

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 10:00 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, AVENUE ROAD, LYMINGTON

#### **Present:**

##### *Members:*

Gordon Bailey  
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre  
David Harrison (Chairman)  
John Pemberton  
John Sanger  
Marian Spain (Deputy Chairman)  
Ken Thornber

##### *Officers:*

Alison Barnes	Chief Executive Officer
Steve Avery	Executive Director Strategy and Planning
Julia Mutlow	Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Nigel Matthews	Head of Recreation Management and Learning
Paul Walton	Head of Environment and Rural Economy
Nigel Stone	Finance and Performance Manager
Jo Murphy	Information and Data Protection Officer
Frances Connolly	Executive Assistant

#### **32. Apologies for absence**

32.1 No apologies for absence were received.

#### **33 Declarations of Interest**

33.1 There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

#### **34 Chairman's announcements**

34.1 There were no announcements on this occasion.

#### **35 Minutes**

35.1 Nigel Stone advised the Committee that he had been informed by Ernst and Young that Helen Thompson would be continuing in the role as engagement lead for the National Park Authority (NPA) for the financial year 2015/16 and that this was contrary to what had been reported to the previous meeting, as detailed in minute item 21.1.

35.2 Mr Stone updated Members on the feedback he had received from other National Parks with regards the new guidance which required a report to be provided to the full Authority regarding the performance of the Resources Audit and Performance Committee (RAPC). He explained that the responses received to date from other

National Park Authorities indicated that this task would be carried out by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority. Members debated whether there would be any potential conflict of interest if the NPA were to follow this route, given that both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman were also members of the Committee. An alternative proposal was put forward that the role should be given to the Chairman of the Standards Committee; however the Monitoring officer advised this proposal would require an amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee. Members were satisfied that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority were best placed to perform the review and Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre confirmed he was happy to complete the report.

- 35.3 In response to the action points at minute items 23.8 and 24.4 Paul Walton tabled a document detailing the ongoing Sustainable Communities Fund projects. Members were asked to forward any queries to Mr Walton via email. He also advised that the LiDar exhibition at the New Forest Centre ended last week, and that final visitor numbers would follow; he confirmed that the latest figures had totalled circa 15,000 visitors.
- 35.4 One Member raised concerns about the proliferation of electronic gadgets, such as drones, which were now readily available and the effect they might have on tranquillity in the National Park. Members agreed to defer the debate to a future Members day.

**Action:** Corporate Services to organise a Members' day to consider the Tranquillity Map and debate threats to tranquillity.

*Update: Tranquillity added to the agenda of the Recreational Management Strategy Members' Day on 7 July 2016*

- 35.5 The minutes of the meeting on 7 December 2015 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

**Resolved, that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.**

*Voting: none voting against*

## **36 Public Question Time**

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

## **37 Third Quarter Progress Report 2015-16**

- 37.1 Nigel Stone presented the report, explaining that where projects were flagged as amber in the Work Programme explanatory notes were provided in the mitigation column. Members noted that the only KPI flagged red was 'Member participation in attending committees'. Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre explained that as Chairman of the Authority he was provided with a useful and detailed table of attendance and that if there were attendance issues he followed them up with the individuals involved in an appropriate way.

37.2 There were a number of projects that had changed from green to amber status since the Quarter 2 report; these were all discussed and Members received assurances from the relevant heads of function that matters were in hand. In particular actions were agreed on the following items:

37.2.1 Protect 6 – Safeguarding land for back up grazing – Officers to engage the Parish councils in identifying potential back-up grazing, for example paddocks attached to private dwellings, and include in next year's work programme.

**Action:** Engagement with Parish councils on identifying potential back-up grazing sites to be included in next work programme.

37.2.2 Enjoy 9 – The Joint Litter Working Group – The NPA to write to both Hampshire County Council (HCC) highways department and Highways England to request commitment to litter picking on the verges in collaboration with New Forest District Council when hedge cutting and other maintenance was in progress.

**Action:** The NPA to write to HCC and Highways England

37.2.3 Prosper 2 – Funding for the New Forest Marque – the Committee discussed the current arrangement with the Marque being managed by volunteers with administration support from the NPA. Paul Walton agreed to report back to the Committee in September 2016 to give a steer for 2017/18 funding and also to address how we can develop a strategy for how we respond to local food issues, given their importance in national policy agenda, within which the New Forest Marque role is supported.

**Action:** Paul Walton to provide an update to the Committee in September 2016

37.2.4 Aiming for excellence 6 – Corporate sponsorship – Marian Spain, Deputy Chairman, requested an update on external funding.

**Action:** Paul Walton to provide the Committee with an update on external funding.

37.3 Members noted the report.

### **38 Third Quarter Budgetary Control Report 2015-16**

38.1 Nigel Stone introduced the report and advised Members that the potential variances were broadly in line with what had been reported in the previous quarter. He drew Members' attention to paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 which contained the overall income and expenditure position for the first nine months of the financial year.

38.2 Mr Stone explained that the projected savings would be carried forward to help fund the 2016/17 budget. Members agreed to this course of action.

38.3 Members noted the report.

**39 Planning Application Timescales Update**

- 39.1 Steve Avery reminded Members that the Committee had requested a report setting out further details of those planning applications that had not been determined within three months of their application date. He drew Members' attention to Annex 1 of the report which contained details of the six live applications of three months or older and the reasons for the delay. Members' noted that the delays were owing to either negotiations regarding the section 106 agreement or to seek additional information on a specific aspect of the scheme.
- 39.2 Alison Barnes pointed out that the Authority's performance in determining planning applications within the statutory time limits was good and given that the Authority dealt with approximately 1000 applications per year, these six applications represented a very small percentage of the total number.
- 39.3 Members noted the report.

**40 Future Budget Allocation from Defra**

- 40.1 Nigel Stone updated Members on future budget proposals based on the confirmed Defra Grant (this is a summary of a minute that contains exempt information).

**41 Update on the Bransgore Affordable Housing Scheme**

- 41.1 Members considered a report on a Bransgore Affordable Housing Update (this is a summary of a minute that contains exempt information).

**42 Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent**

- 42.1 There were no urgent items on this occasion.

**43 Date of next meeting**

- 43.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 7 March 2016 at 10.00 hours at Lymington Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 12.35 hours

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