AT A MEETING of the
SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 5 September 2011.

PRESENT

p Phil Halliwell
p Gordon Gardner

Hampshire County Council

p Councillor Mrs L. Fairhurst
a Councillor I.F.E. Beagley
p Councillor Mrs A. Buckley
p Councillor R.C. McIntosh
p Councillor F. Pearce

p Mike Walls
p Colin Hudman

East Hampshire District Council

p Councillor Mrs. D.K. Denston
p Mr S. d'Este Hoare

Havant Borough Council

p Councillor Y. Weeks
Jeff Crate
Claire Hughes

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Ian Beagley.

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed that they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally, at the time of the debate, declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code .

		Action
67.	**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2011 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. **Matters arising:-** Item 61: The Park Manager commented on a number of items relating to his report - the Staunton Live event on the 21 August 2011 had been well attended and would be repeated next year; the poly-tunnel was almost finished; the parking for fishermen had not been set up yet and that the joint patrols of the rangers and PSNOs had kept trouble with local youths down over the summer.	
68.	**DEPUTATIONS**	
	There were no deputations at this meeting	
69.	**TREASURER'S REPORT**	
	The Committee received the report of the County Treasurer on the current financial performance of the Park. (Item 5 in the Minute Book) The Treasurer introduced Colin Hudman who would be taking over the position of Treasurer from the November meeting. The Treasurer summarised his report indicating that this report was short as it was an interim one covering the first 5 months of the year and that the revised and forward budget were being prepared for the November meeting. Figures updated to the August Bank Holiday weekend were circulated. The Treasurer spoke in positive terms about the figures, highlighting that compared to the same five months in 2010/11 there was £44,000 less expenditure and a £65,000 increase in earned income. He did advise that payments and income did not always come at the same time, so that direct comparisons may be a little flawed; he gave as examples the utility bills and IT recharges which had not been received yet, but had at the same time last year. He stated that the scale of the under spend was indicative of the improvement in the Park's finances and every single category was showing savings. On the income side all sales were up and entrance charges had increased mainly due to a push on membership and the educational visits. He hoped that income	Colin Hudman

	for the second part of the current financial year would be similar to that for last year. In answer to a question on whether any surplus should be reinvested in the Park or used to pay off some of the £99,000 deficit, the Treasurer replied that it would be prudent to pay off some of the deficit as the County Council was still underwriting it and it was uncertain how long this would continue. It was agreed by the Committee that the aim should be to reduce, and if possible, clear the deficit over the next few years. Questioned about the revenue from the parking meters that had been installed recently, the Treasurer informed Members that, in the three weeks that they had been in use, there had been a net profit of about £2,000. Their installation had cost £8000 which it was felt would be covered quite quickly. There was also an annual maintenance cost of £500, but cheaper alternatives were being investigated. Members asked that a breakdown of the income and expenditure for the parking meters be provided at the November meeting. **RESOLVED:** That the report be approved.	Colin Hudman /Gordon Gardner
70.	**PARK MANAGER'S REPORT**	
	The Committee received the report of the Park Manager giving an update on developments at the Park. (Item 6 of the Minute Book). The Park Manager answered questions from the Committee about his report. Members were informed that the full ranger team was now back following a number of absences for illness. The Park Manager highlighted a significant improvement in visitor numbers over last year. He did, however, draw Members' attention to the fact that with an increase in the sales of family membership, there had been a corresponding decrease in the number of day tickets sold. He indicated that he would like to see 10,000 members in the next five years. The Park Manager reported to Members that the Park had not been awarded a Green Flag for the current year as the inspectors considered that the management plan was not up to date and had too many outstanding items, which was due to the money not being available for these items, that there had been rubbish in one field and that they would not include the farm side this year. The Park team would be working hard to regain it next	

	year and indicated that plans were being drawn up for toilets and an attraction in the Coach House on the country park area. The Park had, however, won the Visitor Attraction Assurance Award, and was applying for the Country Park Accreditation Award. The Park Manager confirmed that the grant of £47,000 allocated for the Wildlife Zone was ring-fenced for that project and that the funding for the renovation of the glasshouses would be from the Hampshire County Council property team if a Lottery bid for matched funding was successful. It was explained to Members that the two stained glass windows were for the Gothic Library and would be from the original design for the building and that the other windows, to be designed by schools, would not have permanent artwork. Plans for the soft play area were circulated and Members were informed that the aim was to have it installed before Christmas. It would be available for children's parties, with tables allocated to them, but that the play area would not be closed to other visitors unless there were a lot of parties together. It was not currently envisaged that staff would be allocated to the play area except at busy times. **RESOLVED:** That the report be approved.	
71.	**KEY OFFICERS' GROUP**	
	The Committee received the notes of the Key Officers' group meeting held on 18 July 2011 (Item 7 of the Minute Book). The Park Manager explained that the Wallaby Walk would be started after the Wildlife Zone had been completed. The Wildlife Zone would have an official opening. Answering a question about the use of the Park for wedding receptions and corporate events the Park Manager said that these were not being promoted as there was little income. He also confirmed that the marketing consultant being invited to the Park was a County Council employee, not an outside consultant. Members were informed that there was a plan to invest in some barbecues that would be hired out by the public as they were very popular at other country parks. These would be sourced from the blacksmith at Manor Farm Country Park at a cost of approximately £300 each. They would be sited near to the Gothic Library and would be available to hire during opening hours and in the evenings. Members asked that a business plan	

	with costings be produced for the November meeting of the Committee. **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.	Gordon Gardner
72.	**AOB**	
	On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman offered her thanks and appreciation to the Treasurer, Mike Walls, for his dedication to the job over quite a number of years. She hoped that he would return as a member of the Friends of the Park, and was sure they could find him a suitable job.	
73.	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**	
	The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 28 November 2011 at 2.00 pm at the Park.	