

**Minutes of the
ROADS PLANNING AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST**

Monday 22 January 2018, 14:00

Committee members present: Mr JW Spicer (Chairman), Cllr C Hardy (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Stogdon, Cllr J Barnes, Mr MJ Cooper and Cllr F Whetstone. Ex officio member: Mr T Reid was also in attendance.
Also present: Mrs K Dirs (Clerk).

Minutes were taken by Mr J Clow

There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman opened the meeting.

01/18 Apologies

Cllr P Holloway and Pat Buesnel (Director) sent apologies.

02/18 Declarations of any interest by Members of a Personal or Prejudicial Nature.

No declarations of interest.

03/18 Matters Arising

03.01/18 Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk advised that the funds agreed in the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee will be allocated to the emptying of two dog waste bins. Funds have been received from Fairwarp Community Association for the purchase of the bins and the order has been placed. The bins should be in position by March 2018. The emptying will be carried out through a contract with Wealden District Council (WDC).

03.02/18 Public Space Protection Order

The Clerk read an email received from Wealden District Council following queries made during the Public Space Protection Order consultation. Ashdown Forest at this time is to be excluded due to the challenge of enforcing such a large area. **The Committee agreed with the decision.**

03.03/18 Remapping the Ashdown Forest Boundary

The Clerk confirmed funding was approved to copy the Award maps. Once copies have been made the original maps will be sent to "The Keep" at East Sussex County Council for safe keeping. Cllr Whetstone proposed sending an electronic copy of the maps to the Land Registry, highlighting their importance as the definitive map of the Ashdown Forest boundary. **The Committee agreed.** The Clerk will reassure the Committee when everything is in place.

04/18 Confidential Items

The Committee entered confidential session

The Committee left confidential session

05/18 Transfer of Manorial Waste Parcels to the Trust

The Clerk confirmed all the requested parcels of Manorial Waste have been transferred to the Trust and that she holds copies of all the Land Registry Titles and Plans.

06/18 Breach of Bye-law Issues

The Clerk highlighted fly-tipping and out of control dogs as the most prevalent Bye-law breaches and advised the Committee that a breach of Bye-law 6 was being pursued by Legal Services with a court date set for Friday 26 January.

Action

KD

07/18 Strategic Plan (standing item)

The Clerk confirmed all the latest amendments have been made and will include the policy of referencing the Award maps for the definitive boundaries of Ashdown Forest.

KD

08/18 Management Information

The Clerk highlighted the number and type of incidents of illegally deposited waste and the cost of dealing with them. She explained Wealden District Council were extremely supportive of the Forest and assisted with the clearance of fly-tipping where possible. The Clerk expressed her concerns over the proposed closure of the Forest Row Recycling Centre and the disastrous effect this could have on the already stretched team.

Cllr Hardy explained that Forest Row Recycling Centre is very busy and the residents of Forest Row are extremely environmentally conscious. The Chairman highlighted the additional Nitrogen deposition from traffic over the Forest to reach the alternative Recycling Centres in Maresfield and Crowborough. The Chairman proposed writing a letter to East Sussex County Council. The Clerk proposed asking Natural England to respond to the public consultation. **The Committee agreed that opposition from Natural England was the best chance to stop the closure.**

KD

09/18 Any urgent item for which the Clerk has notice in order to pass to the elected Chairman

The Clerk discussed correspondence she had just received from the owner of Green Plat. The Clerk explained the owner of Green Plat was now proposing a land swap with the Conservators in exchange for a new vehicular access over Ashdown Forest.

The Committee considered the proposed land exchange had no net benefit to the Forest and the Chairman resolved to uphold the decision to deny access made in 2009. **The Committee agreed and asked the Clerk to respond to that effect.**

KD

The meeting closed at 15.45