

**Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting**  
**Council Chamber, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington SO41 9ZG**  
**11 March 2024**

**Present**

Members:

Ruth Croker (Chair)  
Peter Armstrong  
Bob Damper  
Paul French  
Pippa Hutton  
David King  
Sarah Hammett  
Lucy Kennedy  
Paola Palma  
Caroline Rackham  
Ann Sevier

Officers:

Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)  
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

**1 Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Erika Dovey, Marcus Ward and Teresa Monks.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

- 2.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 December 2023 were agreed as a true record.
- 2.2 Adam Vasey advised that CAP would remain ongoing, and that HCC would return in the summer to provide an update.
- 2.3 Peter Armstrong advised that he would be leaving the forum this year, he was thanked by members for his support and contribution.

**3 Chair's Report**

- 3.1 Ruth Croker gave an overview of her report highlighting the Farming in Protected Landscape meeting which she attended, the group along with Defra were concerned about the number of deer on the forest this was due to be monitored.

The remainder of the report was taken as read.

**4 Forum Officer's Report**

- 4.1 Adam Vasey advised that membership of the forum was now up for renewal and asked all members to complete their forms if they wished to be considered, recruitment would also be carried out for new members.

4.2 Mr Vasey also highlighted the England Coastal Path, where discussions were continuing with Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and other access authorities to establish a trail partnership. It was now likely that the path would be launched in 2025.

4.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

## **5 Additional Reports**

5.1 Lucy Kennedy gave an overview of the current work being carried out by Forestry England, this included the rising costs of car park repairs, ground nesting birds, PSPO's and fly tipping. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

## **6 Public Representations**

6.1 None.

## **7 Net Zero with Nature – John Stride (NFNPA)**

7.1 John Stride gave an overview of his role in the Authority and the aim to make the National Park Net Zero with Nature by 2030. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

## **8 Heritage Lottery Bid – Paola Palma**

8.1 Paola Palma advised forum members on the recent project she had been working, the Salt of Life Project. She said that the area used to be very popular with the salt trade in the 17/18<sup>th</sup> century and wanted to find out why this had changed and to highlight the history of this trade.

8.2 Ms Palma went on to explain the project aims; to understand how the environmental changes had impacted this stretch of coast and how the project team would engage with communities to provide an open and co-operative approach. She said that she hoped the outcome would be a range of activities for people to learn about the salt trade, she also advised that they had recently applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding. Ms Palma asked the forum if they would write a letter of support for the project.

**RC / AV – To write a letter of support for the project.**

## **9 Open Discussion**

9.1 None

## **10 Any Other Business**

10.1 It was agreed that Ruth Croker would write to HCC regarding the Consultation on future services, particularly in respect of the closures of recycling centres and car parking.

**RC – to write letter as detailed above.**

### **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 10 June 2023, 9.30am – 1.00pm – Calshot Activities Centre.