

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 1 JULY 2021 AT 10.00 AM AT THE FOREST HALL, BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL, BROCKENHURST SO42 7RY

Present:

Members

Gavin Parker (Chair)

Patrick Heneghan (Deputy Chair)

Sue Bennison

George Bisson

Richard Clewer

Zoe Clewer

David Harrison

Alexis McEvoy

Victoria Mander

Neville Penman

Caroline Rackham

Barry Rickman

John Sanger

Ann Sevier

Stephen Tarling

Richard Taylor

Steve Trow

Officers

Alison Barnes

Steve Avery

Jo Murphy

Nigel Stone

Paul Walton

Jim Mitchell

David Illsley

David Stone

Frances Connolly

Sam Greatorex

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director, Strategy and Planning

Deputy Monitoring Officer

Head of Resources (Chief Finance Officer)

Head of Environment and Rural Economy

Interpretation and Outreach Manager

Policy Manager

Corporate Services Manager

Executive Assistant

Systems Support Technician (Attending Remotely)

Also in attendance:

Dante Munns

Richard Snelling

Area Manager RSPB

Reserve manager, Franchises Lodge

44. Apologies for absence.

- 44.1 Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Bailey, David Bence, George Meyrick and Keith Mans.

45. Declarations of Interest.

- 45.1 Victoria Mander declared an interest under part 2 section B (non-pecuniary interests) of the NPA's Code of Conduct in minute item 51 due to the work she undertakes with RSPB.

Caroline Rackham declared an interest under part 2 section B (non-pecuniary interests) of the NPA's Code of Conduct in minute item 49 as a member of New Forest District Council.

Zoe Clewer declared an interest under part 2 section B (non-pecuniary interests) of the NPA's Code of Conduct in those matters on the agenda which pertain to her role on Wiltshire County Council.

46. Chair's announcements.

46.1 There were no announcements on this occasion.

47. Minutes

Resolved, that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2021 be approved as a true record.

Voting: unanimous

48. Public Question Time

48.1 There were no public questions on this occasion.

49. New Milton Neighbourhood Plan (AM 596-21)

49.1 David Illsley introduced his report highlighting that work on the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan commenced in 2014, when the Town Council applied to the National Park Authority and New Forest District Council for the whole parish to be designated as a Neighbourhood Area. This designation was confirmed by both planning authorities in February 2015 and the Town Council has been working on the draft Neighbourhood Plan over the last 6 years. Mr Illsley explained that the NPA had liaised with New Milton Town Council and New Forest District Council throughout the plan making process and had not raised any significant objections to the draft Neighbourhood Plan as it evolved.

49.2 Following the receipt of the independent Examiner's Report, Mr Illsley explained that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan was postponed for a year and was subsequently held on 6 May 2021. With the majority of those voting supporting the Plan (88%), the Plan must be 'made' i.e. adopted by the NPA and NFDC within eight weeks of the referendum date. Members agreed the recommendation as set out in the report.

Resolved, that

The New Milton Neighbourhood Plan be formally 'made' (i.e. adopted) and brought into immediate effect to form part of the statutory 'development plan' and the basis for planning decisions within the part of the National Park in New Milton parish.

Voting: unanimous

50. Appointments to Vacancies on Committees and External Bodies (AM 597-21)

50.1 The Chair advised that following expressions of interest, members were asked to confirm appointments to the following external bodies.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Government Association (reserve) – Neville Penman
The Building Design Awards Panel – Caroline Rackham
New Forest Access Forum (reserve) – Caroline Rackham

50.2 The Chair explained that currently Ann Sevier, had volunteered to fill one vacancy on Standards Committee, leaving one local authority member vacancy each on the Standards and Planning Committees. There being no volunteers at the meeting to fill

these vacancies, members agreed that these would be held over until the Annual Authority meeting on 21 October 2021.

- 50.3 It was reported that three members had put their names forward to be the NPA representative on the Court of the Verderers, namely John Sanger, Ann Sevier and Sue Bennison. Each member gave a one minute presentation in support of their nomination and, following a secret ballot, John Sanger was appointed to represent the NPA.

Resolved that,

1. Ann Sevier be appointed to the Standards Committee for the period up until the Annual Authority meeting on 21 October 2021 or until such earlier time as the Authority wishes to amend the membership.
2. the following members be appointed as the Authority's representative on the respective outside bodies for the period up until the Annual Authority meeting on 21 October 2021 or until such earlier time as the Authority wishes to amend the membership.
 - John Sanger – New Forest Court of Verderers
 - Neville Penman - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association (Reserve)
 - Caroline Rackham -The Building Design Awards Panel
 - Caroline Rackham - New Forest Local Access Forum (Reserve)

Voting: unanimous

51. Franchises Lodge Reserve and RSPB / NFNPA Joint Working Update (AM 598-21)

- 51.1 Jim Mitchell in conjunction with Dante Munns and Richard Snelling updated members on the work which had been carried out at Franchises Lodge over the past two years. This included a campaign run by RSPB to fund the purchase of land at Horse Common, Cameron's Cottage an outreach centre for educational visits, along with the NPA archaeology team bringing back three barrows ancient monuments into good condition and securing a grant of £200,000 from National Grid LEI fund to enable works on the site for rhododendron removal.
- 51.2 Priorities for the future would include improving the site for nature and heritage, identifying joint funding opportunities, promoting the site as an exemplar of nature recovery and investigating more opportunities to provide more access for people.

Members thanked the team and noted the report.

52. Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (AM 599-21)

- 52.1 Paul Walton informed members that he and his team were responsible for the delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme which was officially launched on 1 July 2021. This national programme aimed to support famers and land managers for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty across England and lay the groundwork for the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

- 52.2 The farming in Protected Landscapes Programme had been developed by Defra and would run for three years from 2021-2024. It would be for all farmers and land managers to deliver across four key themes - Climate, Nature, People and Place. It would work alongside existing schemes such as the Higher Level Stewardship and the Countryside Stewardship scheme.
- 52.3 Over the three year period the New Forest National Park Authority had been allocated £621,273. This was a provisional figure and could increase if the Authority was able to deliver its allocated sum each financial year and show how extra income might be used effectively. Paul Walton advised that the Authority's Land Advice team would be at the forefront of working with the land managers within the National Park to deliver the programme and anticipated they would be able to administer the scheme without using additional NPA resources.
- 52.4 He said a Local Assessment Panel would need to be established and Defra guidance indicated that the Panel should consist of representatives from the New Forest National Park Authority, Natural England, and organisations representing farming and land management interests within the National Park. The NPA would be involved in selecting members of the Panel which would also include those with a focus on nature recovery, rural development and public access/engagement.
- 52.5 Paul Walton advised members that applications above £5,000 would be considered by the Local Assessment Panel, but those applications under £5,000 would be considered at officer level. He hoped that the first Local Assessment Panel would be established by the end of August or beginning of September 2021.
- 52.6 Mr Walton said that he was not yet in a position to confirm the composition of the Local Assessment Panel and said he would be grateful if members could input on suitable organisations that could be put forward for the Panel. These would be ratified at the next Authority meeting in August. Members agreed to defer confirmation of the panel to the Authority meeting in August.

Resolved that,

- (i) the Authority affirm support for the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme;
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to take all action as necessary to implement the scheme in line with the criteria to be issued by Defra; and
- (iii) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to make decisions on applications received under the programme, having regard to the recommendations of the Local Assessment Panel where necessary under the final rules of the programme (which is anticipated to apply to applications above £5,000)

Voting: unanimous

53. Any other items the Chair decides are urgent

- 53.1 There were no further items.

54. Date of next meeting

- 54.1 Thursday 19 August 2021 at 10.00am – Venue – TBC

PART II ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPTED INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED

Resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 and 5 Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, namely the need to avoid disclosing sensitive information relating to the Authority's financial and business affairs and information that is subject to legal professional privilege.

Voting: unanimous

55. Working with the Solent LEP (AM 600-21)

55.1 Members considered a report on the above matter.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm.

Signed: Date:
(Chair)