

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

Monday 22 October, 14:00

Committee members present: Cllr C Hardy (Chairman), Mr J Spicer (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Stogdon, Cllr J Barnes, Mr M Cooper, Ms S McAll

Ex officio member: Cllr S Tidy was in attendance

Also present: Cllr Whetstone, Dr N Mawdsley, Mrs P Buesnel (Director) and Kirsty Dirs (Clerk)

Minutes were taken by the Clerk

Mr Anthony Mitchell was present to discuss item 32.01/18

The Chairman opened the meeting taking item 32.01/18 first

32/18 32.01/18 Footpath way markers across the Forest

Mr Mitchell expressed his concerns regarding safety signage on the Ashdown Forest Golf Course and lack of signage on the Vanguard Way in general.

The Vice Chairman explained to Mr Mitchell that there had been no reported accidents at the Golf Course but that safety signage was being considered. The Committee agreed to review the signage along the Vanguard Way but advised Mr Mitchell the Vanguard Way Working Party are responsible for such signage. The Director agreed to liaise with the staff team and consider replacement signage.

Mr Mitchell voiced unease in relation to general signage across the Forest. The Vice Chairman explained that East Sussex County Council is responsible for signage of public Rights of Way on Ashdown Forest.

Mr Mitchell left the meeting.

30/18 Apologies

Cllr J Barnes and Cllr P Holloway

31/18 Declarations of any interest by Members of a Personal or Prejudicial Nature.

No declarations of interest.

32/18 Matters Arising

32.02/18 Tompsets Bank – Hazardous exit

The Committee considered paper RPA 02/18 and agreed the Ranger could install some low-key signage on the Forest to mitigate further risk, but that the Highways Authority should be made aware.

32.03/18 Ashdown Forest Cricket Club (Scowlers Green)

The Clerk advised there had been no communications with the Club since August 2016 and was under the impression the Club was no longer operating. Further investigation required to establish occupancy, liability and potential usage.

32.04/1818 Sheep killed by cars on the Crowborough Road

Ranger Allum attended the meeting and explained there had been a recent surge in sheep being hit by vehicles on the Crowborough Road. Contributory factors such as the weather and lack of

Action

PB

KD/JC

KD

KD

vegetation may explain these incidents, however reckless driving is likely to be the primary cause. The Committee agreed to review signage and alternative methods to encourage safe driving.

33/18 Confidential Items

The Committee entered confidential session

The Committee left confidential session

34/18 Breach of Bye-law Issues

The Clerk highlighted a rise in fly-tipping following the closure of the Forest Row recycling site, including two separate incidents of house clearances being dumped along trackways. Wealden officers have been extremely helpful supporting the Forest and pursuing offenders. The Clerk also highlighted an increase in motorhomes using Forest car parks overnight.

35/18 Strategic Plan (standing item)

There was nothing to report.

36/18 Management Information

The Clerk reported a small increase in sales of Winter Riding Permits, but a slow quarter for Forest property sales and property licences.

37/18 Any urgent item for which the Clerk has notice in order to pass to the elected Chairman

The meeting closed at 15.25