

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CONSERVATORS OF  
ASHDOWN FOREST HELD AT THE ASHDOWN FOREST CENTRE, WYCH  
CROSS ON MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2000 AT 2.30pm.**

Present: Mr DHO Allen (in the Chair), Mrs DM Bagshawe, Mrs S Stokes,  
Messrs DC Cumming, L J Gillham, P Glyn, DL Hall, FJC Marshall, TR May  
RIF Parsons, R Stevens, RM Thornely-Taylor, FWJ Whetstone, AN White.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Cllr Stevens, the new Chairman of East Sussex County Council, who represents the Ashdown Forest Trust and the members of the public present.

**ITEM 1      Apologies for absence**

1.1      There were apologies for absence from Mr AG Reid.

**ITEM 2      To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 June 2000**

2.1      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 3      Matters arising**

3.1      There were no matters arising.

**ITEM 4      To approve the Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of Conservators held on 5 July 2000**

4.1      The Minutes, which had been previously circulated were presented by the Chairman.

4.2      The Chairman briefed the Board on the background and need to agree a course of action for the removal of New Age Travellers from the Forest.

4.3      The Clerk then reported that following the serving of a notice to move by Tuesday 11 July, the New Age Travellers had left the site in the early hours of the morning without the need for bailiffs etc. They had left the site reasonably clean and tidy leaving only one pick up truck of scrap metal to be removed.

4.4      There being no further questions, the Minutes were then approved and signed as an accurate record.

**ITEM 5      To receive the Minutes of the Conservation Committee Meeting held on 3 July 2000**

5.1      The Minutes which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mr Gillham. Mr Thornely-Taylor wished it to be known that he had tendered his apologies for the last meeting.

5.2      Chelwood Vachery Mr Gillham informed the Board that the Conservation Committee would produce a management plan for the Vachery in due course. However, the matter was not a priority issue.

- 5.3 Heathland Lottery Bid Rachel Lockwood, English Nature's Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage (THH) Project Officer visited the North Chase to see the Broadstone area. She made the point that given the site's proximity to London, the Board should expect visits from a significant number of interested parties both from THH and from English Nature.
- 5.4 There being no other questions, Mr Gillham moved the adoption of the Minutes. This was agreed.

**ITEM 6 To receive the Minutes of the Roads, Planning & Amenities Committee Meeting held on 31 July 2000**

- 6.1 The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mrs Stokes.
- 6.2 Planning Applications
- 6.2.1 Site of Ashdown Garage, Chelwood Gate The Clerk informed the Board that he had sought the advice of ESCC with regards to the Forest boundary across the front of the proposed development site. There was some discrepancy between different versions of maps but the County Council was awaiting confirmation of the boundary from the Land Registry.
- 6.2.2 Building controls and change of track widths Mr Parsons informed the Board that he had spoken to the Deputy Head of Building Control at Wealden District Council. He had been advised that planning permission would be required in cases where significant work was required to bring the track up to an acceptable standard. In the case of Rangers Cottage, as the applicant would incur considerable costs, the Board agreed that the original application for a turning area on the Forest should be reviewed by the Roads, Planning and Amenities Committee at their next meeting.
- 6.3 Pooh Bridge Plan
- 6.3.1 After some discussion, the Board agreed that the points made by the Clerk in response to the County Council's draft plan should remain unchanged.
- 6.3.2 As responsibility for a decision rests with the County Council, the Board agreed that it would look to the members of the County Council to keep it informed of progress towards a decision.
- 6.4 Wrens Warren enquiry The Clerk informed the Board that the Department of the Environment, after calling in the planning application for the development of housing in Wrens Warren, had given permission for the development to go ahead.
- 6.5 There being no further questions, 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 21 August 2000**

- 7.1 The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mr White.
- 7.2 Mr White informed the Board that AFRA had made a donation of £1200 as a contribution towards the work carried out on the firebreaks and stream crossings

during the past year. After some discussion, it was agreed that all fees should be looked at again by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

### 7.3 Delegation of authority to the Board's Committees

7.3.1 The Chairman informed the Board that it had become necessary to review procedures to ensure efficiency and democracy.

7.3.2 The Clerk reminded the Board that the Ashdown Forest Act 1974 empowers the Board to conduct its business. He confirmed that he would seek legal advice from the County Council with regard to the wording of the Emergency procedures.

7.3.3 After discussion, it was agreed that the Finance and General Purposes Committee should reconsider the Emergency Panel once advice had been received from the County Council.

7.3.4 **The Board agreed the Committee's recommendation to adopt the following wording in delegation of its powers:**

#### **Conservation Committee**

**To exercise all the powers and duties of the Board in respect of the conservation of Ashdown Forest. Also to make recommendations to the Board where, in the opinion of the Committee, the matter is either of such significance as to warrant it, it involves a change of the Board's policy or they wish to recommend new policy.**

#### **Roads, Planning and Amenities Committee**

**To exercise all the powers and duties of the Board in respect of roads, tracks, buildings, waste, planning and amenity use of Ashdown Forest. Also to make recommendations to the Board where, in the opinion of the Committee, the matter is either of such significance as to warrant it, it involves a change of the Board's policy or they wish to recommend new policy.**

#### **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

**To exercise all the powers and duties of the Board in respect of routine financial matters, general matters relating to the Board and the Committees and management of the Forest that does not naturally fall to the other Committees. Also to make recommendations to the Board where, in the opinion of the Committee, the matter is either of such significance as to warrant it, it involves a change of the Board's policy or they wish to recommend new policy.**

#### **Delegation to the Clerk/Forest Superintendent**

**The Board delegate to the Clerk/Forest Superintendent the authority to take such executive action as is necessary to manage the Forest in accordance with their policies and to sign any document relating to the management of the Forest for and on behalf of the Board; further to sign any cheque on behalf of the Board, subject to the limit from time to time determined by the Board in agreement with the District Auditor.**

7.4 The Clerk informed the Board that the Friends of Ashdown Forest had agreed to fund the purchase of a new Moheda forest trailer with crane and grab.

7.5 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    Fly tipping    The Clerk informed the Board that there had been two serious cases of fly tipping which had required help from Wealden District Council; the first was 50 refuse sacks of maggot infested kitchen waste, the second a quantity of asbestos roofing. It was agreed that the Board should make representation to the Government, through the Local Government Association, asking for a review of the landfill tax due to the adverse impact it has had on the environment.
- 8.2    Sheep deaths/mauling    The Clerk informed the Board that there had been 32 cases of sheep deaths or mauling during the summer. This totally unacceptable situation could not continue. In addition to media coverage, the Board agreed that a graphic photograph of a torn sheep could be used in posters to be placed in prominent positions at entrances to the grazing area. In addition, a reminder about the need to be aware of the whereabouts of pet dogs should be included in a letter sent to residents when notification of the reintroduction of grazing is sent next spring.
- 8.3    Candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation    The Clerk informed the Board that Ashdown Forest had become a candidate SAC. The level of protection is similar to that of an SPA but covers species habitat. Confirmation may take some time. The Conservation Committee will look at the implications for the management of the Forest at its next meeting. The Chairman reminded the Board that much of the funding the Board receives is due to the results from current management of policies.

**ITEM 9      Any other business**

- 9.1    King's Standing road junction    The Clerk informed the Board that the County Highways Department would start work on this junction in the near future. It would be turned from a "Y" junction into a clear "T" junction.
- 9.2    There being no other business, the meeting moved to the Confidential session.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_  
20 November 2000

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_