

AT A MEETING of the
SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 14 May 2012

PRESENT

Hampshire County Council

p Councillor Mrs. L. Fairhurst (Chairman)
p 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 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

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

93. 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
94.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2012 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.	

	<p>Matters arising:-</p> <p>Item 87: Park Manager's Report</p> <p>The Park Manager informed Members that one large and two smaller barbecues were in the process of being made and it was anticipated that they would be in place by the end of June. Concern was expressed that the venture needed to be profitable, but it was confirmed that the Committee had agreed to go ahead with the barbecues at the last meeting. It was explained that the charges that would be applied had been based on those used by Queen Elizabeth Country Park which was very successful and that the number of hires for the year 2012/13 was an estimate; also that there was an up-front spend of approximately £2000, but there would be no additional costs for staff time.</p> <p>Item 89: Key Officers' Group</p> <p>It was noted that at a recent Stakeholders' Meeting mention had been made that a new planning application for a reservoir was being submitted by Portsmouth Water; if approved, the pipeline would be built by 2030 and the reservoir by 2035.</p>	
95.	DEPUTATIONS	
	There were no deputations at this meeting	
96.	PARK MANAGER'S REPORT	
	<p>The Committee received the report of the Park Manager giving an update on developments at the Park. (Item 5 in the Minute Book).</p> <p>The Park Manager answered questions from Members about his report.</p> <p>Members' attention was drawn to the new play barn and the new marketing logo of 'Little George' who would be shown in various guises, such as explorer and gardener, around the Park, with the aim of at getting young children excited about the outdoors. He explained that visitor numbers had not increased with the barn's opening, but the recent wet weather had affected figures generally; he did feel that the opening had lead to an increase in membership sales. He indicated that the installation of energy efficient lighting into the barn was being investigated.</p> <p>Members were advised that there were no figures yet for income from the new catering service and some would be provide for the next meeting. It was explained that 70% of the catering profits</p>	Colin Hudman

	<p>Country Park for 2011/12. (Item 6 in the Minute Book)</p> <p>The Treasurer answered questions raised by Members about his report.</p> <p>The Treasurer confirmed that the in-year surplus of £19,147 was not as great as expected due to the catering firm going out of business during the year and underachievement of income against a challenging target; however, he indicated that the Park was on target to achieve its aim of reducing the deficit on the reserve account by £30,000 a year over the next three years. In response to a query regarding in which aspects of Sales and other charges had been lower than anticipated the Treasurer advised that Sales had been good however educational and guided visits had been below budgeted levels.</p> <p>It was explained to Members that the net income from the car parking charges did not include the cost of the machines or the small annual maintenance charge of approximately £500. It was anticipated that car parking would bring in income of about £15,000 in 2012/13. As Havant Borough Council were monitoring the parking it was unknown whether any fines had been issued. It was noted that dog walkers were taking up single annual memberships as good value for car parking.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the JMC accepted the report. 	
98.	ANNUAL RETURN AND GOVERNANCE STATEMENT	
	<p>The Treasurer presented the Annual Governance Statement for the Park to the Committee (Item 7 in the Minute Book).</p> <p>The Treasurer explained that it was a legal requirement that an Annual Return, summarising the Park's financial activities during the past year, and a Committee-approved Annual Governance Statement was submitted to the Audit Commission.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12 be approved and signed off. 	
99.	AOB	
	<p>Havant Borough Members informed the Committee that arrangements for the Water Festival were all going well, with a music concert and fireworks planned for Sunday 15 July 2012.</p>	

	<p>The Park Manager told Members that, although there were no specific Diamond Jubilee events planned, the maze was being upgraded. It was agreed that the Park should display Union Flags over the weekend. It was also noted that a Hampshire County Council flag should normally be displayed.</p> <p>Members were advised that the Wallaby Walk was likely to be completed within the next three months, at the same time as the new lambing shed; the delay in its implementation was due to the work needing to be done by the Park's rangers and other projects had taken priority.</p> <p>The Wildlife Zone would have its official opening in June 2012, when the final interpretation boards were in place, and invitations would be sent out to all Members.</p> <p>The Chairman informed Members that Horndean Parish Council had decided to withdraw as a stakeholder in the partnership; this would come into effect from 31 March 2013. Councillor Yvonne Weeks from Havant Borough advised Members that Havant Borough Council was looking to reduce all its funding grants. Members expressed concern that there would be reduced moneys available to the Park from the partners.</p>	
100.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	<p>The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 3 September 2012 at 10.00 am at the Park.</p>	