AT A MEETING of the
SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 28 November 2011

PRESENT

Hampshire County Council

p Councillor Mrs. L. Fairhurst (Chairman)
a Councillor I.F.E. Beagley
p Councillor Mrs. A. Buckley
p Councillor R.C. McIntosh
p Councillor F. Pearce (Vice-chairman)

p Colin Hudman
p Phil Halliwell
p Gordon Gardner

East Hampshire District Council

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

Havant Borough Council

p Councillor Mrs. Y. Weeks
p Mr. Jeff Crate

74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr S d'Este Hoare.

75. 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
76.	**MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2011 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.	

	Matters arising:- Item 71 – Key Officers Group – The Park Manager informed Members that the business plan for the barbecues was in progress and would be presented at the meeting in February 2012.	Gordon Gardner
77.	**DEPUTATIONS**	
	There were no deputations at this meeting	
78.	**PARK MANAGER'S REPORT**	
	The Committee received the report of the Park Manager giving an update on developments at the Park. (Item 5 of the Minute Book). The Park Manager answered questions from Members about his report. The Park Manager reported that there had only been a handful of complaints about the introduction of car parking charges. He also informed the Committee that approximately 50 tickets bought over the summer by direct debit had been cancelled before the money had been received, and that measures were now in place to prevent this occurring again and to stop these cards being used.	
	Members asked the Park Manager to ascertain whether any schools local to the Park were involved with education courses being delivered by the Park. The Park Manager informed Members that bike hire was currently not available as the bikes had not proved robust enough. His goal was to reintroduce it and he was investigating the possibility of South Downs College running it, as they had shown an interest. It was noted that a number of bikes specially adapted for the disabled were based at Queen Elizabeth Country Park, which could be used at Staunton if required. The Committee was told that permission had been granted to put in place measures to prevent parking on the road verges and that part of the Leigh Park car park would be allocated for fishermen's parking, which would also improve security. It was confirmed to members that funding for the 'old Lean-to' historic glasshouse was being sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, together with Hampshire County Council's Property Services and the Park itself. It was explained that funding would have to come from the County Council whether it was to make the building safe or to renovate.	Gordon Gardner

	Members were informed that the installation of the Indoor Play Area was likely to be the end of January due to a need for the Heritage Lottery Fund to approve the final plan. **RESOLVED:** That the report be approved.	
79.	**TREASURER'S REPORT**	
	The Committee received the report of the County Treasurer on the revised budget for 2011/12 and the proposed forward budget for 2012/13 of the Park. (Item 6 in the Minute Book) The Treasurer answered questions from Members on his report. Concerns were raised that the report was rather optimistic about the Park's projected income and visitor numbers considering the economic climate. Discussions took place on the effects of the reduction in funding, the aim to make the Park self-sustaining in future years and alternative sources of income. Mention was made of the new income streams that would be opening in 2012 – Indoor Play Area, Wildlife Zone and the Wallaby Walk. Members indicated that they were keen for the Park to pay off the outstanding reserve deficit of £99,000 within three years and the Treasurer confirmed that it was a realistic proposal and that the budget for 2012/13 included repayment of a third. Concerns were raised about the effect that unforeseen circumstances, such as closure of the Park due to extreme weather or foot and mouth disease, might have on the ability to achieve the objective. Members asked that a more detailed breakdown of the figures for the shop be produced for the next meeting in February 2012, as the current figures suggested it was making a loss. **RESOLVED:** • That the Joint Management Committee should pay off the outstanding reserve deficit by the end of three years. • That the revised budget for 2011/12 as shown in Appendices A and B be approved. • That the partner contributions for 2012/13 as shown in appendices A and C be approved. • That the budget for 2012/13 as shown in appendices A and C be approved.	 Colin Hudman

80.	**COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE BRIEFING**	
	The Committee received a verbal report from the Area Manager about the Countryside Service. The Area Manager explained to the Committee that the running of all Hampshire's Country Parks was being analysed to find ways to increase income to offset the shortfall in their revenue budgets caused by the cuts. The aim was to make them more commercial, more efficient, and eventually self-sustaining. He informed Members that there had already been a 25% reduction in upper management and that there was currently a review of the structure of Parks, the plan being to have partnered parks; Staunton would be partnered with Queen Elizabeth Country Park. The aim of this would be to have shared resources, prevent duplication of services and promote closer working relationships. It was envisaged that there would still be two managers, one being more commercially-orientated , the other dealing more with visitor services and staffing; Members commented that job descriptions would have to be clearly defined. It was explained that the parks would still be two separate identities with their own funding and that there would be no reduction in staff, except by voluntary redundancies. Members indicated that they were generally in favour of the partnership proposal. **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.	
81.	**AOB**	
	Councillor McIntosh informed Members that he had written an article for his local residents' magazine promoting the park. The Park Manager told the Committee that the Park would receive £20,000 for the Olympic event and would also be able to bring in money through catering and car parking. No events had been planned yet for the Queen's Jubilee. The Park Manager informed Members that better fencing and improved signage were being put in place following an incident with a dog falling off a steep drop. They were also advised it was not expected that the motocross club would be using one of the fields and that Portsmouth Water's plans for the new reservoir had been put back.	
82.	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**	
	The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 27 February at 2.00 pm at the Park.	