

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 15 JUNE 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 Frampton

David Harrison

Patrick Heneghan

Mel Kendal

Harry Oram

Gavin Parker

Neville Penman

Leo Randall

Barry Rickman

John Sanger

Marian Spain

Richard Taylor

Officers

Alison Barnes

Steve Avery

Nigel Stone

Julia Mutlow

Nigel Matthews

Rosalind Alderman

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

Member Services Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Policy Manager

Corporate Services Manager

Member Services Administrator

61. Apologies for absence.

61.1 Apologies for absence were received from George Bisson, Keith Mans and Pat Wyeth.

62. Declarations of Interest.

62.1 Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre declared an interest as a member of the New Forest Association relevant the presentation under minute item 64.3.

62.2 Members who were also New Forest District Councillors namely Richard Frampton, David Harrison, Edward Heron, Mel Kendal, Barry Rickman and Neville Penman declared an interest in minute item 65.

63. Chairman's announcements.

63.1 The Chairman referred to the National Parks/ AONB Review which had now been launched by the Environment Secretary Michael Gove MP. The review was one of the key commitments of the Government's 25 year plan and would be led by writer Julian Glover.

64. Public Question Time

64.1 Jerry Davies (Jerry Davies Planning Consultancy) addressed the meeting and spoke against the proposal by the New Forest District Council for a single managed

planning service with the New Forest NPA (item 5 on the Authority agenda). A copy of the full presentation is available from Member Services.

64.2 Richard Carter (Protect Hale Purlieu Movement) presented a statement outlining the Movement's opposition to the proposed undergrounding of cables at Hale Purlieu by National Grid. A copy of the full presentation is available from Member Services.

64.3 Brian Tarnoff (New Forest Association) – expressed concerns with regard to the process and actions of the review of the Recreation Management Strategy (item 6 on the Authority agenda). A copy of the full presentation is available from Member Services.

65. Joint Working Partnership (NFNPA 548/18)

65.1 Alison Barnes reminded members that at the Authority meeting on 22 March, members asked the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee to consider and make recommendations on the joint working proposals by New Forest District Council (NFDC). The recommendations, which were unanimously agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 14 May 2018, were set out in the current report and the draft minutes of the RAPC meeting on 14 May had been circulated to all members.

65.2 Members then discussed the proposals and recommendations at length. A view was expressed that whilst the Authority had an excellent planning department, the primary consideration was what was best for the New Forest rather than the Authority as an organisation. It was necessary for the Authority to be secure in its outlook and to look at new ways of working.

65.3 Other members stressed the importance of retaining a bespoke and well run planning service. Some felt the effectiveness of the service would be reduced if management changes proposed by the District Council were supported. However, it was recognised that there were a significant number of projects and initiatives where future collaboration could take place and which were identified in the report.

65.4 The recommendations set out in the report were then proposed and seconded and one member requested that voting be by way of a recorded vote. A recorded vote was then supported by the required 5 members.

65.5 Further debate took place and it was mentioned that, before the NPA was established, an 18 month study had been conducted which concluded that the NPA should have its own planning service; there was no need to change what was working extremely well. A merged planning service would create both reputational and practical difficulties with no efficiency gains or savings. However, members were strongly supportive of the need to work collaboratively with all other authorities.

65.6 The Chairman thanked officers for bringing the paper to members which emphasised the long standing relationship between the NPA and the District Council and the existing shared services and areas of collaboration. He said that the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee had supported three of the four proposals contained in the letter from NFDC, namely the establishment of formal leadership engagement between both organisations and the promotion of closer joint working and shared services in the years ahead. The only proposal which was not supported by the Committee was that for a shared head of service and single

managed planning service and the reasons for this were set out in the draft RAPC minutes for 14 May 2018.

65.7 Members then proceeded to decide on the matter by recorded vote.

Resolved, that:

1. The proposal for a shared Head of Service and single managed planning service across the National Park and District Council areas was not workable due to remit and resource constraints.
2. The existing shared service arrangements continue to be supported and opportunities for extending these shared services as set out in Section 7 of the RAPC report be actively explored with NFDC.
3. The Authority's Chief Executive and Chairman work with NFDC's Chief Executive and Leader to explore opportunities for a new Forum for NFNPA Members and NFDC Councillors to come together to discuss and agree a strategic approach to the 'big ticket' items; the constitution and terms of reference of such Forum to be ratified at a future Authority meeting.

Voting: 13:3 (Recorded vote. Voting for the proposal - Gordon Bailey, David Bence, Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Richard Frampton, David Harrison, Patrick Heneghan, Harry Oram, Gavin Parker, Neville Penman, Leo Randall, John Sanger, Marian Spain, Richard Taylor. Voting against the proposal – Edward Heron, Mel Kendal, Barry Rickman.)

66. Recreation Management Strategy (NFNPA 549/18)

- 66.1 Nigel Matthews presented the report to Members on the process to update the actions in the Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030. He reminded Members that the process is being jointly run by six organisations on the Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group. The first stage of the consultation in 2017 was a 'call for views' Future Forest consultation, and that results were summarised in a 'findings report' and a 'next steps' report.
- 66.2 The next consultation would commence on 18 June for 8 weeks and would consider the 25 draft proposed actions and the examples of how they could be delivered. Nigel advised that later in the year the team would work through the responses and begin to gain agreement for specific organisations to lead specific projects.
- 66.3 Members made a range of comments and observations about the draft actions and requested that two of the examples of possible delivery (2.2 and 2.3) should be amended to indicate what would be done rather than what issues needed to be addressed. Members were then asked to endorse the recommendation as set out in the report.

Resolved, that

the Authority support the draft proposed actions for the update to the 2010 Recreation Management Strategy as set out in Annex 1 of the report and that these be now put out for public consultation.

Voting: unanimous

67. Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan 2018 (NFNPA 550/18)

- 67.1 David Illsley presented his report to Members advising that the Western Escarpment Conservation Area was designated in March 2008 and, at 14 kilometres in length and 2.5 kilometres at the widest point, it was the largest of the 20 conservation areas in the National Park. Mr Illsley explained that a steering group made up of representatives from the seven town and parish councils work to preserve and enhance the character of the conservation area. The Steering Group had prepared an Action Plan covering the period 2012-2017 which set out an overall vision for the area, an updated Plan had now been produced to cover the period 2018 – 2023.
- 67.2 Mr Illsley then introduced Mr Ed Hollinghurst, Deputy Chairman of Woodgreen Parish Council who gave a brief overview of the actions contained in the Plan. Mr Hollinghurst commented on light pollution in the area, and how this would be overcome by working with local residents, the need for boundary treatment, verge management and how to reduce signage clutter.
- 67.3 David Illsley asked Members to formally endorse the recommendation as set out in the report.

Resolved, that

the Authority formally endorse the Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan 2018 – 2023 as set out in Annex 1 of the report, to guide work on preserving or enhancing the character of the Conservation Area.

Voting: unanimous

68. Any other items the Chairman decides are urgent

- 68.1 No there were no items of urgent business on this occasion.

The meeting closed at 11.20 am.

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: