

7 January 2003

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Minutes of a special meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday 7 January 2003 at 12.45 pm in the Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton.

**PRESENT**

Mr S J Pugsley (Chairman)  
Mrs A Amory (Deputy Chairman)  
Mr J C Edwards (Second Deputy Chairman)

Mr F J Bray  
Mr M A Collins  
Mr J Dallyn  
Mr W J Dyke  
Mrs A M Foxhuntley  
Mr M Gammon  
Mr M H Knight  
Mrs C M Lawrence  
Mr R Morrison-Smith  
Mr E Nightingale

Mr M J Pile  
Mr M Prowse  
Mr F Rawle  
Mr M Robins  
Mrs M Russell  
Miss E I Stacey  
Mr M E Taylor  
Mr R J Webber  
Mr J Yabsley

Apologies for absence were received from Mr D E Gladding and Mr R J A Martin.

59. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

60. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

61. **MINUTES**

(1) **Confirmation**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 19 November 2002 were signed as correct, subject to Minute 51(3), bullet point five (re Policy H12 (altered to Policy H11)) – Exmoor National Park Local Plan – being amended to reflect the decision in Minute 63 below.

(2) Any matters arising were to be taken at the next meeting on 4 February 2003.

62. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

63. **EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY – FIRST ALTERATION – POLICY ON EXTENSIONS TO DWELLINGS**

The Authority considered a report by the National Park Officer which asked members to agree changes to the Policy and supporting text on extensions to dwellings for inclusion in the Revised Deposit Plan.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the revised wording of Policy H11 and the supporting text as a

change to the Draft Deposit Local Plan for publication in the Revised Deposit Plan, as set out in the report (appended to the signed copy of these Minutes), subject to the addition of sentences in the supporting text to indicate that the extension of small dwellings may not be appropriate and that the measurement of extensions would be based upon the external measurement of existing dwellings.

64. **FEEDBACK FROM A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS, THE RT HON ALUN MICHAEL, MP HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2002 (ATTENDED BY THE CHAIRMAN, SECOND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND THE NATIONAL PARK OFFICER), AND THE WAY FORWARD**

The Chairman reported that The Rt Hon Alun Michael, MP, Minister for Rural Affairs had invited the Authority to be represented at a meeting on 4 December 2003 in London, which had also involved the three local MPs. The meeting had been arranged two days earlier and no prior indication had been given of what it would be about; although as it coincided with the government's Hunting Bill, it was thought likely that this would be the subject matter. In view of the shortness of time, it had not been possible to involve members beyond those holding senior ex-officio positions.

The meeting had broadly involved the conveyance of information about what the provisions of the Hunting Bill would mean for Exmoor.

As things stood, there was nothing in the Bill relating to a future deer management regime, any financial assistance for farmers for not shooting deer on their land or support for the effects of the loss of deer hunting on the local economy, which members considered were essential to secure the future of the Exmoor red deer herd and safeguard the local economy. It was felt that the necessary changes to the Bill on these issues were best sought while it was in its Standing Committee stage, which had just commenced. An informal Hunting Group had previously been meeting to act as a sounding board for the National Park Officer on the future of hunting with dogs and it was proposed that this should continue on the response to the Bill – comprising the Chairman, Deputy and Second Deputy Chairmen, Mr Collins, Mr Knight, Mr Martin and Mr Webber – with the addition of Mr Prowse (or Mr Nightingale) to represent the North Devon area of the National Park. It was also proposed that there should be direct liaison on the way forward with both District Councils and bi-lateral meetings with the various voluntary groups.

There would be a report back to the Authority before any submissions were made to the Minister.

**RESOLVED:** to agree the way forward described above.

(The meeting closed at 2.00 pm)

Chairman