

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2020 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

George Bisson

Richard Clewer

David Harrison

Edward Heron

Keith Mans

Neville Penman

Leo Randall

Caroline Rackham

Barry Rickman

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

Head of Resources

David Stone

Corporate Services Manager

David Illsley

Policy Manager

Hilary Makin

Communications Manager

Andy Brennan

Sustainability Officer

Denise Allen

Member Services Administrator

39. Apologies for absence

- 39.1 Apologies for absence were received from George Meyrick and Harry Oram.

40. Declarations of Interest

- 40.1 Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 as a Trustee of the New Forest Trust.

41. Chairman's announcements

- 41.1 The Chairman drew members' attention to copies of the New Forest Marque Guide, copies of which were provided for each member. The importance and value of the Marque as well as the support and financial contribution of the Authority was noted.

42. Minutes

- 42.1 The minutes of the 18 December 2019 Authority meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

43. Public Question Time

- 43.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

44. New Milton Neighbourhood Plan (AM 592/20)

- 44.1 David Illsley highlighted the main recommendations in the independent Examiner's Report concerning the draft New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. Following a meeting in January 2020 with NFDC and New Milton Town Council, it was recommended that the Authority accepted in full the Examiner's modifications and Mr Illsley pointed to the resultant alterations to the draft Plan as laid out in the 'Decision Statement' in Annex 1. Subject to approval by both the NPA and NFDC, NFDC (as the relevant council) would then arrange for a local referendum on the revised Plan later in 2020.

Resolved, that Members noted the recommendations made in the Examiner's Report on the draft New Milton Neighbourhood Plan (December 2019) and endorsed the 'Decision Statement' in Annex 1 to this report setting out the Authority's responses to the Examiner's Report.

Voting: Unanimous

- 44.2 Mr Illsley explained that should a majority of those who vote in the above referendum vote in favour of adoption, then the Plan must be 'made' by the NPA and NFDC. He therefore recommended that the final stage in the Plan making process be delegated to the Executive Director Strategy and Planning in consultation with the NPA Chairman.

Resolved, that subject to a majority of voters (i.e. more than 50%) voting in favour, members delegated the making of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan to the Executive Director Strategy and Planning in consultation with the NPA Chairman.

Voting: Unanimous

- 44.3 The potential for an electronic voting option for members was raised and will be considered within the review of Authority procedures currently taking place and to be discussed at the full Authority meeting in March 2020.
- 44.4 Mr Illsley noted that although it fell to NFDC to administer the referendum, the NPA was very happy to liaise with NFDC and the Town Council to use appropriate mechanisms at the NPA's disposal to promote the referendum.

45. The Landscapes Review and Updating the Partnership Plan (AM 593/20)

- 45.1 Steve Avery advised that the purpose of the report was twofold. Firstly to take stock of what the Authority was already doing with its partners in aligning with the recommendations set out in the Landscape Review and, more importantly, how the Authority planned to progress other areas highlighted in the Review such as nature recovery, our response to climate change and health and wellbeing and how this can be achieved through the revision of the Partnership Plan.
- 45.2 Elaborating on the above points, he said that section 2 of the report set out what the Authority was currently doing and included a successful track record of partnership working. The main focus of how to reflect other key recommendations

in the Landscape Review in the current revision of the Partnership Plan was set out in section 3 of the report. In this regard, he drew members' attention to the series of themed workshops proposed to be held over the next few months under section 3.5 and suggested the possibility of establishing a fifth workshop to look at post-production of the Partnership Plan and monitoring of the agreed actions.

- 45.3 As advocated by the Landscape Review, section 3.6 of the report dealt with options for the establishment of a partnership group that would work alongside the main Partnership Board and which would have strategic oversight over the implementation of the actions in the new Plan. Members strongly supported this approach mentioning that an oversight body which would ensure the implementation of Partnership Plan actions such as broadband installation and road maintenance, would be very much appreciated by local communities.
- 45.4 The Chairman mentioned that Lord Gardiner would be attending a National Parks England Board meeting the following week where it was hoped to receive some indication of what the Government was planning to do with the Landscape Review report and recommendations.

Resolved, that

1. working with partners, the Authority convene a series of member workshops over the coming months to scope out and agree a set of new Partnership Plan objectives that respond to the proposals and new priorities set out in the Landscapes Review
2. in tandem with the Partnership Plan review, options for establishing a new partnership group be explored with strategic oversight for the delivery of the new Partnership Plan.

Voting: Unanimous

46. Responding to the Climate and Nature Emergency – 'Net Zero with Nature' (AM 594/20)

- 46.1 Andy Brennan advised that the timing of the report followed the National Parks England update of its climate change position statement in December 2019. The report dealt with three broad areas of the Authority's proposed response:

- mitigation - reducing greenhouse gases to limit the worst effects of global warming
- adaptation - planning for change and ensuring that habitats are in good condition, well managed, well connected and maximise opportunities to create new areas of habitat
- education around behaviour change.

The report detailed the measures which are already being taken by the Authority in the above regard and planned actions with the Authority's partners.

- 46.2 In the discussion which followed, members supported the recommendations as a declaration of intent by the Authority. However, some members proposed that these be amended to recognise the Authority's important role as community leader in taking forward these issues and that research, which had been included in the National Parks England statement and which was an important strategy for adapting to climate change, be added to the recommendations. Following further discussion, members agreed that research was implicit in the work which would be undertaken. However, the point was made that there was a need to ensure

that the Authority's leadership role in addressing climate change and nature recovery was clearly stated in an additional recommendation. This proposal was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved, that the Authority

1. Reaffirm its commitment by declaring a climate and nature emergency
2. Commit the New Forest National Park Authority to becoming a net zero organisation by 2030
3. Work with partners to develop a plan to respond to the climate and nature emergencies so that the New Forest National Park and surrounding area is 'net zero with nature' by 2050
4. Act as a community leader in addressing climate change and nature recovery.

Voting: 1-3 above (17-0 (1 abstention)); 4 above (12-4 (2 abstentions))

47. Love the Forest Visitor Giving Scheme – two-year review (AM 595/20)

- 47.1 Andy Brennan introduced his summary of the report presented to RAPC in November 2019 and highlighted that since taking over the running of the Love the Forest scheme in 2017, the decline in participating businesses had been arrested, and income along with the number of businesses involved in the scheme had increased. Additionally, the Love the Forest Ambassador training scheme trialed in 2019 provided front of house staff with accurate information on caring for the Forest to share with visitors and customers and has been very positively received.
- 47.2 Members recognised the significant contribution made to the scheme by Mr Brennan and noted a need for additional communications support. Mr Brennan agreed to test initiatives 5.2, 6.3 and 7.2 as detailed in the paper and to report the results back to RAPC in 12 months.

Resolved, that

1. the Authority support of the Love the Forest Visitor Gift Scheme and the development of the relationship with the New Forest Trust be extended
2. that the MOU be extended by a period of two years (October 2021).

Voting: Unanimous

48. Any other items the Chairman decides are urgent

- 48.1 There were no further items.

49. Date of next meeting

- 49.1 The next meeting of the New Forest National Park Authority will be held at 10:00 am on Thursday, 26 March 2020 in the Council Chamber, Lymington Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 11:45 am.

Signed: Date:
(Chairman)