

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2016 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
Richard Frampton
Leo Randall

Also present: John Sanger (NFNPA member)

Officers:	Julia Mutlow	Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
	David Stone	Corporate Services Manager
	Vicki Gibbon	Member Services Administrator

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 No apologies were received.

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3 Public Question Time

3.1 John Sanger provided background on the Member complaint he had submitted in April 2015 and drew the Committee's attention to Part 2B, clause 5 of the Members' Code of Conduct which had been fundamental to the complaint and which he felt required consideration by the Committee in terms of removing the discretion by a Member to determine a member of the public's assessment of the significance of the Members' interest in a matter.

Mr Sanger accordingly requested the Committee to address the above issue when considering the review of the Members' Code of Conduct (Report NFNPA/SC 47/16, Minute Item 4).

4 Review of Members' Code of Conduct (NFNPA/SC 47/14)

4.1 Julia Mutlow introduced her report commenting that, as part of the Authority's ongoing review of its governance arrangements, Committee Members were requested to give their views on the current Members' Code of Conduct to ensure it was still fit for purpose.

Ms Mutlow explained the difference between the 2 recommendations in the report and requested that Members recommend their decision to the full Authority. Following discussion, Members agreed to support recommendation 1, namely that the code would be retained in its existing form, subject to the minor amendments as detailed in Annex 1. Members also noted that this option addressed the concern raised by Mr Sanger under Minute Item 3.

- 4.2 Members were of the view that the current composition of the panel undertaking an initial assessment of a member complaint (Chairman and Monitoring Officer) required expansion and requested the Monitoring Officer make enquiries of other NPA's and local authorities as to the composition of their panels and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved, that the code would be retained in its existing form, subject to minor amendments as detailed in Annex 1.

Voting: 4 for, 1 against

5 Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent

- 5.1 Members were advised of the need to approve the previous minutes (18 March 2014). Members noted that, owing to the passage of time since the last meeting of the Standards Committee, the only current Committee Member who had attended that meeting was Leo Randall. Given the unusual circumstances and the specific nature of the business at that meeting, the Chairman recommended that Leo Randall sign the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record. This approach was unanimously agreed by the Committee and the minutes were signed accordingly.

6 Date of next meeting

- 6.1 Members discussed the frequency of future Committee meetings and agreed that David Stone investigate the situation with regard to other NPA's and report back to the Committee. With regard to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee (8 February 2016), members agreed that this be subject to their being sufficient business and officers being in a position to report on the actions arising from the current meeting.

The meeting ended at 15.00 hours.

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Chairman

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Date