

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 216<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held in the Council Chamber, New Forest District Council offices, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 5 March 2009**

Those present: Tim Greenwood (Chairman)  
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)  
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 David Stone informed the Panel that one nomination had been received, this being for the current Chairman. No other nominations were put forward from the floor and Tim Greenwood was subsequently re-elected on a show of hands.
- 1.2 The Chairman thanked the Panel for the opportunity to continue in his role for the ensuing year

#### **ITEM 2**

##### **2.1 APOLOGIES**

Mark Abbot, Lyndhurst Parish Council  
Mary Barnes, Hampshire County Federation of Women's Institutes  
Mike Chillcott, Campaign to Protect Rural England  
Nigel Clarke, Ringwood Town Council  
Steve Clarke, New Milton Town Council  
Phil Dupres, Bransgore Parish Council  
Kevin Fuller, Hampshire County Council  
Arthur French, Boldre Parish Council  
Eddie Holtham, Fawley Parish Council  
Mary Lewis, New Forest Access for All  
Lord Montagu, English Heritage  
Bob Morris, Landford Parish Council  
Caroline Morrison, Salisbury District Council  
Peter Roberts, New Forest Association  
Alison Russell, British Horse Society  
Ian Taylor, newforce

##### **2.2 SUBSTITUTIONS**

David Dickenson, New Forest Dog Owners' Group  
Ray Miles, Ramblers' Association  
Wendy Simpson, Wellow Parish Council

#### **ITEM 3**

##### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** (8 January 2009)

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

#### **ITEM 4** **MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 David Dickenson (New Forest Dog Owners Group) read out a statement regarding the consultation responses to the National Park Plan. This was followed by a response by Steve Trotter (New Forest National Park Authority) **Note: Copies of both statements to be circulated with the agenda for the meeting on 7 May 2009.**
- 4.2 Alan Shotter (Marchwood Parish Council) asked whether there were any additional costs other than the £65,000 stated in the tabled document (as attached). Steve Trotter advised that he was not able to confirm at the meeting what other costs were incurred. Alan Shotter requested that the Authority provide the Panel with any other available costs incurred on the National Park Plan to date.

**Action: The New Forest National Park Authority to furnish Mr Shotter with details of any other available costs incurred on the National Park Plan and Recreational Management Strategy for members at the next meeting.**

- 4.3 Tony Gentle (Test Valley Borough Council) raised the point that the verge at Blackhill Road had been repaired to a very high standard and Sue Bennison (Bramshaw Parish Council), who had originally raised the issue at the previous meeting, thanked the panel for their support in achieving this result.

#### **ITEM 5** **FORESTRY COMMISSION**

- 5.1 Mike Seddon (Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission) confirmed that he had no items on this occasion.
- 5.2 Professor Evans (Institute of Chartered Foresters) asked whether the Sudden Oak Death which had been discussed at the previous meeting had infected any other trees. Mike Seddon confirmed that it had been confined to Rhododendrons on Rhinefield Ornamental Drive and one isolated bush in the north of the forest. He further advised that work was continuing to control re-growth of Rhododendrons to reduce the risks of future outbreaks.

#### **ITEM 6** **DEVELOPING A WILDLIFE STRATEGY FOR THE NEW FOREST – THE NEW FOREST BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

- 6.1 Ian Barker (Ecologist, New Forest National Park Authority) gave a presentation and slide show on Biodiversity. He explained that Biodiversity covered many aspects including plants, animals, their habitats and the complex ecosystems which sustain them.
- 6.2 He talked about Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) which had been developed following the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and that there were various levels of plans such as the local Hampshire one. He explained that the next step would be to develop a New Forest BAP and advised that the format and timing was currently being discussed.
- 6.3 Cllr Humber (Lymington and Pennington Town Council) asked whether there was any funding to help with related projects. Steve Trotter (Director of Conservation,

Recreation and Sustainable Development) advised that the Authority produced a guide to available funding and that the Parish Council could consider the Sustainable Development Fund as a means to source funding for specific projects.

**Action: Steve Trotter to send Cllr Humber information regarding available funding for local projects.**

#### **ITEM 7**

#### **NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETINGS**

- 7.1 Steve Trotter updated Panel members on the issues which had been debated at the Authority meeting on 29 January 2009 and in particular the existing position with regard to ranger services in the National Park and the proposal in principle for the Authority to become more directly involved in the co-ordination and provision of ranger services. He said that he had consequently been authorised to develop detailed proposals for a small National Park ranger team, and prepare a paper for approval by the Authority's Resources and Performance Committee, outlining the resources required.

#### **ITEM 8**

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 8.1 There were not items on this occasion.

#### **ITEM 9**

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

- 9.1 The next Consultative Panel meeting will be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 7 May 2009** in the Council Chamber, New Forest District Council offices, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst.

The meeting closed at 20.50 hours.