

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CONSERVATORS OF  
ASHDOWN FOREST HELD AT THE ASHDOWN FOREST CENTRE,  
WYCH CROSS ON MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2001 AT 2.30pm.**

Present: Mr RIF Parsons (in the Chair), Mrs D Bagshawe, Mrs S Stokes,  
Mrs J Wirdnam, Messrs C Dowling, LJ Gillham, FJC Marshall, P Scott,  
T Slack, RM Thornely-Taylor, M Tunwell, FWJ Whetstone, AN White.

**ITEM 1 To note and welcome four new County Council appointees to the Board**

- 1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Mr Dowling, Mr Slack, Mr Scott and Mr Tunwell to their first Board Meeting. He also welcomed the members of the public present.

**ITEM 2 Apologies for absence**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Miss McPherson, Mr Glyn, Mr Reid.

**ITEM 3 To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 June 2001**

- 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 There were no matters arising.**

**ITEM 5 To receive the Minutes of the Conservation Committee Meeting held on 2 July 2001**

- 5.1 The Minutes which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mr Gillham.
- 5.2 Countryside Stewardship Scheme The Clerk informed the Board that a meeting between English Nature, the Farming & Rural Conservation Agency and himself had been arranged for 12 September. He was confident the application to renew the East Chase Stewardship Scheme would be successful, however the status of the Board in relation to the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 had not yet been determined.
- 5.3 There being no further 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 30 July 2001**

- 6.1 The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mrs Stokes.
- 6.2 Planning Applications
- 6.2.1 Ashdown Forest Golf Hotel and the Forest Row Pavilion The Chairman noted that there was a corporate concern over the development of both sites. The Clerk informed the Board that the WDC Arboriculturalist's letter notwithstanding, he was

not aware of a precautionary Tree Preservation Order being placed on any of the trees affected by the car parking plans. He also confirmed that the County Ecologist had been sent all relevant papers and that he was attending a site meeting with the Planning Officer, English Nature and the Arboriculturalist. It was important that the car park at the Pavilion should be used only by those using the sporting facilities.

- 6.2.1 Isle of Thorns In view of a second planning application, not yet seen by the Board, from the Cats Protection League to widen the A275 to facilitate access to the site, the Board felt their earlier comments to WDC should be 'put on hold' until they had had an opportunity to study both planning applications connected to the access together. This would enable the Board to take into consideration the problems of land exchange and impact upon the Forest.
- 6.2.2 Pooh Bridge The Clerk informed the Board that the proposed site meeting had not taken place as one of the interested parties was away on an extended holiday.
- 6.2.3 Travellers The Clerk confirmed that the Board's policy towards Travellers was one of zero tolerance. When camped on the Forest, Travellers breached several Bye-Laws. Experience had shown that by coordinating support of the police and bailiffs, Travellers tended to move of their own accord after being served 24 hours notice rather than face the alternative. The Clerk agreed to keep the Board informed of the costs incurred.
- 6.3 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 20 August 2001**

- 7.1 The Minutes, which had been previously circulated, were presented by Mr White.
- 7.2 Staff Matters The Clerk informed the Board that interviews for the position of Estate Worker would be taking place on 13 September. In response to a question he said there had been one female applicant, and she had been invited for interview together with five of the male applicants.
- 7.3 There being no further questions, Mr White moved adoption of the Minutes. This was agreed.

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

- 7.1 Deer casualties The Clerk informed the Board that a Chase Ranger was on duty 24 hours 7 days per week for emergencies on the Forest. One of major reasons for being called out was to help the Police with deer casualties. With an average of 120 cases a year, it was inevitable that there should be the occasional complaint, usually by members of the public who were unaware of the limited help that could be given to a severely injured animal. One such complaint to a local vet had resulted in a meeting with the Clerk during which he explained the procedures adopted. Arising from the meeting was the expectation of a joint training session to include the humane dispatch

of domestic stock. A protocol incorporating current best practice from the Deer Society had been drawn up and would be sent to the vet concerned for clearance with other local practitioners.

**ITEM 9**     **Any other business**     There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_  
19 November 2001

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_