

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 239<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 5 September 2013**

Those present: Tim Greenwood (In the Chair)  
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)  
Rosalind Alderman (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**

Linda Palmer – Whiteparish Parish Council  
Ted Fleat – Sway Parish Council  
Alison Russell - British Horse Society  
Eddie Holtham – Fawley and Denny Lodge Parish Councils  
Julian Evans – Institute of Chartered Foresters  
Valerie Rawlings – New Forest Access For All  
Robert Lintonbon – Godshill Parish Council  
Tony Gentle – Test Valley Borough Council  
Edward Heron – New Forest District Council  
Sue Gordon – Netley Marsh Parish Council

##### **1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Members were advised that Graham Baker will attend meetings of the Consultative Panel in the place of Mike Chilcott (CPRE) until further notice, that Richard Channel will replace Paul Tanner as the representative for Boldre Parish Council, that Dionis Macnair will substitute for Pat Thorne (Verderers), that Barry Olorenshaw would be attending the current meeting for Rob Dewing (New Forest Business Partnership) and that Stuart Bullen-Jarvis would be attending the current meeting for Mike Moriarty (Copythorne Parish Council).

##### **1.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Tim Greenwood announced that, due to unforeseen circumstances, Jonathan Blease was unable to attend the meeting to give a presentation under item 5 of the agenda (New Forest Transitions) and this would accordingly be deferred to the next Panel meeting.

#### **ITEM 2**

##### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (4 July 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 from the minutes on this occasion

## **ITEM 4**

### **FORESTRY COMMISSION ITEMS – MIKE SEDDON**

#### 4.1 *Panel Tour*

Mike Seddon updated members on aspects of the Panel Tour which would take place on Wednesday 9 October 2013. He advised that the tour would include a site visit to one of the wetland restoration sites which had formed part of a previous tour and examples of bracken management. Members indicated the approximate numbers attending by a show of hands (15) and Mike Seddon asked members to confirm their attendance with him as soon as possible.

#### 4.2 *Update on arrangements for the new Public Forest Estate Management Organisation*

Mike Seddon advised the Panel that arising from the outcome of the Independent Panel on Forestry, the Government in January published a forestry and woodlands policy statement setting out the policy on protecting, improving and expanding the public and private woodlands.

He reminded members that in addition to information on the above policy statement, the Panel had received a presentation at its meeting on 7 March 2013 in connection with proposals for a new separate public forest estate management body to hold the public forest in trust for the nation. He advised that in the last two to three weeks, the Forestry Commission and Defra have published consultation papers on how this body could be set up, operated, land held and funded - feedback on these proposals had been invited from interested persons or organisations by 25 September 2013. He advised that all the above documents could be found on the Forestry Commission website at:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-9a6axq>

He then responded to a number of queries raised by the Panel in connection with the funding, objectives and operations of the proposed new management body.

#### 4.3 *Winter Car Parks*

Mike Seddon advised members that maps showing winter car park closures in the New Forest were available at the meeting via the Panel Secretariat. Details were also available on Forestry Commission website at: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-6g3bm2>

#### 4.4 *Vacancies on Forestry Commission (Forest and Woodland Advisory Committees)*

Mike Seddon elaborated on the remit of the above committees which locally covered the South East and South West, with the New Forest falling into the South East area. Members on the committees represented various interests including land owners and local community groups. The committees provided advice to the Forestry Commission on forestry and woodland policy. Vacancies existed on both committees and the deadline for receipt of applications was 9 October 2013. Further details of the committees and vacancies could be found on the Forestry Commission's website.

#### 4.5 *Dog deaths*

On the request of members, Mike Seddon updated the Panel with regard to the latest dog death and advised that it had been established that, although the symptoms were similar, the latest death was not related to the previous cases. Investigations into the incidents had still been unable to identify the cause of the deaths and the Forestry Commission, along with other relevant organisations, were providing advice and guidance to the public where possible.

## **ITEM 5**

### **NEW FOREST TRANSITIONS – JONATHAN BLEASE**

5.1 This presentation was deferred to the next Panel meeting on 7 November 2013.

## **ITEM 6**

### **UPDATE ON NEW FOREST CYCLING CODE AND CHARTER – NIGEL MATTHEWS (NFNPA)**

- 6.1 Nigel Matthews advised that cycling events had become increasingly popular. A cycling event called the Wiggle had been organised in the New Forest in April 2013 - this had created a significant amount of publicity and exposed a range of opinions on cycling. It demonstrated that there was work to be done to better accommodate cycling of all kinds.
- 6.2 In response, a Cycling Liaison Working Group had been set up to agree a Code of Conduct and a Cycling Charter. The first meeting of the group in July 2013 had been attended by 20 organisations who had made a positive start on drafting a Code of Conduct covering both on and off road cycling. A further meeting was scheduled for 11 September 2013 where four cycle event organisers had been invited to draft a Charter setting out the operational standards expected of organisations promoting cycle events in the New Forest and intended to be adhered to by cycling groups and residents.
- 6.3 He said that there would be a need to continue to work on a range of cycling topics into the future and another meeting had been planned for December 2013 with possibly a further meeting early in 2014.
- 6.4 Panel members raised a number of queries - contrasting the implications of recreational with organised cycling events, a possible cap on the number and frequency of events, the contribution of cycling to the local economy, policing and enforcement of cycling events and the benefits of cycling in terms of sustainable transport – in this regard Mr Matthews reported on funding which had been received to promote local sustainable transport.

## **ITEM 7**

### **COMMONERS DWELLING SCHEME – STEVE AVERY (NFNPA)**

- 7.1 Steve Avery made a presentation to the Panel and provided a background to the scheme since it was set up in 1992 by the erstwhile New Forest Committee; he also elaborated on the operation and management of the scheme, how applications were assessed and the membership of the Panel which considered applications under the scheme. He mentioned that the scheme had last been reviewed by the NPA in 2011 where the eligibility criteria, legal framework and other aspects had been considered and various modifications agreed. He elaborated on recent concerns raised in connection with the eligibility and legitimacy of the scheme and the response to these concerns by the NPA.
- 7.2 He then replied to questions raised by members in connection with the scheme and a specific application for commoners dwelling which had been considered and endorsed by the NPA's planning committee at its meeting in July 2013.

## **ITEM 8**

### **PANEL AGENDA SETTING**

- 8.1 Redlynch Parish Council requested that the question of local speed limits be raised with the HCC Highways representative, with particular relevance to the limit on the Hamptworth and Lyburn Roads; it was felt that a 40mph limit would be more appropriate in these areas. The Chairman would follow up with Hampshire County Council Highways regarding the attendance of a representative at future Panel meetings.

8.2 It was noted that the New Forest Transitions item would be brought to the next meeting.

## **ITEM 9**

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1 Ailsa Farrand, New Forest Equestrian Association, raised the issue of the New Forest Fit Club operating on Rockford Common. Complaints had been made that the club operated outside the geographical space and the hours permitted by its consent, but the National Trust, as the relevant landowner, had not pursued the matter. Dylan Everett, National Trust, explained that the necessary consent had been obtained from Natural England; a consultation and presentation had taken place two months previously, and since that point no new issues had been forthcoming, which was why the matter was now considered closed.
- 9.2 On a separate point, Ms Farrand commended Natural England's decision to obtain a hydrology report on Latchmore Brook and to use the results to determine whether any further work needed to take place. She emphasised that 'do nothing' to the area must be one of the options considered. Mike Seddon explained that the hydrology report was just one of the pieces of information that would feed into the formal planning process.
- 9.3 Barry Olorenshaw, New Forest Business Partnership, updated Panel members to the effect that the results of the recent broadband survey would be published soon; a high number of replies had been forthcoming and some interesting points had been raised. He also informed the meeting that a planning breakfast would be held on 24 September at Lyndhurst Community Centre.
- 9.4 Sue Bennison, Bramshaw Parish Council, asked whether the litter picking on the B3079 could be improved. Mike Seddon would follow this up with New Forest District Council or the Forestry Commission, depending on the specific area concerned.
- 9.5 James Young, Commoner's Defence Association, informed the Panel that a Wiggle cycle event would be held in December on the Forest tracks, which had caused some consternation among commoners in view of potential injuries to their stock. Mike Seddon confirmed that the Forestry Commission was being asked for the use of some of the gravel tracks, as it had done on previous occasions; Forestry Commission staff were in contact with the event's organisers to ensure the safe and successful implementation of the event.

## **ITEM 10**

### **DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING**

- 10.1 Date of the next meeting would be **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2013** in the **Louisa Suite at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst.**

The meeting closed at 21.45 hrs.