

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CONSERVATORS OF  
ASHDOWN FOREST HELD AT THE ASHDOWN FOREST CENTRE, WYCH  
CROSS ON MONDAY 19 JUNE 2000 AT 10.00 am.**

Present: Mr DHO Allen (in the Chair), Mrs DM Bagshawe, Miss M McPherson,  
Mrs S Stokes, Messrs DC Cumming, P Glyn, DL Hall, FJC Marshall,  
RIF Parsons, RM Thornely-Taylor, FWJ Whetstone, AN White.

**ITEM 1 To note and welcome two new Members to the Board**

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Mr Marshall who had been elected at an extraordinary meeting of the Commoners to replace Dr Prendergast. Also in his absence, Cllr Stevens, the new Chairman of East Sussex County Council, who represents the Ashdown Forest Trust. There were no members of the public present.

**ITEM 2 Apologies for absence**

2.1 There were apologies for absence from Messrs L J Gillham, TR May, AG Reid, R Stevens

**ITEM 3 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 March 2000**

3.1 The Minutes of the last Meeting, which had been previously circulated, were presented by the Chairman. The Minutes were then approved and signed as an accurate record.

**ITEM 4 Matters arising**

4.1 Referring to Item 10.2, Mr Whetstone asked if the Clerk had received any evidence of the alleged abuse of the Forest by the hunts. The Clerk replied that he had not.

4.2 **In advance of the Finance Committee Minutes on the subject of presentation of Committee Minutes, the Chairman of the Board asked members to consider the recommendation made by the Finance and General Purposes Committee that, as all Minutes are previously circulated 14 days before the Board Meeting, the Committee Chairmen should only elaborate on those items in the Minutes where they felt it appropriate for a full understanding. The Board agreed.**

**ITEM 5 To receive the Minutes of the Conservation Committee Meeting held on 10 April 2000**

5.1 The Minutes which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mr Thornely-Taylor in the absence of Mr Gillham.

5.2 Fungi Mr Glyn informed the Board that during the autumn he had witnessed people with large baskets of fungi, presumably picked for commercial gain. He asked if they could be challenged. The Clerk advised that obtaining proof of the commercial gain was the problem but anyone may advise the picker of the Byelaws. Should a member of the public contact the Clerk, he would confirm the Byelaws.

5.3 There being no further questions, Mr Thornely-Taylor moved the adoption of the Minutes. This was agreed.

**ITEM 6      To receive the Minutes of the Roads, Planning & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 8 May 2000**

- 6.1      The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mrs Stokes.
- 6.2      Planning Applications
- 6.2.1   Kings Standing   The Clerk had attended a site meeting with interested parties. He briefed the Board on the proposed plans and the sensitivity of the site (SPA and SSSI) between the inner and outer fence. Particular concern was expressed over the proposed skid pan, lodge development with associated parking and the sewerage plant. The Board's Licence to the Police authority required the sewerage plant to be taken off the Forest within the 5 years of the date of the Licence (ie by 2002).
- 6.2.2   Both the architect and the Police Authority appear to have been unaware of the sensitivity of the area and the subsequent constraints. The English Nature representative had explained the need for an environmental impact survey which should satisfy both Wealden District Council and the Secretary of State for the Environment. It would be English Nature's responsibility to make sure this was done.
- 6.2.3   The Clerk obtained the impression that the Police Authority were mainly concerned with the development of the buildings inside the inner fence. However, the Board agreed that this planning application should be kept under review with particular regard to the movement of the sewerage plant and the proposals for the land between the inner and outer fences.
- 6.2.4   Ranger's Cottage, Nutley   Mr Thornely-Taylor suggested that the Committee Minute 2.3 should be re-written so that the Board's policy of restricting turning areas to be within the curtilage of properties was clear.
- 6.2.5   The Clerk informed the Board that he had advised the property owner of the option to open up the northern end of the access track. The Clerk awaited further information subsequent to the property owner's discussions with the building regulations officer.
- 6.2.6   In general discussion it was agreed, that the delegation of authority to the Committees should be reviewed at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.
- 6.2.7   Wrens Warren   Mr Parsons informed the Board that although there had been no opposition to the planning application at the enquiry, the matter was still being considered by the Secretary of State.
- 6.2.8   Mast at the Horder Centre   No decision had been taken to date but it would appear that "fear of radiation" may become a valid reason for concern.
- 6.3      Concern was expressed that at recent Parish Council Meetings no mention had been made of the Forest Watch scheme initiated by the Police. The Clerk undertook to inform the Parish Clerks concerned.
- 6.5      There being no further questions, subject to the alteration of Minute 2.3, Mrs Stokes moved the adoption of the Minutes. This was agreed.

**ITEM 7      To receive the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 5 June 2000**

- 7.1      The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mr White.
- 7.2      The Board's unaudited accounts for 1999/2000
- 7.2.1    After discussion, it was agreed that a note should be added to the accounts that as shown in the previous year's accounts, the overspend had been planned and that reserves must cover at least 6 months expenditure.
- 7.2.2    **Subject to the additional note, the Board accepted the Accounts for 1999/2000 and agreed they represented fairly the financial position of the Conservators as at 31 March 2000 and accurately reflected its income and expenditure during the year.    The Accounts were duly signed.**
- 7.3.1    Revised draft of the Health, Safety and Welfare policy statement    Mr Thornely-Taylor suggested that as the Forest falls wholly within the Wealden District area of responsibility, it would be prudent to invite their comments on the Board's policy.
- 7.3.2    **The Board agreed the Committee's recommendation to accept the revised Health, Safety and Welfare policy document.**
- 7.4      There being no further questions, Mr White moved the adoption of the Minutes.    This was agreed.

**ITEM 8      The Clerk to report on sundry matters**

- 8.1      Grazing    The Clerk informed the Board that four Commoners have stock currently in the grazing area.    Three sheep had been killed on the road and one cow had died from natural causes. There have been 15 incidents of sheep being killed by mauling and signs advising visitors to keep their dogs under strict control will be placed at key points.    The livestock are successfully breaking up the mulch left by the heavy duty grinder in the Misbourne valley.
- 8.2      The High Weald magazine    The Clerk distributed the magazine "Made in the High Weald" produced by the High Weald Unit, now available free in the Information Barn.    The magazine promotes products available in the area.
- 8.3      Heritage Lottery Grant    The Clerk informed the Board that he had been advised that the Sussex Heritage Lottery bid has been successful.    The Forest's share of £50K over five years would be spent on the Broadstone area of the North Chase, starting with the site which had been badly burnt in the spring. No money had been received to date but it was hoped that contractors would be able to start in the winter.

**ITEM 9      Any other business** There being no other business, the meeting moved to the Confidential session.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

11 September 2000

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_