

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 10:00 HOURS IN THE GATES HALL, LYMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, NEW STREET, LYMINGTON

Present:

Members:

Gordon Bailey
David Bence
Sue Bennison
David Harrison (Chairman)
Patrick Heneghan (Deputy Chairman)
Alexis McEvoy
Neville Penman
John Sanger
Ann Sevier

Officers:

Alison Barnes	Chief Executive
Steve Avery	Executive Director Strategy and Planning
Rosalind Alderman	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Nigel Stone	Chief Finance Officer
Paul Walton	Head of Environment and Rural Economy
Hilary Makin	Communications Manager
Jim Mitchell	Interpretation and Outreach Manager
David Stone	Corporate Services Manager

63. Apologies for absence

63.1 There were no apologies for absence received on this occasion.

64. Declarations of Interest

64.1 There were no declarations of interest.

65. Chairman's announcements

65.1 There were no Chairman's announcements on this occasion.

66. Minutes

66.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June were agreed as a correct record.

67. Public Question Time

67.1 There were no questions or statements from the public.

68. First Quarter Progress Report 2021-22 (RAPC 461-21)

- 68.1 Members referred to the key performance indicators and requested that in future additional information be provided in the tables as to the status of the indicators and a more detailed explanation provided for those which were off target.
- 68.2 Officers responded to a number of queries regarding the actions within the tables.
- 68.3 Following consideration of the first quarter progress report, members noted with appreciation the NPA's extensive social media platforms and apps used to enhance public engagement and draw attention to key NPA messages. Members also discussed possible options for a broader engagement with parish councils, this discussion included the following:
- Noting existing engagement channels such as the regular quadrant meetings with parish councils and meetings of the New Forest Consultative Panel.
 - Possible annual reports to parish quadrant meetings to update them on key topics and work of the NPA.
 - Publishing a bulletin to send to parish councils and others on current issues and NPA work.
 - A review of local information points to enhance public accessibility to information, promote engagement and consider new locations.

Officers thanked members for this useful information which would inform discussions in taking forward engagement proposals.

69. First Quarter Budgetary Control Report 2021-22 (RAPC 462-21)

- 69.1 Nigel Stone referred to the financial report which had been considered by the NPA on 19 August 2021 and advised that initial information had now been received regarding the outstanding audit item on the NPA accounts for 2020/21, namely the result of the Hampshire Pension Fund Audit. This audit had now been completed and there was likely to be a change required to the NPA accounts to accommodate an understatement within the actuary work of 2%.
- 69.2 Mr Stone then referred to key points of the first quarter budgetary control report and responded to queries from members. Referring to section 9 of the report, Mr Stone advised that authorities were asking Defra to focus on a comprehensive spending review which would provide grant figures over a number of years rather than the short term.
- 69.3 In response to a query, he added that no information had yet been received on the decision by the PSAA (Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd) on the auditors' request for scale fee rebasing of the audit fee.
- 69.4 In response to a further query, Mr Avery advised that consideration was being given to the Authority's long term accommodation needs and proposals would be brought back to the Committee in due course.

Following brief discussion, members noted the report.

70. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent

70.1 There were no urgent items on this occasion.

71. Date of next meeting

71.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 1 November 2021.

The meeting closed at 11:30 hours

Signed **Date**.....
(Chairman)