

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JULY AT 10.00 AM AT THE LINDEN HALL, LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE, CENTRAL CAR PARK, HIGH STREET, LYNDHURST SO43 7NY

Present:

Members

Patrick Heneghan (Chair)

Diane Andrews

Gordon Bailey

Sue Bennison

George Bisson

Richard Clewer

Zoe Clewer

Stephen Tarling

Richard Taylor

John Sanger

Officers

Alison Barnes

Steve Avery

Rosalind Alderman

Nigel Stone

Paul Walton

David Stone

David Illsley

Sarah Applegate

Jim Mitchell

Vicki Gibbon

Maria Court

Sam Greatorex

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Director, Strategy and Planning

Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Head of Resources (Chief Finance Officer)

Head of Environment & Rural Economy

Corporate Services Manager

Policy & Conservation Manager

Senior Policy Officer

Interpretation & Outreach Manager

Member Services Administrator

Senior Communications Officer

Systems Support Technician (Attending Remotely)

47. Apologies for absence.

47.1 Apologies for absence were received from Gavin Parker, Ann Sevier, Keith Mans, Caroline Rackham, Steve Trow, David Harrison, Neville Penman, George Meyrick, Victoria Mander, Michael Thierry and Alexis McEvoy.

48. Declarations of Interest.

48.1 There were no declarations of interest on this occasion

49. Chair's announcements

49.1 The Chair reminded members that a members briefing would follow the main meeting with a presentation being made by James Alden a Paediatrician completing a Public Health Fellowship with Health Education England and the NPA. Mr Alden would be speaking on the partnership and the value of green space and national parks to public health.

50. Minutes

Resolved, that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2022 be approved as a true record.

Voting: None voting against

51. Public Question Time

- 51.1 Brian Tarnoff, on behalf of the New Forest Association / Friends of the New Forest made a presentation to members on campsites on the Crownlands of the New Forest.

A copy of the presentation is held by Member Services and available on request.

52. Chief Executive's Report (AM 626/22)

- 52.1 The Chief Executive introduced her report, reminding Members that the report covered the period from the Authority meeting in March 2022.
- 52.2 Under the *Protect* theme, the Chief Executive highlighted the Farming in Protected landscapes Programme (FiPL) over the last year £174,000 grants had been awarded with over 406 hectares of land improved. She explained that the Environment Secretary recently remarked that this was the best national scheme that Defra had ever done. The Authority were also working alongside three landowners and private finance experts Palladium to develop and trial new models to attract private investment to fund large scale restoration projects.
- 52.3 Continuing on the Protect theme Ms Barnes explained that the Planning team continue to be busy with 170 applications determined this quarter with 94% approved. 155 new tree work applications had been registered with 100% being determined within eight weeks, one Tree Preservation Order had been made over the period. Ms Barnes was pleased to announce that Lucie Cooper had been appointed to Enforcement Manager. The Policy team had also been extremely busy over the last quarter, advising on new guidelines on nutrient neutrality, a members' day on Habitats Regulations, working with Hyde Parish Council on their Village Design Statement and working with colleagues across National Parks to consider the proposed reforms of the planning system.
- 52.4 Under the *Enjoy* theme, the Chief Executive drew members attention to the care for the forest campaign 2022, the new Forest Code had been printed in different formats for campsites and businesses, an updated action plan had been agreed to include ranger patrols and temporary signage and NFDC along with partners were looking at introducing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) to address persistent anti-social behaviour. Campaigns including BBQ free New Forest, Animal accident reduction and Litter and fly tipping continue to be working effectively, with a significant reduction in animal accidents, more supermarkets removing disposable BBQ's and NFDC issuing fixed penalties for waste related offences.
- 52.5 Ms Barnes explained that the Generation Green educational initiative had now come to an end, nearly 41,000 young people had opportunities to connect with nature as a result of collaboration between the 10 English national parks. The Partnership Plan had now been finalised and would be launched at this years New Forest Show, the theme at the show stand would be Nature and Climate challenge.
- 52.6 Under the *Prosper* theme, the Chief Executive reminded members that the New Forest Tour season had begun and would run until 18 September, a new heavily discounted residents season ticket was now available, which works out at just over £2 per day. The Sustainable Communities fund would now have an upper limit of £10,000 for new projects. Ms Barnes was pleased to announce that the New Forest National Park

Awards were presented in conjunction with the CLA had received the most nominations ever at 130, the awards would be presented at the new Forest show.

- 52.7 Under the *Excellence* theme, Ms Barnes advised members of the three-year flat cash Defra grant settlement for National Parks, the difficulty with recruitment across the board especially in Hampshire and that the Authority had recently received a clean audit. The annual staff discovery days had recently taken place which had proved very popular with the final event being held at Sopley Farm.
- 52.8 Following discussion, Members noted the report.

53. Oral Report from Resources, Audit and Performance Committee (6 June 2022)

- 53.1 Patrick Heneghan referred to key aspects of the minutes of the above meeting which were then noted by members.

54. Adoption of Hyde Village Design Statement (AM 627/22)

- 54.1 Mr Illsley reported on the background to the Hyde Village Design Statement - covering the whole of the parish which had been originally drawn up in 2007 by local residents and parish councillors and then most recently adopted by the Authority as a supplementary planning document in June 2012. In the decade following the adoption of the statement there had been significant changes in both national and local policy and design guidance. Hyde Parish Council were keen to update their Village Design Statement to ensure it is still afforded weight in planning decision-making as a supplementary planning document and the aims of the revision were set out in the report. Following a 6-week period of public consultation held earlier this year and consideration of comments received, the updated statement was now presented for adoption by the Authority.
- 54.2 Mr Illsley then drew members' attention to a summary of the main issues arising from the consultation and what changes had been made to the statement in response to the consultation comments. The revised Hyde Village Design Statement was presented for formal adoption as a supplementary planning document.

Resolved, that the Authority

- (i) formally adopt the revised Hyde Village Design Statement (Annex 1) and bring it into immediate effect from 14 July 2022 as material consideration in planning decision making, and
- (ii) delegate authority to the Executive Director (Strategy & Planning) to make any final, minor amendments to the design and formatting of the SPD prior to publication.

Voting: Unanimous

55. Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (AM 628/22)

- 55.1 Sarah Applegate advised that as a minerals and waste planning authority, the New Forest National Park Authority, was currently working with Hampshire County Council, Southampton and Portsmouth City Councils, and the South Downs National Park Authority to revise the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan. She said that the adopted Plan covers the whole of the New Forest National Park, including the area within south Wiltshire.
- 55.2 The Plan was adopted in 2013 and needed to be updated to reflect changes in national policy since that time, and to ensure policy criteria enabled suitable development to come forward. Ms Applegate advised that the purpose of the current report was to update members on the proposed revised timetable for the review of the Minerals and Waste Plan.
- 55.3 She drew members' attention to paragraph 4 of the report and advised that once the updated Local Development Scheme had been approved by all minerals and waste partner authorities, the plan making process would continue in line with the revised timetable in the LDS. Following a meeting of partners to the Plan, it is likely that a report setting out proposed changes to the Plan and seeking resolution to undertake a period of public consultation on that draft Plan would now be made to the Authority's Planning Committee in October 2022 instead of August 2022. If endorsed, the consultation will then take place in November and December this year, as set out in the Local Development Scheme.

Resolved, that

the Authority Members approve the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Local Development Scheme as set out in Annex 1 to the report, which sets out the updated timetable and programme for the partial update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013), subject to agreement by the other minerals and waste plan making partner Authorities.

Voting: Unanimous

56. Pre-Application Fees (AM 629/22)

- 56.1 Steve Avery introduced the report and reminded members that the Authority introduced a charging regime for providing formal pre-application advice in October 2016 to help cover the cost of providing the Authority's pre-application service. There had since been four reviews of the scheme, the last being at the Authority meeting on 25 March 2021. He advised that the purpose of the report was to seek the Authority's approval to marginally increase the discretionary pre-application charges - to take effect from 1 August 2022. The table set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report set out the income received from the service and the table in Annex 1 to the report set out comparable charges with those of neighbouring authorities.

Resolved, that

the proposed increase in fees for written pre-application advice be approved to take effect from 1 August.

Voting: Unanimous

57. S106 Monitoring Fees (AM 630/22)

- 57.1 Steve Avery introduced the report and advised that in December 2019, the Authority agreed a schedule of fees for monitoring s106 legal agreements as set out in the table that went to that meeting (18 December Authority report attached as Annex 1). He

drew members’ attention to paragraphs 4.7 and 5.2 of that report where it was intended that the monitoring fees should be reviewed annually from 2021 onwards. He said that the Authority was now in the process of completing a number of s106 agreements for major developments in the National Park that will have significant ongoing monitoring (and resource) obligations to ensure that the terms of the s106 agreements are adhered to and met. Members were accordingly asked to approve a revised set of fees as set out in paragraph 2 of the current report, which had already been endorsed and recommended for approval by Members of the Planning Committee at their meeting on 21 June 2022

Resolved, that
the revised schedule of fees for monitoring s106 legal agreements be agreed with immediate effect.

Voting: Unanimous

58 Access Update – England Coast Path & Promoted Walking Routes (AM 631/22)

58.1 Adam Vasey introduced the report and advised that the Authority has agreed to carry out establishment works to create the new infrastructure for the England Coast Path and a paper to the Authority meeting in January 2017 had set out the background to this project and members had resolved that the Authority agree to establish the England Coast Path within the New Forest National Park on behalf of Natural England once the route had been established.

58.2 He then updated members on the works which had been started or undertaken by the Authority and the applicable timescales as well as other key aspects of the project.

Members then noted and supported the approach taken with respect to the England Coast Path and other promoted walking routes.

59. Any other items the Chair decides are urgent

59.1 None

60. Date of next meeting

60.1 Thursday 20 October 2022 at 10.00am – Linden Hall, Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst

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

None

The meeting closed at 13:30pm.

Signed: Date: (Chair)