

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 10.00 AM AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, AVENUE ROAD, LYMINGTON SO41 9ZG

Present:

Members

Gavin Parker (Chair)

Patrick Heneghan (Deputy Chair)

David Bence

Zoe Clewer

Mary Davies

Mel Kendal

George Meyrick

Louise Parker-Jones

Caroline Rackham

Joe Reilly

Ann Sevier

Brice Stratford

Stephen Tarling

Derek Tipp

Officers

Steve Avery

Justin Price-Jones

Nigel Stone

Paul Walton

David Illsley

Vicki Gibbon

Executive Director

Solicitor

Head of Resources (Chief Finance Officer)

Head of Environment and Rural Economy

Policy and Conservation Manager

Member Services Administrator

41. Apologies for Absence

41.1 Apologies for absence were received from Gordon Bailey, Richard Clewer, David Harrison, Victoria Mander, Neville Penman, Dan Poole, Michael Thierry and Steve Trow.

42. Declarations of Interest

42.1 George Meyrick declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in minute items 47 and 48, and therefore left the meeting, he took no part in the determination of these matters.

43. Chair's Announcements

43.1 The Chair welcomed the new members who had recently been appointed to the Authority.

44. Minutes

44.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 were approved as a true record.

Resolved, that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 be approved as a true record.

Voting: None voting against

45. Public Question Time

45.1 None

46. Application to the Species Survival Fund (AM 656/23)

- 46.1 Paul Walton began his presentation by advising members that an oral report was previously heard at the Resources, audit and performance committee, who were supportive in principle, but required further clarification prior to the recommendation being supported. With the application deadline before the next RAPC meeting the report was being brought to the Full Authority meeting for a decision.
- 46.2 Mr Walton explained that an expression of interest was recently submitted to the Defra Species Survival Fund with and on behalf of several organisations and were subsequently asked to submit a full application by 26 October. Due to the bid being over £50,000 approval by members was required.

Members resolved to support the recommendation as set out below.

It was resolved that:

Members support the submission of an application to the Species Survival Fund as outlined in the report, and that authority be delegated to officers to take all action as necessary to input this bid, and if successful, to complete the project.

Voting: 13:0, 1 abstention due to late arrival

47. National Permitted Development Rights Consultation – NPA Response (AM 657/23)

- 47.1 David Illsley advised members that in July 2023 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities proposed changes to national permitted development rights to allow additional flexibilities to support housing delivery. He explained that this report outlined the proposals which were most relevant to the National Park and the statutory planning work of the Authority.
- 47.2 Mr Illsley went on to explain the main changes to the national PDRs relevant to the New Forest National Park and the proposed NPA consultation response. He said that the introduction of the new national PDRs to allow a range of uses to be converted unconditionally into housing would have a detrimental impact on the landscape of the New Forest and the sustainability of communities living and working within it.

Following discussion, members were strongly opposed to the PDRs and resolved to support the recommendation as detailed below.

It was resolved that:

- a) members note the scope of the Government's proposed amendments to national Permitted Development Rights that are currently out for consultation; and
- b) members delegate authority to the Executive Director (Strategy & Planning) to submit the formal consultation response on behalf of the National Park Authority, framed around the key principles outlined in the box and paragraph 4.3 of the report.

Voting: unanimous

48. Article 4 Direction – Temporary Campsites Update (AM 658/23)

- 48.1 Steve Avery began by reminding members that an Article 4 Direction was confirmed by the Authority last year to remove permitted development rights for new and larger ‘pop up’ campsites in response to a substantial increase in ‘pop up’ campsites over recent years. At the end of July 2023, the Government introduced a new stand-alone permitted development right which allowed the temporary use of land as a ‘pop up’ campsite for 60 days in any one calendar year, with the number of pitches being capped at 50. This in effect would make render the Authority’s Article 4 Direction null and void.
- 48.2 Mr Avery advised that this report requested members’ approval to amend and make a new Article 4 Direction to ensure the Authority continued to exercise a degree of planning control over ‘pop up’ campsites in the National Park.

Members agreed to resolve the recommendation as detailed below.

It was resolved that:

The Executive Director be authorised to make an immediate Article 4 (1) Direction to remove (i) permitted development rights (Schedule 2, Part 4, Class BC) for the temporary use of land as recreational campsite in excess of 28 days for those sites existing on or before 1 March 2020 and (ii) permitted development rights (Schedule 2, Part 4, Class BC) for the temporary use of land as a recreational campsite for all new sites established after 1 March 2020.

Voting: Unanimous

49. Appointments to Planning Committee (AM 659/23)

- 49.1 Nigel Stone informed members that following the local elections in May 2023 and the change in membership of the Authority the Planning Committee in particular had a reduced membership. To ensure that the September and October Planning meetings were quorate it was necessary to appoint three further members to the committee: namely Mary Davies, Joe Reilly and Brice Stratford with immediate effect.

Members were asked to resolve the recommendation as detailed below.

It was resolved that:

Mary Davies, Joe Reilly and Brice Stratford be appointed to the Planning Committee with immediate effect, with these appointments continuing until the Annual Authority meeting on 19 October 2023 or such earlier time as the Authority wishes to amend the membership of the committee.

Voting: unanimous

50. Date of next meeting

- 50.1 Thursday 19 October 2023 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 11:25am.

Signed: Date: (Chair)