

AT A MEETING of the
SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 26 March 2015

PRESENT

Hampshire County Council

p Councillor Mrs. L Fairhurst (Chairman)
p Councillor Mrs A Briggs (Vice-chairman)
Councillor R Finch
p Councillor D Keast
p Councillor R.C. McIntosh

p Kerry Bailey, Country Parks Business Manager (SGSCP/QECP)
p Jane Lovett, Honorary Treasurer

p Jo Heath, Head of Countryside
p Tim Speller, Visitor Services Manager (SGSCP/QECP)

East Hampshire District Council

p Councillor Mrs. D.K. Denston
a Mr Martin Healey, Principal Countryside and Biodiversity Officer for EHDC
p Julie Boschi, Senior Landscape Architect for EHDC & HBC

Havant Borough Council

a Councillor Mrs. Y. Weeks
a Mr Jeff Crate, Senior Economic Development Officer for HBC

85. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes

86 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Yvonne Weeks, Martin Healey, and Jeff Crate. The Chairman welcomed Julie Boschi in place of Martin Healey.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with

Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

		Action
89.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	
	<p>The minutes of the meetings held on 30 January 2015 were considered and it was proposed and agreed that the following should be updated and on this basis were agreed and signed by the Chairman:</p> <p>Item 79 (72) Councillor MacIntosh indicated that he had not approached Amey <i>since he had been awaiting the viability of the JMC.</i></p> <p>(73) Members were asked whether they would be prepared to some of their grant towards this; the majority declined <i>pending the outcome regarding the JMC.</i></p> <p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Item 82 – Members were asked to identify and prioritise spending from the current reserve funds. It was indicated that about £135,000 was available; this did not include the £100,000 that was earmarked for toilet facilities in Leigh Park Gardens. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that money should be spent to upgrade the paths and signage throughout the Park. Other suggestions were an undercover group seating area, improvements to the courtyard and restaurant facilities, and something visible in the paddocks on the main road to encourage people to visit the Park.</p> <p>It was noted that the outdoor play equipment would be improved through the Country Parks Transformation (CPT) money. Members were informed that there was no intention of reducing the number of animals, but that a complete review of the collection was underway. The peacocks had been rehomed because they had become feral and were straying into gardens and onto the road outside the Park. It was hoped to implement a walk-through aviary at some point with varieties of pheasants consistent with the historical background of the Park, and this could include peacocks.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed that the Park was not being publicised and promoted fully; leaflets were not readily available in Havant and East Hampshire District offices and other outlets.</p>	

	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the JMC approved the use of some of the current reserves to improve paths and signage throughout the Park. 	
88.	DEPUTATIONS	
	There were no deputations.	
90.	LOCAL COUNCILLOR ROLE AT SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK	
	<p>The JMC considered a report from Jo Heath, the Head of Countryside, on the options for an ongoing role for existing JMC members in respect of the future operation of Staunton Country Park.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that she had been aware of Members' discontent at the idea of a friends' group and other proposals at the last meeting, but had received no alternative suggestions. She thanked Jane Lovett for putting forward the name Staunton Panel for the group under discussion and explained to Members how this Panel might work.</p> <p>She indicated that the Panel should consist of all County Councillors from the area and a lead representative from each district and parish that makes a financial contribution to the Park. It was envisaged that the Panel would meet four times a year, like the JMC, and carry out a scrutiny role of the Park's direction and development. The Panel would be able to raise concerns at an early stage in projects and support and influence their direction. The Head of Countryside indicated that the Panel's views would be reflected in any reports going to the County Council's Culture, Recreation and Countryside and Policy and Resources scrutiny committees. It was emphasized that, while the Panel would have no decision- making function, if the Panel had causes for concern about the Park then they would be able to bring these directly to the Executive Member and the scrutiny committee.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the setting up and working arrangements for the proposed Panel and the need for legal advice on governance arrangements. However, it was indicated that both the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside and the Director of Culture, Communities and</p>	

	<p>Business Services were aware of the proposals for the Panel. Terms of Reference for the Panel would be discussed at its first meeting and the Park team would provide someone to take notes at the meetings.</p> <p>Following wide ranging discussions about the proposal the Members of the JMC voted on the recommendation – Councillor Keast abstained, Councillor Briggs was in favour, Councillor McIntosh was against and Councillor Fairhurst was in favour. Councillor Weeks of Havant was absent and Councillor Denston had no vote as East Hampshire was not going to be represented on the new panel.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JMC agreed the Staunton Panel proposal for local councillors in respect of the future operation of Staunton Country Park and would report back to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside at a future Decision Day. 	
<p>91.</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Kerry Bailey, the Park Manager, expressed a massive thank you to all the Members of the JMC for their commitment to the Park over the years.</p> <p>The Chairman, on behalf of the JMC, gave her thanks to Jane Lovett, the Honorary Treasurer, and Sue Butler, the Clerk, for all their work. She also thanked the Members and Officers of the JMC, and voiced her appreciation for their work for the Park over many years.</p> <p>Jo Heath, the Head of Countryside also conveyed her thanks to the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Members of the JMC, saying that the amount of commitment and passion they had for the Park was very obvious and hoped it would continue under the new arrangements.</p>	