

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 221st Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 6 May 2010

Those present: Mike Seddon (In the Chair)
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)
Rosalind Alderman (Panel Clerk/Secretary)
Jo Murphy (Panel Clerk/Secretary)
Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received.

ITEM 1

ELECTION OF PANEL CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Mike Seddon informed the Panel that one nomination had been received, this being for the current Chairman. Mike Seddon advised the Panel that he had spoken to Tim Greenwood and that he had indicated he was happy to continue in the position. No other nominations were put forward from the floor and Tim Greenwood was subsequently re-elected on a show of hands.

ITEM 2

2.1 APOLOGIES

Tim Greenwood, Chairman
Mike Chillcott, CPRE
Ros Cooper, Hampshire County Federation of Women's Institutes
Paula Freeland, New Forest National Park Authority
Arthur French, Boldre Parish Council
Tony Gentle, Test Valley Borough Council
Edward Heron, New Forest District Council
Eddie Holtham, Fawley Parish Council
Leo Randall, Melchett Park and Plaitford Parish Council
Ian Taylor, newforce
Pat Thorne, Verderers
Jenni Tubbs, New Forest Friends of the Earth
Tony Barnett, Caravan Club
John Durnell, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

2.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

David Bryant, Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council
Mr P Stammers, Godshill Parish Council
David Richardson, Hampshire County Council Highways Department
Barrie Foley, New Forest National Park Authority
Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Association
Cllr Bill Dunn, Redlynch Parish Council

2.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Richardson confirmed that Kevin Fuller (Hampshire County Council Highways Department) had now retired and that he had been replaced by Tim Lawton. The future Panel representative would be advised in due course.

ITEM 3

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (4 March 2010)

3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

ITEM 4

MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Following a question from a Panel member the Panel were advised that Frank Green's presentation had been rescheduled to the July meeting.

ITEM 5

FORESTRY COMMISSION

5.1 John Thackeray (Ramblers' Association) raised concerns that recent changes to woodland, fences, open heath etc had not been reflected in the latest version of the Ordnance Survey map (OL22). He explained that inaccurate mapping posed dangers to walkers. He asked Mike Seddon what procedures were in place to ensure that the changes the Forestry Commission instigated on the ground were notified to the Ordnance Survey.

5.2 Mike Seddon (Deputy Surveyor) explained that the Ordnance Survey had not requested updates from the Forestry Commission for some time and that they had been advised that the Ordnance Survey now use aerial photography to update their maps. He explained that currently there was no formal arrangement between the two organisations to update changes, however he confirmed he was happy to write to the local Ordnance Survey office to see if he could resolve the issue.

Action: Mike Seddon to write to the local Ordnance Survey office to establish a system of notifying them of relevant changes.

5.3 John Thackeray (Ramblers' Association) explained that he had seen several reports from reputable sources, such as the BBC, regarding Acute Oak Decline and requested an update on the disease and any impact it had on the New Forest.

5.4 Mike Seddon explained that there were two forms of Oak Decline; Chronic Oak Decline and Acute Oak Decline. He explained that the chronic form had a slow effect, had been around for many years and caused less concern as many trees recover. However, the acute form was more of a worry, as the decline was rapid, it generally affected mature oaks (over 50 years old) and that trees often died within 4 to 5 years. He explained that there were no reported cases of Acute Oak Decline in the New Forest and that cases were mainly concentrated in the Midlands, with a few reports in the SE of England and Wales.

5.5 Professor Evans (Institute of Foresters) explained that Sudden Oak Death was different and had originated in the American Oaks in California. In the UK, it affects Larch and also English Oaks where Rhododendron grows amongst them.

5.6 Panel members were advised to remain vigilant and report any concerns to Forest Research. More information can be found in the attached briefing sheet or at <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/oakdecline>

5.7 Mark Abbott (Lyndhurst Parish Council) raised concerns over the proposed changes to the felling licence process, specifically regarding the procedure by which Parish councils and other local interested parties and residents would be consulted on proposed works.

- 5.8 Mike Seddon explained that the current system meant that the Forestry Commission had to apply for a felling licence for each specific area. In order to reduce paperwork and streamline the system, it was now proposed that a larger document be submitted in the form of the 5 year Open Forest Design Plan which covered the entire New Forest area. This would be consulted upon by the local interest groups such as Verderers, Commoners, NPA, and Parish Councils. Mr Seddon agreed that it was important that local people were kept informed so that they were aware of the planned works in their area.
- 5.9 Cllr. Bill Dunn (Redlynch Parish Council) explained there had been instances of trees being felled on private land before a Tree Preservation Order could be considered. Barrie Foley (New Forest NPA) agreed to draw this concern to the attention of the relevant officers.

ITEM 6

CONSIDERATION OF A NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL LOGO

- 6.1 David Stone (Panel Secretariat) explained to the Panel that the logos circulated with the agenda had been designed by the NPA in-house. The purpose of the logo was to create an easily recognisable icon to be used on Panel correspondence and literature. He said that he had received some early responses from those members, who were unable to attend the meeting, in favour of logo number 4.
- 6.2 There was a mixed response from the Panel to this suggestion. A large number questioned whether a logo was necessary at all, some offered alternative suggestions, whilst others suggested previously used logos by both the Consultative Panel and New Forest Committee. Panel members expressed concern that the leaf used in option 3 and 4 was not a native species.
- 6.3 In the absence of any strong support for any of the proposed logos and since there was a relatively low turn out of members it was agreed that this item should be brought back to the next meeting in July, incorporating the alternatives put forward.

Action: The Secretariat to work up some alternative options for the next meeting in July.

ITEM 7

FOREST WATCH INITIATIVE

- 7.1 Sergeant Louise Hubble, Countrywatch Sergeant, Hampshire Constabulary showed a DVD followed by a presentation which detailed the type of crimes investigated by the team. She explained that the project covered the entire New Forest area as well as some of the adjacent countryside, and that information is shared with colleagues in the Wiltshire Rural Crime Team.
- 7.2 Forestwatch deals with a wide range of crimes including theft of diesel, theft of farm machinery, poaching, dog fighting, the protection of farming and commoning livestock, as well as the protection of wildlife and endangered species. She explained that there was an emphasis on prevention, and that one of their roles is to identify 'soft targets' and offer advice on how to make property and possessions more secure.
- 7.3 Members were extremely interested in this initiative and Sergeant Hubble responded to the many questions and local concerns that were raised. A copy of the presentation and DVD can be viewed at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

ITEM 8

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETINGS

- 8.1 There were no matters arising regarding the report from the Authority meeting on 25 March 2010 that were circulated with the agenda.

ITEM 9

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 Mike Moriarty (Copythorne Parish Council) urged the NPA to take action to remove the imported waste at Copperfields, Pollard Moor at its Planning Committee on the 18 May 2010. Barrie Foley (NPA) advised the Panel that the NPA were recommending that the owners be referred to the Magistrates Court for non-compliance of the Enforcement Notice subject to further consultation with the Environment Agency and New Forest District Council's Environmental Health Officer.
- 9.2 Chris Aldhous (New Forest Equestrian Association) raised concern about a major maintenance scheme which was taking place on the A326. David Richardson (Hampshire County Council Highways Department) agreed in future to inform the Panel as to the nature of the works.

ITEM 10

DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING

- 10.1 The next Consultative Panel meeting would be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 8 JULY 2010** in the **Louisa Suite at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst.**

The meeting closed at 21.25.