

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 2 OCTOBER 2017 AT 14:00 HOURS  
IN MEETING ROOM 7, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, AVENUE ROAD, LYMINGTON

**Attending:**

Committee: Phil Marshall (Chairman)  
George Bisson (Deputy Chairman)  
Gordon Bailey  
Leo Randall  
Pat Wyeth

Officers: David Stone Corporate Services Manager

**1 Apologies for Absence**

1.1 No apologies were received.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

2.1 All members declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute items 5 and 6 as members of the New Forest NPA.

**3 Minutes**

3.1 In approving the minutes of the last meeting, Members noted that it would have been in order for Committee Members to have made a declaration of interest at that meeting in respect of the Members' code of conduct item.

**4 Public Question Time**

4.1 There were no public questions on this occasion.

**5 Review of Members' Allowance Scheme (NFNPA/SC 48/17)**

5.1 David Stone introduced his report, advising that although it was not obliged to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel, the NPA was required to consider the IRP recommendations of those local authorities which appointed members on the Authority. In response to a query, he advised that the Authority had appointed an IRP in 2006 whose recommendations with regard to the scheme of allowances were adopted by the Authority at that time. The current basic allowance stemmed from the allowance recommended by the Panel, increased in line with various annual cost of living pay awards for staff applied from that date and in accordance with the relevant approved schemes.

5.2 Having considered all relevant matters, including the recommendations of the appointing authorities as described above as well as a table of allowances paid by other National Parks, Members unanimously agreed to recommend to the full Authority that it agree the draft Members' allowances set out in Annex 11 to the report for a period of four years and that the allowances be increased in line with any NFNPA staff cost of living pay award, with effect from 1 April 2018. In doing so, the Committee noted that the Scheme could be amended at any time, so a four year Scheme did not tie the NPA to these allowances if financial circumstances should change during the relevant period.

**Resolved, that it be recommended to the Authority that the draft scheme of allowances attached as Annex 11 to the report be adopted for four years with effect from 1 April 2018 and that the allowances be increased in line with any annual NFNPA staff cost of living pay award applied from that date.**

Voting: Unanimous

**6 Dispensation under the Localism Act 2011**  
(paper NFNPA/SC 49/17)

- 6.1 David Stone introduced the report requesting that Members consider a general dispensation for all local authority Members of the NFNPA exempting them from the restrictions imposed by section 31 of the Localism Act. He advised that, if granted, it would enable local authority Members, who are also in receipt of an allowance payable under their authority's allowance scheme to participate in NFNPA business affecting those authorities.
- 6.2 The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

**Resolved, that the following dispensation be granted under Section 33(2)(e) of the Localism Act 2011:**

**A dispensation beginning on 5 October 2017 and expiring on 6 October 2021 to all Members of the NFNPA who are in receipt of an allowance under Hampshire County Council, Wiltshire County Council, New Forest District Council or Test Valley Borough Council Members' Allowances Schemes from the provisions of Section 31(4)(a) and (b) of the Localism Act 2011, thereby enabling all Members of the NFNPA to participate and vote in any NFNPA business relating to Hampshire County Council, Wiltshire County Council, New Forest District Council or Test Valley Borough Council.**

Voting: Unanimous

**7. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent**

- 7.1 Members discussed the frequency of future meetings and noted that one Standards Committee meeting was programmed annually into the schedule of Authority and committee meetings in October. Mr Stone was requested to advise the Chairman and members of the Standards Committee in advance of the meeting if there were no agenda items for that meeting, in which case an e-mail to this effect would be sent to Committee members confirming that the meeting had been cancelled.

**8 Date of next meeting**

- 8.1 As per item 7.1 above.

The meeting ended at 15.00 hours.

.....  
Chairman

.....  
Date