

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2024 AT 10.00 AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, AVENUE ROAD, LYMINGTON SO41 9ZG

#### **Present:**

##### *Members*

David Bence (Chair)

Gordon Bailey

Zoe Clewer

Mary Davies

David Harrison

Patrick Heneghan

Keith Mans

George Meyrick

Neville Penman

Dan Poole

Caroline Rackham

Joe Reilly

Ann Sevier

Brice Stratford

Michael Thierry

Derek Tipp

Steve Trow

##### *Officers*

Alison Barnes

Chief Executive

Steve Avery

Executive Director

David Stone

Acting Monitoring Officer

Nigel Stone

Head of Resources (Chief Finance Officer)

Helen Robinson

Lead Education and Youth Officer

Claire Pearce

Youth Development Officer

Vicki Gibbon

Member Services Administrator

Josh Taylor

Communications Assistant

Hayley Quarrington

National Park Intern

#### **69 Apologies for Absence**

- 69.1 Apologies for absence were received from Richard Clewer, Mel Kendal, Victoria Mander and Gavin Parker.

#### **70. Declarations of Interest**

- 70.1 George Meyrick declared a prejudicial interest under Part 2 section B (non-pecuniary interests) of the NPA's Code of Conduct in minute item 76 and accordingly left the meeting during the debate and vote on that item.

#### **71. Chair's Announcements**

- 71.1 The Chair made presentments to the outgoing members who left the Authority in 2023, namely, Diane Andrews, Sue Bennison, George Bisson and Richard Taylor.

The Chair also made a presentment to Phillip Tarling, in remembrance of his brother Stephen Tarling who passed away in 2023.

#### **72. Minutes**

- 72.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023 were approved as a true record.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023 be approved as a true record.

*Voting: None voting against*

### **73. Public Question Time**

73.1 Cllr Janet Richards and Brian Tarnoff both gave statements in relation to the Article 4 Direction, agenda item 8. These are available on request from Member Services.

### **74. Chief Executive's Report (AM 668/24)**

74.1 The Chief Executive reminded members that her report covered the period since the Authority meeting on 19 October 2023 and that the report would fit within the Re:New Forest themes from the newly agreed Business Plan. Ms Barnes gave a detailed presentation using PowerPoint giving a thorough overview of the Authority's work over the last quarter under each of the purposes.

Following discussion, members noted the report. A copy of the presentation is available on the website.

### **75. Oral Report from Resources, Audit and Performance Committee – 6 November 2023**

75.1 Patrick Henegan, Chair of the above Committee referred to items discussed at the meeting including the half year progress report for 2023-24, the half year budgetary control report 2023-24 which was currently on target and in line with expectations and the corporate risk register.

Members noted the report.

### **76. Confirmation of Article 4 (1) Direction – Temporary Campsites (AM 669/24)**

76.1 Steve Avery gave a brief outline of his report and explained that the consultation response was one of support. Mr Avery asked members to support the recommendation as detailed below.

76.2 Following discussion members agreed to unanimously support the recommendation. It was suggested that a subsequent report be brought to the October Authority meeting to see how this was progressing, which was duly noted by Officers.

### **Resolved that:**

- (i) members confirm the Article 4 Direction as attached at Annex 1; and
- (ii) approve the updated planning guidance note as attached at Annex 2

*Voting: Unanimous*

### **77. Youth Focussed Work and the YouCAN Project (AM 669/24)**

77.1 Helen Robinson, Lead Education and Youth Officer gave a summary of the project, highlighting that due to the secured funding from the National Lottery Community Fund the scale and reach of the Authority's Youth work could be increased.

77.2 Clare Pearce, Youth Development Officer then discussed the opportunities for member involvement in the project and asked for members to appoint a task and finish

group to propose options on how the Authority could engage with young people in governance and the decision-making process.

77.3 Hayley Quarrington and Josh Taylor, who represent the New Forest on the UK National Parks Youth Voice group, were invited to express the viewpoint of young people on the formation of a youth board.

77.4 Following discussion members were very keen to participate in this process and unanimously supported the recommendation. It was suggested that young representatives (e.g. interns / early careers group) from the Authority also be involved in the members task and finish group, which was noted by Officers.

**Resolved that:** an informal task and finish group be appointed, comprising three to five interested members, to propose options of how the Authority can engage with and involve young people in governance and the decision-making process. Officers to report back to the Authority on suggested initiatives with an interim report at the March Authority meeting and a final report at the June Authority meeting.

*Voting: Unanimous*

**78. Date of next meeting**

78.1 Thursday 21 March 2024 at 10.00am – Council Chamber, Lymington Town Hall, Lymington

**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 10:50am.

Signed: ..... Date: ..... (Chair)