

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 234th Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 6 September 2012

Those present: Tim Greenwood (In the Chair)
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)
Jo Murphy/Rosalind Alderman/Vicki Gibbon (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 Val Thorpe, Burley Parish Council
Peter Brown, Camping and Caravanning Club
Tony Barnett, Caravan Club
Cllr Malcolm Connolly, Fordingbridge Town Council
Cllr Alan Bollom, Hordle Parish Council
Clive Allen, Landford Parish Council
Rob Dewing, New Forest Business Partnership
Chris Whitlock, National Farmers' Union
Peter Roberts, New Forest Association
Ann Millar, New Forest Hounds
Christine Ames, New Forest Tourism Association
Rachel Bailey, Natural England
Richard Roberts, RSPCA
Pat Thorne, Verderers

1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

Vicky Myers, New Forest National Park Authority
Barry Olorenshaw, New Forest Business Partnership
Roly Errington, New Forest Association

1.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Cllr Cathy Gray had been appointed as the new representative for East Boldre Parish Council, replacing Cllr Sue Adams.
- Nick Clark was the new representative for newforce, replacing Ian Taylor.
- Cllr Garth Everett was the new representative for Redlynch, replacing Cllr. Sandra Pearce.
- The Chairman welcomed back Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the Forestry Commission, and thanked Kevin Penfold. Mike Seddon subsequently announced that Kevin Penfold was leaving the Forestry Commission in order to become an independent woodlands consultant, and wished him success with that venture,
- He reminded Panel members to announce their name and organisation before speaking.

ITEM 2

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (3 May 2012)

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

ITEM 3

MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 Minute Item 3.2 – Vicky Myers would investigate the distribution of *Park Life* (particularly regarding Wellow Post Office and Copythorne) and report back to the Panel.

Action: Vicky Myers or Alison Barnes to report back to Panel re. *Park Life* distribution

- 3.2 Minute item 10.1 - Panel Secretariat would arrange for Dr Naomi Ewald of Pond Conservation to address a forthcoming Panel meeting.
- 3.3 Minute item 11.1 – Rachel Bailey, Natural England, who had submitted apologies for the meeting, had confirmed to the Chairman that Jenny Thomas was investigating the issues at Half Moon Common and had undertaken an initial assessment of the damage. The land in question was owned by the National Trust and was in a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. Jenny Thomas would be engaging with all appropriate parties to resolve the issue including local commoners and the National Trust. Cllr. Sue Bennison (Bramshaw Parish Council) confirmed that she had spoken to Jenny Thomas regarding this issue, which had initially been raised as far back as 2002 and followed up approximately 18 months prior to the present. She felt that the current situation was not acceptable and that it would be sensible for a meeting to be held between all interested parties to find a permanent solution.

ITEM 4

FORESTRY COMMISSION ITEMS

- 4.1 Mike Seddon (Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission) gave the Panel a presentation on the report of the Independent Panel on Forestry. He explained that the Independent Panel's remit had included woodlands throughout the country and regardless of ownership type. Among other issues, the Panel had looked at how people could use and interact with woodlands, at woodlands and nature, and at woodlands and the economy. The Panel had concluded that it was important to increase the accessibility of woodlands, and to create new woodlands. In terms of nature and biodiversity, it was vital to restore landscapes and to link ecological networks and connect habitats as far as possible. A key aim was to expand woodlands from 10% to 15% of England's landscapes. over the next 50 years, which was a very challenging target, and also to increase the amount of managed woodlands. There was a need to invest in woodland business and to make woodlands more financially sustainable. It was important to seek a mechanism by which those aspects of woodlands that people valued – such as clean air, fresh water, accessible spaces, etc. – could generate some return for woodlands owners. All of these aims did require national leadership and support such as that currently provided by the Forestry Commission, and the recommendations covered how to develop and expand this role. Mike Seddon explained that following the publication of the Panel's report, Defra was conducting a survey of public opinion on the report outcomes. If Consultative Panel members wanted to engage with this process and the Government's response to the Panel's report, it would be sensible to do this sooner rather than later, in view of the proposed timeline for the process. In response to a query, Mike Seddon mentioned that other projects were also approaching the question of achieving sustainable returns from the natural environment, such as the Natural Capital Committee and the Ecosystem Markets Taskforce.
- 4.2 Mike Seddon also updated the Panel on the progress of works at Latchmore Brook, explaining that no new tree felling was scheduled for the time being. The only works that would take place at present, once ground conditions were suitable, were the removal of the remaining cut timber and the burning of branch wood. The Forestry Commission was currently considering an application for planning consent for the works at Latchmore.

- 4.3 The Panel discussed the forthcoming Panel tour, scheduled for 19 September. The tour would include Hampton Ridge, a visit to Latchmore Brook, and a number of WWII sites. A copy of the letter advising Panel members of the tour details would be circulated to those Panel members who were not present at the current meeting. Members requested an additional pick-up point for the tour, which would take place at Fritham.car park.
- 4.4 Mike Seddon also introduced the Forestry Commission's programme of winter car park closures, explaining that a map of the scheduled closures was available from the Panel Secretariat and on the Forestry Commission's website. The only change from previous years was that Horseshoe Bottom would remain open and Longslade Heath would be closed.

ITEM 5

NEW FOREST REMEMBERS – UNTOLD STORIES OF WORLD WAR II PROJECT

- 5.1 Gareth Owen (NPA World War II – Education and Outreach Officer) gave a presentation on this project, which had been funded by the Heritage Lottery fund and Exxon Mobil at Fawley, explaining that the project would be co-ordinated by the NPA for the two-year funded period after which it was hoped that ongoing maintenance and development would be largely volunteer-led, ensuring that the project would have a lasting legacy. The aim of the project was to create a publicly accessible interactive resource on the WWII archaeology of the area, and to gather into one place as much information as possible. Gareth Owen explained the use of LiDAR, aerial photography and 3D modelling in identifying and exploring sites, coupled with ground verification of archaeological features. A desk-based assessment by MA Ltd. (Maritime Archaeology Ltd.) was also taking place. The project team and NPA staff had sought to engage with a high number of people across the area, including at the New Forest Show. Alison Barnes had contacted the Royal Household and officers had received an extract from the King's diary regarding a visit to Exbury in May 1944.
- 5.2 Gareth Owen commented that he was pleased to see positive involvement by local communities with their own archaeology and history, and was working on the creation of educational resources. The project leaders were seeking oral histories, views, input and information, and volunteers to help take the project forward in the future. Further details can be found on the New Forest National Park Authority's website at http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/about-us/meetings_and_minutes/new_forest_consultative_panel or by contacting Gareth Owen directly at archaeology@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

ITEM 6

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETINGS

- 6.1 Vicky Myers (New Forest NPA) explained that a note regarding the NPA meeting on 28 June 2012 had been circulated with the agenda. There were no questions from the Panel.

ITEM 7

PANEL AGENDA SETTING AND CONSULTATIONS LOG

- 7.1 The Panel did not discuss any items for future meeting agendas. Panel members were interested in the current consultation on the re-use of buildings. Vicky Myers confirmed that the NPA was aware of this and would be submitting a response that took into account the special features and concerns of the National Park.

ITEM 8

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Barry Olorenshaw, New Forest Business Partnership, drew attention to the current consultation on national aviation policy. He also felt that the tranquillity of the National Park was to some extent compromised by overflying by both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

He felt that Panel members should make representations to central Government on the national aviation policy.

- 8.2 Sally Owen, Bransgore Parish Council, raised concerns regarding proposed residential developments at Roeshot Hill, Burton and near Christchurch. Vicky Myers responded that she was aware of the proposals; all three of the relevant authorities including the NPA need to work together to find the correct solution. She would follow this up with officers and ensure that the Panel was updated in due course.

Action: Vicky Myers or Alison Barnes to report back to Panel re. proposed residential developments in Dorset

ITEM 9

DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 21.20 hrs.