated due to the species and habitat that they support. The Habitats Regulations required mitigation for any impacts that a proposed development was

likely to have on these areas. Extensive research had been undertaken to assess the impacts of development which had led to Natural England concluding that the projected increase in recreational use of the Solent would have a significant impact on the designated sites and therefore mitigation measures would be required.

- 42.3 In response to this advice, the 15 planning authorities along the Solent coast had agreed to work together along with the RSPB, Natural England and the Wildlife Trust to establish a strategic approach to mitigation and, in 2014, the interim Solent Mitigation Strategy was launched. Since 2014 work had been taking place to produce a longer term mitigation strategy.
- 42.4 Mr Illsley reminded Members that since 2012 the NPA had separately sought financial contributions towards measures designed to mitigate impacts of development on the protected habitats in the core of the New Forest (focusing on the New Forest SPA). He explained that this would continue to run in tandem with the SRMP Strategy and there would be developments in the National Park where contributions towards both schemes would be required. Members were then asked to approve the recommendation set out in the paper.

**Resolved**, that

1. the Authority formally adopt the updated Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership Strategy as a mechanism to mitigate the effects of increased recreational visits on the Solent Special Protection Areas which will arise from planned new house building in the vicinity of the coast to 2034. The new charges will be applied to consent granted from 1 April 2018, and
2. an annual update be provided on how financial contributions received were being spent in the New Forest.

Voting; unanimous

**43. Oral Report from the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee on 13 November 2017**

- 43.1 David Harrison, Chairman of the Resource, Audit and Performance Committee updated Members on the meeting which had taken on 13 November 2017, highlighting the issues discussed under the Recreation Management Strategy and New Forest Centre.

Members noted the report

**44. Recreation Management Consultation Reports (NFNPA 539/18)**

- 44.1 Nigel Matthews presented his report to the Authority reminding Members that in March 2017, along with partner organisations a joint 'call for views' consultation was launched to gain public views on the New Forest Recreation Management Strategy. On behalf of the RMS Steering Group the responses had now been analysed and two reports had been drafted, the Findings Report (Annex 1) and the Next Steps Report (Annex 2).
- 44.2 He advised that both documents were also being considered by partner organisations and that proposed actions would be developed and be subject to a further public consultation in the summer of 2018. Mr Matthews asked Members to note the content of the report as per the recommendation on the paper.
- 44.3 In the following detailed discussion, members expressed their concern that some of the data being used was now quite old. It was then agreed that a further

recommendation be added; namely that a report on monitoring and evidence gathering by the Authority be taken to a future RAPC meeting.

**Resolved**, that

- 1. the content of the Findings Report and ‘Next Steps’ Report be noted and the NPA’s commitment to ongoing partnership working to help draft the new actions for the update to the Recreation Strategy 2010-2030 be confirmed, and
- 2. that a report be submitted to a future RAPC meeting on the data and evidence that is available to assist in the work of the Authority, particularly as regards projects such as the update to the Recreation Management Strategy.

Voting; unanimous

**45. Update on the New Forest Cycle Event Organisers Charter (NFNPA 540/18)**

- 45.1 Nigel Matthews introduced his report highlighting that this was the third annual update on the degree to which the Cycle Event Organisers’ Charter had helped to manage the impacts of cycle events in the New Forest. He explained that although concerns still remained, overall there had been some tangible improvements in communication and the management of events run by some event organisers.
- 45.2 Mr Matthews asked Members to support the ongoing work of the Charter and agree that monitoring of the Charter should in future be part of the wider Recreation Management Strategy.

**Resolved**, that

- 1. the Authority confirm its support for the ongoing work to seek compliance with the Charter by cycle event organisers, safer and more considerate cycling by participants and greater tolerance and positivity by those not involved in the event, and
- 2. the effectiveness of the Charter be monitored and reported on as part of reporting under the Recreation Management Strategy.

Voting; unanimous

**46. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent**

- 46.1 There were no further items.

**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 11.55am.

Signed: .....  
(Chairman)

Date: .....