

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 29 AUGUST 2019 AT 10.00 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, LYMINGTON

#### **Present:**

##### *Members*

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman)  
Patrick Heneghan (Deputy Chairman)  
Gordon Bailey  
David Bence  
Sue Bennison  
Edward Heron  
Mel Kendal  
Keith Mans  
Harry Oram  
Gavin Parker

Caroline Rackham  
Leo Randall  
Barry Rickman  
John Sanger  
Ann Sevier  
Richard Taylor  
Steve Trow

##### *Officers*

Alison Barnes	Chief Executive Officer
Steve Avery	Executive Director, Strategy and Planning
Rosalind Alderman	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Nigel Stone	Chief Finance Officer
David Illsley	Policy Manager
Frances Connolly	Executive Assistant
Rachel Pardey	Administration Assistant

#### **18. Apologies for absence**

- 18.1 Apologies for absence were received from George Meyrick, David Harrison and George Bisson.

#### **19. Declarations of Interest.**

- 19.1 The Monitoring Officer advised members that the Authority had issued a dispensation under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to allow those members with a disclosable pecuniary interest in land in the National Park to participate and vote on minute item 23 (Local Plan Adoption). Any members with interests, whether in land or otherwise, that would be affected by the adoption of the draft Local Plan to a greater degree than other residents of the National Park would still need to declare those interests and consider whether they amounted to being prejudicial interests in the usual way.
- 19.2 Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, Leo Randall, Ann Sevier, Sue Bennison and Steve Trow declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 (Minute item 23) as members of Friends of the New Forest (New Forest Association).

**20. Chairman's announcements.**

- 20.1 The Chairman welcomed Steve Trow and George Meyrick as the new Secretary of State members on the Authority.

**21. Minutes**

- 21.1 The minutes of 11 July 2019 Authority meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**22. Public Question Time**

- 22.1 Colin Thompson (Friends of the New Forest/New Forest Association) – made a presentation to members on the New Forest National Park Authority Local Plan 2016-2036: Formal Adoption. A copy of the full presentation is available from Member Services.

**23. Local Plan Adoption**

- 23.1 David Illsley presented his report on the formal adopted of the New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016-2036: He said it had been a culmination of four years work and had been prepared within the context of the National Park purposes and Government policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 23.2 In May 2018 the draft Local Plan, supporting documents and all representations received during the final public consultation were submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. He told members that the examination started as soon as the draft Plan was submitted and concluded when the final Inspectors' Report was issued in July 2019.
- 23.3 Summarising the main headlines in the Inspectors' Report, Mr Illsley said that the 'duty to cooperate' placed a legal duty on local planning authorities and relevant organisations to engage constructively to maximise the effectiveness of the plan and the Inspectors were positive the Authority had engaged with neighbouring authorities and had fulfilled that duty to cooperate.
- 23.4 He informed members that government placed significant emphasis on increased housing delivery and that protected landscapes were not immune from this aim. Housing policies were a key focus of the Examination and the Local Plan includes new planning policies covering housing for older people and to meet local housing needs. The new policy on smaller dwellings addressed the need for smaller properties and this was fully supported by the Inspectors.
- 23.5 David Illsley reported that affordable housing delivery was a huge issue in all National Parks, and it was therefore positive that the Inspectors had supported the Authority's case for a lower site threshold for affordable housing provision. He said that the Inspectors had been complimentary about the search for housing sites that had been done by the Authority, but they did not support the proposed allocation at Calshot due to concerns over the lack of existing services in the village and the allocation was therefore deleted. The Inspectors supported the redevelopment of surplus public sector land at the brownfield Ashurst Hospital site, subject to strict policy safeguards about restricting development at the brownfield site. In terms of the proposed allocation adjacent to the former Fawley Power Station site, Mr Illsley said

there was a shared agreement between all relevant parties that it was a major development; and the Inspectors had spent considerable time examining the proposed allocation. The Inspectors concluded the Local Plan policy was appropriate and concluded that allocation was justified and consistent with local policy.

- 23.6 Mr Illsley informed members that following receipt of the Inspectors' Report, the Authority had a choice to either formally adopt the Local Plan or withdraw it and recommence consultation. He said that given the significant amount of work undertaken since the review commenced in 2015 and the positive Inspectors' Report his recommendation was to formally adopt the Plan. He said that as part of the adoption process training sessions had been arranged for members, Town and Parish Councillors and planning agents on the revised Local Plan.
- 23.7 Members expressed their thanks to David Illsley, his team and officers for their hard work in preparing the Local Plan for adoption. Members then commented on various aspects of the Local Plan which was then formally adopted.

**Resolved**, that:

1. Members noted the content of the Inspectors' Report (Annex 1) and the overall conclusion that the New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016-2036 provided a sound and appropriate basis for the planning of the National Park, subject to a number of main modifications,
2. The New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016-2036 be formally adopted and brought to immediate effect to form part of the statutory 'development plan' and the basis for planning decisions within the National Park. The Local Plan will supersede in full the policies within the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD on adoption; and
3. Members delegate to the Executive Director Strategy and Planning, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to make any minor changes to the text considered appropriate prior to publication.

*Voting:* 14:0, 3 abstentions

**24. Hythe and Dibden Neighbourhood Plan**

- 24.1 David Illsley introduced his report and summarised the work that had taken place over the last four years for the Neighbourhood Plan. He said that the draft Neighbourhood Plan had undergone several stages of public consultation and the Authority's Planning Committee endorsed responses on the draft Plan in July 2018 and January 2019. The draft Plan was then subject to a final six-week public consultation in Spring 2019.
- 24.2 Mr Illsley highlighted the main recommendations given by the Examiner, as well as how the Authority responded, and explained that it would form part of a 'Decision Statement' which would set out the modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 24.3 He said it was best practice to discuss modifications with the Parish Council who had the option of withdrawing the revised Plan if they were unhappy with the proposed changes. Officers from the NPA, NFDC and Parish Council met to discuss the

modifications and were all agreed that the revisions proposed were an appropriate response to the Examiner’s recommendations.

**Resolved**, that members note the recommendations made in the Examiner’s report into the draft Hythe and Dibden Neighbourhood Plan; and endorse the ‘Decision Statement’ in Annex 1 to the report setting out the Authority’s responses to the Examiner’s report.

*Voting: Unanimous*

**25. Partnership for South Hampshire: Invitation for membership**

25.1 Steve Avery introduced the report and explained that the Authority had recently been invited to join the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). He outlined the background of PfSH, formerly the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), and also the benefits that membership would bring to the Authority. He drew Members’ attention to the request from the New Forest District Council (NFDC) to include all of the New Forest district within the ambit of PfSH, which had previously covered a smaller area.

25.2 Members debated whether there were any risks posed by joining PfSH, and were satisfied that the Partnership had moved on significantly since its inception, when it was primarily focussed on economic growth and opportunity because at that time the South Hampshire region had fallen behind the rest of the South East in terms of economic prosperity and productivity. It was recognised that the National Park sits between two growing urban areas which were putting pressure on the New Forest and that joining PfSH was an opportunity to engage with neighbouring authorities so that they had regard for the New Forest’s special qualities when making decisions.

25.3 It was noted that other authorities were represented on PfSH by the Leader of their Council and therefore it was proposed that the Chairman of the Authority should be the representative on PfSH, with the Deputy Chairman acting as deputy.

**Resolved**, that:

- 1. The invitation to the National Park Authority to become a member of the Partnership for South Hampshire and to take up a position on the Joint Committee be accepted; and
- 2. The Chairman of the Authority be appointed to represent the Authority on the Joint Committee, with the Deputy Chairman of the Authority acting as deputy.

*Voting: Unanimous*

**26. Any other items the Chairman decides are urgent**

26.1 There were no items on this occasion.

The meeting closed at 11.00 hours

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
(Chairman)