

**Minutes of the  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
THE BOARD OF CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST**

**1600, Wednesday 3 June 2009  
Lancaster Room, Ashdown Forest Centre**

Present: Mr R Thornely-Taylor (Chairman, in lieu of Cllr J Barnes), Mr M Cooper, Mr L Gillham (arrived 1645), Mr P Glyn and Dr H Prendergast (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr J Barnes.

The meeting was stimulated by a paper by Roy Galley – *The management of Ashdown Forest* – that will be presented to the Board on 8 June 2009. A wide-ranging discussion about the questions and points in this paper concluded that:

- the *Strategic Forest Plan 2008-2016* does indeed reflect the Board's agreement for the future of the Forest;
- the reintroduction of an annual plan, and an annual revision of the *Strategic Forest Plan*, would be useful (and individual annual staff work plans too);
- a collation of past Board policy decisions and resolutions would allow checking that their objectives are being achieved or implemented;
- there is a need to examine the changing roles of, and demands on, office staff (caused largely by increasing budgets), leading perhaps to a split in (both the historically and currently) combined role of Clerk/Superintendent and changing the title of the latter;
- in order to avoid repetitive and circular debate (at subsequent Board meetings), the delegated powers of the Committees need to be set out more extensively;
- delegated decisions are to be reported only, so that the Board focuses on Committee recommendations and strategic/policy agenda items;
- the Standing Orders need to be modified in order to accommodate the change of the Urgency Committee to the Executive Committee;
- since non-councillor appointees to the Board are not covered by a Model Code of Conduct, a form of acceptance, as provided by Section 9 (1) of the 1974 Act, needs to be drawn up for non-councillor appointees, with a provision that they resign if they are in breach of it; and
- although there no such mechanism may be applicable to commoner-elected Board members, chairmanship techniques, and a body of accepted practice, could be used to deal with unreasonable behaviour at meetings.

The meeting finished at 1945.