

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 231st Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2012

Those present: Tim Greenwood (In the Chair)
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)
Rosalind Alderman (Panel Secretariat)
Debbie Copping (Panel Secretariat)
Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received.

ITEM 1

1.1 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Peter Turner, Breamore Parish Council
Cllr. Robert Lintonbon, Godshill Parish Council
Mr. Robbie Roberts, RSPCA
Cllr. Kathy Gulliver, Sway Parish Council
Mr. Mike Chilcott, CPRE
Cllr. Edward Heron, New Forest District Council
Mrs. Christine Ames, New Forest Tourism Association
Mr. Tony Barnett, Caravan Club

1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

1.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Cllr. Sue Adams is the new representative for East Boldre Parish Council.
- Cllr. Beverley Golden is the new representative for Marchwood Parish Council.
- The Hampshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services no longer exists, so Ian Mason-Smith now represents Community First New Forest only.
- Contact lists for Panel members are available from the Secretariat. .
- Reminder to Panel members to announce their name and organisation before speaking.

ITEM 2

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (3 November 2011)

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

ITEM 3

MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Minute 3.2 – Progress re. Environment Agency attendance at Panel meetings and Quadrant meetings.

- Keith Broomfield, the EA's representative on the Panel, has informed us that David Horne (the environment officer for this area) will be attending the next meeting and future meetings on behalf of the EA.

- 3.2 Roly Errington (Ellingham Parish Council) asked the Chairman how membership for the working group on the Defra Governance Review had been decided. The Chairman responded that the panel had been self selecting and agreed at the last meeting.

ITEM 4

INDEPENDENT PANEL ON FORESTRY – NEW FOREST VISIT ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012

- 4.1 The Chairman gave a brief update to the Panel members on the Independent Panel and informed Panel members that a working group will be set up to prepare the itinerary for the visit. He confirmed that he had already contacted the New Forest Association, Commoners Defence Association, Verderers, National Park Authority, Forestry Commission and the Ramblers Association. The itinerary needs to be completed by the 23 January and the Chairman asked Panel members for further suggestions for membership of the working group and for items to be considered for the itinerary.
- 4.2 The following ideas were suggested for membership and to be considered for the itinerary:
- A representative from a wildlife conservation body should be included on the working group.
 - Previous Life projects and forest design plan restoration projects could be included in the itinerary.
 - Links between heritage, the environment, timber production and how they all come together could be included.
 - Private woodland and examples of good and poor management.
 - Open forest management
 - Invite Chair of New Forest Access Forum to be included on working panel to represent recreational interests.
 - Historical and cultural including housing stock and restoration schemes.
 - FC demands and recreational pressures.
 - Pressure of being between Bournemouth and Southampton.
 - Beaulieu Road sales and ancient monuments.
 - Tour needs to be something tangible that key members from the Panel can take back to the other members.
 - New Forest Acts.
 - Honeypot sites used by ordinary people, e.g. Wilverley.
 - A representative from Natural England is invited to join the working group.
- 4.3 Alison Barnes (NPA) commented that she will be attending a national workshop on 13 January and it was useful to get the Panel's views for this.
- 4.4 Phil Marshall (National Trust) and Prof. Julian Evans (Institute of Chartered Foresters) volunteered to join the working group and the Chairman will also invite the Chair of the New Forest Access Forum and a representative from Natural England to join. The Chairman noted that the working group would meet on 11 January at Lymington Town Hall.

Action: The Chairman to contact the New Forest Access Forum and Natural England regarding the working group.

ITEM 5

FORESTRY COMMISSION ITEMS

- 5.1 Kevin Penfold reported on the Consultative Panel Tour and asked for Panel members feedback. Panel members responded that it had been a very enjoyable and interesting tour and thanked Kevin and his team for organising it. It was requested that in future that tour dates be circulated as early as possible to avoid clashes with other commitments.
- 5.2 Kevin Penfold updated Panel members on the Latchmore HLS scheme. He reported that over 100 people had attended the public meeting and there had been some lively debate. After further consideration with partners it has been agreed to progress the project taking on the sensitivity of timings of operations and they will work to replicate the high standard of previous restoration work. A lot of media interest is anticipated and they will ensure local people are kept informed using signs etc.

ITEM 6

TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON FUTURE ROLE OF THE NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

- 6.1 Members received a verbal update from the Working Group which met on 16 December 2011. Key actions which the Group agreed to recommend back to the Panel are:

Standing of the Panel

The group agreed that the Minister should be requested to issue a statement formally endorsing the value, role and purposes of the Panel and to write to all Section 62 statutory bodies requesting them to fully engage and consult the Panel in all work which was likely to impact on the New Forest including all draft policies, plans and consultation documents. These would be referred to the Panel for consideration which would then decide which matters would require further consideration and response either by the Panel as a whole or a more detailed and considered response by a task and finish working group via the Panel to the body concerned.

Process

- The level of debate by Panel Members would be enhanced if specific issues were assigned to task and finish working groups for discussion and report back to the Panel.
- A short précis of significant issues or presentations made to the Panel should be incorporated into the agenda to afford Panel Members an opportunity to raise and discuss these issues with their appointing bodies and receive input from them ahead of the Panel meeting. Where considered appropriate, a matter should be re-submitted to the next meeting of the Panel so that members can revert back to their appointing bodies for direction on any issues requiring further consideration.
- A working group of the Panel would meet at the beginning of the year to agree a schedule of agenda items for inclusion into Panel agendas during the year; this would then be disseminated to Panel members so that they are aware of forthcoming issues.
- The Panel noted that the above approach would require a new way of working for Panel Members and an increased level of debate and participation in discussions.

- 6.2 Panel members agreed that they were happy to endorse the recommendations and the NFNPA will take this forward.

Action: The NFNPA to take forward recommendations from the Task and Finish Group on future role of the NFCP.

ITEM 7

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETINGS

- 7.1 Alison Barnes (NPA) referred to the report on the NPA meeting held on 15 December already circulated, which was noted by members.
- 7.2 Alison also reported that the NPA are currently working on their Business Plan for next year and if Panel members had anything they would like to be considered for inclusion they should send them to David Stone.
- 7.3 The new style Park Life was circulated to Panel members and distribution was discussed. It was agreed that David Stone would speak with the NPA's Communication Section to arrange for them to circulate the current and future editions to Parish Councils for feedback.

Action: David Stone to circulate Park Life distribution list to Panel members for feedback.

- 7.4 Mark Abbott (Lyndhurst Parish Council) asked Alison Barnes about the new NPA van. Alison replied that the new van had been purchased for use by the Rangers and as an additional NPA pool car and the leasing arrangement would be more cost effective for the Authority.

ITEM 8

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Rob Dewing (New Forest Business Partnership) informed Panel members that there was a meeting being held on the 10 January at the NFDC Appletree Court offices about rural broadband. HCC have been successful on their 2nd attempt to secure funding for rural broadband but this would require match funding by the County Council.
- 8.2 Eddie Holtham (Denny Lodge Parish Council) reported on the replacement cattle grid program and highlighted some of the issues these are causing to local residents, commuters and businesses. He expressed concern as to why HCC have not used more competent contractors and whether there was a penalty clause to fine contractors if the contract overran.

ITEM 9

DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING

- 9.1 The next Consultative Panel meeting would be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 2012** in the **Louisa Suite at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst.**

The meeting closed at 21:00 hrs.