

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the Meeting held via Zoom on THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2021

Those present: Andrew Gilruth (Chairman)
Bruce Rothnie (Forestry England)
Steve Avery (NFNPA)
Alison Hoare (NFDC)
David Stone (Panel Secretariat)
Frances Connolly (Panel Secretariat)

The Chairman advised members of the format of the meeting

1 Apologies for absence

Lorraine Blomfield (NFU)
Rob Waite (Environment Agency)
Anthony Climpson (Go New Forest)
Chris Willsher (Lyndhurst Parish Council)

Substitutions:

Heather Lawrence for Tim Cook (Netley Marsh Parish Council)
Alison Hoare for David Russell (New Forest District Council)
Paul Anstey for Malcolm Connolly (Fordingbridge Town Council)

2 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 4 March 2021

2.1 The minutes of the Panel on 4 March 2021 were approved subject to David Horn's apology being correctly spelt and Robert Clark (Burley Parish Council) being added to the list of apologies.

3 Matters for Discussion

3.1 Curlew Recovery Partnership

Russell Wynn from the Curlew Recovery Partnership gave a presentation on curlew ecology, distribution and status in Great Britain and in particular the New Forest and drew attention to the reduced numbers and significant threats posed to the species as well as the remedial action being taken by the Partnership.

He also described the origin, aims and structure of the Partnership and its engagement with communities to protect curlews including future research proposals.

The full presentation can be accessed using the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/yq27okomwxi4xgvugnb8e/CRP_Curlew_slide_pack-NFCP.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=9vg17zr6myxkypcec2j69ayop

3.2 Wildfire Management in the Mourne Mountains

Matthew Bushby reported that in 2011 there had been a spate of wildfires across the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and this galvanised groups such as Northern Ireland Water, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) to work together to approach wildfire management within the Mournes.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the Panel's website here - [Agendas, reports and minutes 03/06/21 - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](#)

3.3 Martins Corner Footbridge (Brockenhurst)

John Korbey from Brockenhurst Parish Council wanted reassurance that the Martins Corner footbridge was going to remain as he thought it was structurally sound. Mr Korbey was advised by a member of the Panel that negotiations were ongoing.

4 Matters For Reporting

4.1 NFNPA Update – Steve Avery

Steve Avery reminded the panel that the Partnership Plan had been updated this year and a consultation draft had been brought to members at the Authority meeting in April. He offered to give a briefing to Consultative Panel members.

Mr Avery said there had been an increase in the New Forest 'pop-up' campsites as they were able to operate for 56 days without planning permission. In view of this, the New Forest National Park had produced guidance for habitat mitigation as there was concern for the future environmental impacts of those temporary campsites within the National Park. This was mostly around the disturbance of protected habitats, and the safe disposal of foul water.

Steve Avery also highlighted the following:

- the excellent media coverage of National Parks banning of disposable BBQ's in the New Forest.
- the New Forest National Park Authority meetings were no longer virtual. The first face-face meeting was the Planning Committee in May, but there would be a consultation to see whether or not meetings should be virtual.
- he advised the panel that there were currently two changes to the Authority membership - Michael Thierry had been appointed by Hampshire County Council to replace Edward Heron (to be officially confirmed) and Zoe Clewer had been appointed by Wiltshire Council to replace Leo Randall.

- In May the Queens speech covered the Planning Bill - to modernise the planning system
- In June there would be an announcement regarding the interim New Environment Land Management Scheme and
- there was a consultation to extend the permitted development rights to increase the roll-out of broadband for masts of twenty-five metres.

Mr Avery said he would send a consultation sheet with dates to the Consultative Panel members to keep them updated. He said it would indicate whether the New Forest National Park would respond to the consultations.

5 Any other items the Chairman feels urgent

- 5.1 Although absent from the virtual meeting, Russell Webb (representative from CPRE Hampshire) subsequently made the following submission for the information of Panel members:

CPRE Hampshire has announced a 'Hedgerow Heroes' project which coincided with the first National Hedgerow Week that was launched by the Tree Council at the end of May.

The project will centre around the planting of a new hedgerow and improvement and renovation of existing hedgerow (totalling 3km) on the Hinton Admiral estate almost adjoining the 'Cat and Fiddle' site off the A35 near Bransgore in the New Forest. The project will provide enhanced wildlife habitat, prevent soil erosion, enhance the quality of the landscape and grow community engagement with the countryside.

As part of the project we are appealing for volunteers to engage in activities including hedge-laying, hedge surveying and wildlife monitoring. If you are a naturalist and would like to help with the wildlife surveys or if you simply love the countryside or the idea of getting involved and are able to undertake light manual work, please contact hantssupportercare@cprehampshire.org.uk.

Do keep an eye out on our social media pages and website for more opportunities to learn about hedgerows and for further information on our CPRE Hampshire 'Hedgerow Heroes' project.

6 Dates of next Panel Meetings.

- 6.1 Thursday 7 October
Thursday 2 December