

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2018 AT 10.30 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, LYMINGTON

#### **Present:**

##### *Members*

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman)

Edward Heron (Deputy Chairman)

Gordon Bailey

George Bisson

David Harrison

Patrick Heneghan

Mel Kendal

Keith Mans

Harry Oram

Neville Penman

Leo Randall

Barry Rickman

John Sanger

Ann Sevier

Marian Spain

Richard Taylor

Pat Wyeth

##### *Officers*

Alison Barnes

Chief Executive Officer

Steve Avery

Executive Director, Strategy and Planning

Nigel Stone

Chief Finance Officer

Nigel Matthews

Head of Recreation Management and Learning

David Stone

Corporate Services Manager

Rosalind Alderman

Rosalind Alderman (Member Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Sarah Applegate

Senior Planning Officer

Vicki Gibbon

Member Services Administrator

#### **16. Apologies for absence.**

- 16.1 Apologies for absence were received from David Bence, Richard Frampton and Gavin Parker.

#### **17. Declarations of Interest.**

- 17.1 There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

#### **18. Chairman's announcements.**

- 18.1 The Chairman expressed his sadness at the recent unexpected passing away of Phil Marshall; he said that Phil had cared very much for the Forest which was demonstrated by his enthusiasm and commitment to conservation work. The Chairman went on to say that Phil had been an invaluable member of the National Park and would be greatly missed. On behalf of the Authority members, he offered his deepest condolences to Phil's family and asked members to join him in a moment of silence.
- 18.2 The Chairman extended a warm welcome to new Authority member Ann Sevier and advised that, Ann replaced Penny Jackman who had submitted her resignation in July.

**19. Minutes**

19.1 The minutes of 12 July were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**20. Public Question Time**

20.1 Richard Carter (Protect Hale Purlieu Movement) presented a statement setting out the Movement's concerns with regard to the undergrounding of 400Kv cables in Hale Purlieu. A copy of the full presentation is available from Member Services.

**21. Chief Executive's Report (NFNPA 557/18)**

21.1 The Chief Executive presented her report reminding members that the report covered the period from the last Authority meeting in July and centred around the Authority's four themes of Protect, Enjoy, Prosper and Achieving Excellence.

21.2 Under the Protect programme Ms Barnes drew members' attention to the Agricultural Bill which had recently been launched, she advised that this would be of absolute importance to the Forest and other landscapes post Brexit and would be crucial for what is supported in future through subsidies and other means in the Forest.

21.3 Ms Barnes highlighted the recent meadows which had been restored at Emery Down as part of the Our Past, Our Future Nature's Stepping Stones project along with the Commoning Mentoring Scheme which was now in its third year.

21.4 The Chief Executive highlighted the Shared Forest Project which was part of the OPOF scheme and led by the Commoners Defence Association; an education pack based on commoning had recently been launched and was now available on the education section of our website.

21.5 Ms Barnes advised members that the Local Plan was due for public examination over the period 6-15 November and that government appointed planning inspectors would lead on this, currently they had identified 14 broad topic areas to be discussed.

21.6 Under the Enjoy programme, the Chief Executive explained that the summer months were our main season for engaging with people about how to care for the Forest, this year the rangers connected with over 7,500 people and the seasonal rangers had talked with 1,500 more on Camping in the Forest sites. Ms Barnes commented that this summer was particularly dry which led to the Forestry Commission erecting high fire risk signs; the Authority supported the Commission with its wildfire campaign.

21.7 Ms Barnes highlighted the success of the New Forest Show which took place in July. This year it was based on the Future Forest consultation and partner organisations also helped on the stand. Nearly 3,000 people attended the stand and this helped more people to get involved with this consultation.

21.8 Under the Prosper programme the Chief Executive explained how we are engaging with local communities to help them achieve their goals and improve their own communities. Landford recently approached the Authority through their Parish Council and Community Partnership to ask for help to replace some of their old signs in the village which they hope would now remind people that they are in a special place. Ms Barnes also commented on the recent planning permission which was granted for two new affordable homes and heritage scheme in Burley.

- 21.9 Ms Barnes was pleased to report that it had been an exceptional season for the New Forest Tour with a 14.6% increase on last year and nearly 40,000 people using the tour buses, which saved 261,000 private car miles and generated £636,000 for the New Forest economy.
- 21.10 Under the Achieving Excellence programme the Chief Executive highlighted the recent awards that had been presented; the Queen's award for voluntary service to the Pondhead Conservation Trust along with many New Forest awards which were presented at the New Forest Show. Finally, Ms Barnes informed members of the launch of the Forestry Commission's National Parks England Accord.

## **22. Oral Report from Resource, Audit and Performance Committee**

- 22.1 David Harrison reported on the issues considered by the Committee at its meeting on 10 September 2018 including receiving a clean bill of health from the auditors, progress on the first quarter of the Annual Work Programme, the future working relationship between the Authority and the Ninth Centenary Trust in relation to the New Forest centre and the Love the Forest Visitor Giving scheme.
- 22.2 Members noted the report.

## **23 Appointment to Vacancies on Committees and External Representation (NFNPA 558/15)**

- 23.1 The Chairman reminded members that in July 2018 Penny Jackman submitted her resignation from the Authority which resulted in a vacancy on the Authority and the Planning Committee. In September 2018 Ann Sevier was appointed to replace Penny Jackman on the Authority and had expressed an interest in being appointed to the Planning Committee. The Chairman asked Authority members to endorse Ann Sevier's appointment to the Planning Committee which was unanimously supported.
- 23.2 The Chairman went on to explain that due to the sudden and sad passing away of Phil Marshall, a Secretary of State vacancy had now arisen on the Authority and the Standards Committee. Defra would shortly commence its recruitment for the filling of the vacancy on the Authority. He said that Harry Oram had expressed an interest in filling the vacancy on the Standards Committee and as external representative on the Hampshire Rural Forum which has previously been filled by Phil Marshall. Both appointments were supported by members.

### **Resolved,** that

1. Ann Sevier be appointed as local authority member to the Planning Committee for the period up until the Annual Authority meeting in 2019 or until such earlier time as the Authority wishes to amend the membership; and that
2. Harry Oram be appointed as Secretary of State member to the Standards Committee and as the Authority's representative on the Hampshire Rural Forum for the period up until the Annual Authority meeting in 2019 or until such earlier time as the Authority wishes to amend the membership.

*Voting: unanimous*

**24. New Forest Centre – Procurement of Services and Grant Proposal (NFNPA 559/18)**

- 24.1 Nigel Matthews presented his report which proposed a new working relationship between the Ninth Centenary Trust and the Authority in relation to the New Forest Centre, he advised that the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee had recently discussed and endorsed the recommendation as set out in the report.

**Resolved**, that

1. the Authority notes the decision of the Ninth Centenary Trust that the Authority's officers should procure from the Trust specific services as and when these are needed (without entering into a Memorandum of Agreement);
2. £5,000 of the remaining £10,000 that was put aside for the New Forest Centre in the 2018-19 Authority budget should be made available for the purchase of services from the Trust in this financial year; and
3. the final £5,000 provided in the budget be given to the Trust to assist with the transition to a heritage centre.

*Voting: unanimous*

**25 Recreation Management Strategy – Interim Report (NFNPA 560/18)**

- 25.1 Nigel Matthews introduced his report highlighting that he was pleased with the number of consultation responses and with the high level of support for the actions and examples of delivery which were based on the feedback received in 2017. He explained that there was still work to be done to help people fully understand the need and rationale for change. Nigel asked members to endorse the recommendation as set out in the report.

**Resolved**, that members note the work being done to agree an update to the New Forest National Park Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030.

*Voting: unanimous*

**26 Review of Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (NFNPA 561/18)**

- 26.1 Sarah Applegate advised that the Authority had been working jointly over many years with partners Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils and lately the South Downs National Park Authority on the preparation and subsequent revision of a set of planning policies for the consideration of planning applications on minerals and waste development. She said that although the current Plan covered minerals and waste development up to 2030, Government guidance recommended that a review of the Plan take place within 5 years of adoption to ensure that the policies were still effective and consistent with national policy.
- 26.2 She drew members' attention to the tabled attached as Annex 1 to the report which set out a summary assessment of monitoring indicators over the last five years and advised that although there were some policies shown as red in the table, the partners believed that there were mitigating factors for these and that the policies remained effective in delivering the planned strategy.
- 26.3 She added that a recent meeting of officers of all the partner authorities had concluded that this was not the right time to review the Plan and that it should be looked at again in two years' time. In the meantime officers would start the

assessment for this process which would include a stakeholder event to discuss the issues.

**Resolved**, that Members endorse the approach as set out in the draft Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Review that a review is not necessary at this time.

*Voting: unanimous*

**27 Funding of ICT System Replacements (NFNPA 562/18)**

27.1 Nigel Stone presented his report advising that some of the Authority’s ICT systems were due for renewal and over the next twelve months would need to be replaced. Mr Stone explained that the key point would be how to fund these new systems with many companies now requiring an upfront investment to secure the best value deals over the lifetime of the product. Members were asked to endorse the recommendation on the paper which would allow the Authority to utilise a maximum of £150,000 of the Major Projects Reserve to fund this project with any such expenditure being repaid within five years.

**Resolved**, that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, acting in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to utilise up to a maximum of £150,000 of the Major Projects Reserve to fund such of the proposed ICT system replacements detailed in the report NFNPA 562/18 as considered appropriate, with any such expenditure to be repaid to the Reserve within five financial years.

*Voting: unanimous*

**28. Any other items the Chairman decides are urgent**

28.1 There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 11.55am.

Signed: .....  
(Chairman)

Date: .....