

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 238th Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 2 May 2013

Those present: Tim Greenwood (In the Chair)

David Stone (Panel Support Officer)

Debbie Copping (Panel Secretariat)

Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

David Stone informed the Panel that one nomination had been received, this being for the current Chairman, who had indicated that 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. Tim Greenwood thanked members for their vote of confidence in electing him as Chairman.

ITEM 1

1.1 APOLOGIES

Pat Thorne - Verderers

Edward Heron – New Forest District Council

Julian Evans - Institute of Chartered Foresters / Royal Forestry Society

Stan Wade - Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Peter Turner - Braemore Parish Council

Eddie Holtham - Denny Lodge Parish Council

Janette Duke - New Milton Town Council

Tony Barnett - Caravan Club

Valerie Rawlings - New Forest Access For All

Cllr Marian Still - Hordle Parish Council

Robert Lintonbon - Godshill Parish Council

Ann Miller – Burley Parish Council

John Durnell – Hampshire Wildlife Trust

Richard Lemon – Natural England

1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

The Chairman mentioned that Robert Clarke will now be replacing Val Thorpe as representative for Burley Parish Council and Heather Gould would be the representative for NF Dog.

Graham Baker – Campaign to Protect Rural England

David Harrison – New Forest National Park Authority

Anne Blake – New Forest Tourism Association

1.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements on this occasion.

ITEM 2
MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (7 March 2013)

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

ITEM 3
MATTERS ARISING

3.1 There were no matters arising at this meeting.

ITEM 4
FORESTRY COMMISSION ITEMS

4.1 *Forestry Commission - New Forest Finance 2012/13 and 13/14*

Using powerpoint slides, Mike Seddon presented a summary of income and expenditure and the Forestry Commission's net position at year end for the public forest estate in Southern England, covering 46,000ha over 7 counties and including the New Forest area which comprised £5.6m of the overall expenditure. He mentioned that in 2013/14 an amount of £250,000 had been earmarked for infrastructure repairs as the gravel roads and car parks the across the estate had suffered through the last 2 to 3 winters. The budget position remained tight and the challenge was to balance expectations whilst not worsening the net financial position.

4.2 *Cases of dog deaths in the New Forest*

Mike Seddon reported that 4 dogs had become ill and died locally. There had been a total of 13 suspected cases of dog death in England including those in the New Forest. Seven of the 13 had identical histological and pathological results. The remaining 6 cases were similar but have not gone through the same level of pathology examination.

Veterinary and environmental investigations were on-going but no cause for the deaths had yet been identified. Pathology results had established the cause of the deaths was kidney failure. Water samples had been taken at Latchmore in an effort to rule out potential causes locally. Not all dogs walked in this area have become ill and there had been no further cases since 2 April 2013.

The Animal Health Trust were facilitating an online survey which might assist to narrow down potential causes. Veterinary clinics in the New Forest had received a number of queries from dog owners in connection with these incidents. He described the symptoms which included lethargy, not eating, lesions or blisters on the leg or face. Dog owners who noticed these symptoms had been requested to get in touch with their vet for advice as soon as possible. Intensive investigations into the causes of these deaths were on-going.

4.3 *New Forest HLS: Potential FC work programme 2013/14*

Mike Seddon presented a series of slides on the FC's potential HLS work programme for 2013/14 which had been categorised according to wetland restoration projects and lost lawns sites as well as delivery likelihood. He said that he would ensure that a copy of the slides was included in the Minutes.

ITEM 5
FUTURE ROLE OF THE CONSULTATIVE PANEL IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON FORESTRY

5.1 Peter Roberts (NFA) drew members' attention to the Government proposal to establish, through new legislation, an independent Public Forest Estate management body to hold the nation's forests in trust for future generations and stressed the important for this new body to

interact closely with the Consultative Panel in connection with issues affecting the New Forest. He invited members to debate how best this should be done.

- 5.2 Members noted that the panel had been established since 1970 and has been an important sounding board for both the Forestry Commission, NPA and other statutory bodies and should continue to be at the forefront of any consultations for the management of the Crown lands in the New Forest. During the discussion on the future role of the Panel, some members expressed concern that the Panel now seemed to be more of an information receiving body rather than a debating forum, however, the Chairman said that it was for the members to raise agenda topics and challenge and debate the issues brought before the Panel.
- 5.3 Following further discussion, the Panel agreed that the Chairman write to the relevant Minister emphasising the important part played by the Consultative Panel in working with and engaging the statutory bodies in the management and conservation of the New Forest and the need for the Panel to continue with this role in any new arrangements for the future management of the Crown Lands in the New Forest.

ITEM 6

NEW FOREST LANDSCAPE ACTION PLAN AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Sarah Kelly, Landscape Officer for the New Forest NPA, advised that she had attended a previous Panel meeting in January 2011 where she had gone through the outline of the above documents which were part of a suite of documents falling under the NPA's Management Plan. She said that the purpose of the documents was to encourage best practice and give guidance and advice to maintaining local distinctiveness of the landscape of the National Park. She mentioned that the consultation period ended on 13 May 2013.
- 6.2 Referring to the Landscape Character Assessment, she said that this comprised 19 different areas with a 20 year vision and a detailed description being provided for each area. She detailed the public consultation which had been undertaken from 2010 which included five road shows, 1:1 and groups meetings and the appointment of a steering group of the NPA and partner organisations. She advised that both documents were on the NPA's website together with advice on the public consultation and officer contact details. The NPA would consider all the submissions and take a report to the NPA's Authority meeting in September 2013.
- 6.3 Sarah Kelly undertook to liaise with any panel members who had specific concerns. Panel members including the CPRE and NFA representatives strongly supported the extension of the consultation period to allow interested bodies sufficient time to make their submissions. Sarah undertook to consider a possible extension of the consultation which would still allow sufficient time for the report to be made to the September Authority meeting.

ITEM 7

NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE – DYLAN EVERETT, NATIONAL TRUST

- 7.1 Dylan Everett described the National Trust operations and staff structure – he mentioned that the local National Trust team comprised five officers and was responsible for 3,500 acres in the New Forest. He advised that the local National Trust officers were based in Burgate Manor.
- 7.2 He then described the conservation initiatives at Foxbury Plantation as well as the educational and interpretation projects which were carried out by the Trust. One of the key successes had been arranging for visits by school groups which helped build up a respect for

the Forest, activities included bush craft and other structured events which were open to the public. Ailsa Farrand expressed concern that the fitness club which operated a boot camp at Rockford Common as a commercial activity under a six month licence was not complying with the terms of its licence and that their activities were disruptive to ground nesting birds, horse riders and others in the area, she added that there was a possibility of a second group operating in the area which had not been granted a licence.

- 7.3 The Chairman suggested that Dylan and his team liaise separately with Ailsa Farrand following the meeting to discuss the above concerns and measures which were being taken to ensure compliance with the terms of the licence. The Chairman then thanked Dylan for his presentation and expressed the hope that he would continue to attend Panel meetings as the National Trust representative on the Panel.

ITEM 8

PANEL AGENDA SETTING

- 8.1 Mike Moriarty (Copythorne Parish Council) requested that an item be placed on the next Panel agenda dealing with the Commoners Housing Scheme.
- 8.2 The Secretariat was requested to look into the possibility of a presentation which updated the Panel on the Keyhaven/Lymington marshes.
- 8.3 A request was made for an item to be placed on the next agenda dealing with the NPA's cycling charter. However, David Harrison advised that the NPA was still developing its approach to this matter.

ITEM 9

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 There were no matters raised under this item.

ITEM 10

DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING

- 10.1 Date of the next meeting would be **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 4 JULY 2013** in the **Louisa Suite at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst.**

The meeting closed at 21.30 hrs.