

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY 12 APRIL 2021 AT 10:00 HOURS

Present:

Members:

Gordon Bailey
Sue Bennison
David Harrison (Chairman)
Patrick Heneghan (Deputy Chairman)
Victoria Mander
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	Head of Resources (CFO)
Nigel Matthews	Head of Recreation Management and Learning
Paul Walton	Head of Environment and Rural Economy
Hilary Makin	Communications Manager
David Stone	Corporate Services Manager

41. Apologies for absence

41.1 An apology for absence was received from David Bence.

42. Declarations of Interest

42.1 There were no declarations of interest.

43. Chairman's announcements

43.1 At the request of the Chairman, the meeting observed a minute's silence in memory of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

44. Minutes

44.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March were agreed as a correct record.

45. Public Question Time

45.1 There were no questions or statements from the public.

46. Draft Work Programme 2021/22

- 46.1 Alison Barnes asked members to consider the key areas of delivery contained in the draft Work Programme for 2021/22 attached as Annex 1 to the report. If supported by the Committee, the draft Programme would be referred to the Authority meeting on 29 April 2021 for approval. She added that a response had now been received from Defra in connection with the Authority's grant settlement for 2021/22 which would be on a flat cash basis as in previous years and the programme would accordingly be matched with the resources available.
- 46.2 The Committee then considered the Programme in detail and commented and raised queries on various aspects contained therein. In commenting generally on the actions in the programme, members said that in some cases these needed to be more specific target oriented and timeline linked to enable meaningful scrutiny when quarterly reports were considered later in the year.
- 46.3 In referring to a query in connection with the establishment of a Wildlife Roundtable as the advisory group to the NPA on nature recovery (page 2 of the programme), Paul Walton undertook to provide a summary report on this matter to members either through the members' bulletin or a report to a subsequent meeting of the Committee. He also undertook to look at the possibility of setting up an annual conference to facilitate increased public engagement in this key area of work.

Action: Paul Walton:

- provide a summary report on the establishment of a Wildlife Roundtable either through the members' bulletin or a report to a subsequent meeting of the Committee.
- explore the possibility of setting up an annual conference to facilitate increased public engagement in this key area of work.

- 46.4 Members discussed in detail messaging, awareness and engagement about living in a National Park and asked officers to look at various methods of conveying key information such as the New Forest Code to local communities.

Resolved, that the draft 2021/22 Work Programme be recommended for approval to the Authority meeting on 29 April 2021.

(No-one voting against)

47. Updated Ethical Sponsorship Policy

- 47.1 Hilary Makin advised members that the Authority actively seeks to collaborate with external organisations to achieve shared objectives and to grow investment in the New Forest. The current Ethical Sponsorship and Corporate Partnership Policy was now six years old, had been reviewed and updated by officers and had been briefly considered by members of the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee on 1 March 2021. The Policy was now before the Committee for consideration before being referred to the Authority meeting on 29 April.
- 47.2 She referred to the key changes to the Policy, including the inclusion of individuals as well as corporate sponsorship with those supporters being encouraged to think about

social as well as environmental considerations and members' involvement in the process.

- 47.3 The changes to the existing Policy were set out in Annex 2 to the report and a 'clean' copy of the Policy accepting these changes was attached as Annex 1.
- 47.4 She drew members' attention to the arrangements for considering potential corporate and individual sponsorship set in paragraph 7.3 of the Policy and paragraph 1.4 of the report and mentioned that the Chief Finance Officer and herself would jointly consider potential individual and corporate sponsorship below the value of £10,000 and refer any sponsorship which contained significant risk, or which was of a complex nature, to members. Amounts over £10,000 would be considered initially by the above officers in consultation with the Chairs of the Authority and the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee and then referred to a meeting of the Authority for debate and a decision. She said that this process might be set out more clearly in the Policy and undertook to amend the text in the report to the Authority.
- 47.5 Members then considered the Policy and asked for a number of typographical and other changes to the Policy prior to this coming to the Authority meeting on 29 April for approval.

Resolved, that the revised Ethical Sponsorship Policy attached as Annex 1 to the report and, subject to the changes agreed at the meeting, be recommended to the Authority meeting on 29 April 2021.

(No-one voting against)

48. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent

- 48.1 There were no other urgent items on this occasion.

49. Date of next meeting

- 49.1 Members noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 7 June 2021.

The meeting closed at 12:35 hours

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