

11 June 2002

## EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday 11 June 2002 at 10.30 am in the Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton.

### PRESENT

Mr S J Pugsley (Chairman)

Mrs A Amory (Deputy Chairman)

Mr F J Bray

Mr M A Collins

Mr W J Dyke

Mrs A M Foxhuntley

Mr M Gammon

Mr D E Gladding

Mr M H Knight

Mrs C M Lawrence

Mr R J A Martin

Mr A Moore

Mr R Morrison-Smith

Mr E Nightingale

Mr M J Pile

Mr M Prowse

Mr F Rawle

Mr M Robins

Miss E I Stacey

Mr M E Taylor

Mr R J Webber

Mr J Yabsley

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J C Edwards, Mr J Dallyn (who was awaiting re-appointment to the Authority following his re-election as Chairman of Martinhoe Parish Meeting) and Mrs M Russell.

Members asked for their best wishes to be sent to Mrs Russell who, while currently on holiday, was unwell.

#### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The National Park Officer was in the Chair to preside over the election.

On the motion of Mr Webber, duly seconded, Mr Pugsley was re-elected Chairman of the Authority for the ensuing year.

#### 2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

On the motion of Mr Pugsley, duly seconded, Mrs Amory was re-elected as Deputy Chairman of the Authority for the ensuing year.

#### 3. ELECTION OF SECOND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

On the motion of Mr Collins, duly seconded, Mr Edwards was re-elected as Second Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

#### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were declared.

#### 5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) **ANPA Working Group:** A small working group of the Chairmen of the National Park Authorities had been examining the role of the ANPA Chief Executive, Martin Fitton, which had not hitherto been clearly defined, and had made recommendations. It had been suggested that the group could continue to act as a 'think tank' for the National Parks, and this proposal would be considered by the ANPA Executive Committee at its meeting the following week in Cardiff.

- (2) **Proposed South Downs National Park:** The Chairman had attended a meeting in Petersfield to discuss proposals for the new National Park. There was significant opposition from local authorities in the proposed area to the role of the South Downs National Park Authority, particularly in terms of planning decision-making. It was thought that this was largely the result of the huge size of the area, meaning many local authorities were included, leading to a diminution of representation from them on the proposed Authority. There had been a suggestion that it would have been preferable for the boundaries to cover the chalk area only.

Mrs Amory mentioned that a meeting/dinner of stakeholders, landowners etc. in Lewes she had attended demonstrated a lack of understanding and misinformation about the role and purposes of National Park Authorities.

- (3) **Michael Rose, Coroner for West Somerset:** The Chairman had recently attended a lunch hosted by Michael Rose, Coroner for West Somerset to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, also attended by other Somerset local authority representatives and dignitaries.
- (4) **National Park Officer's Staff Review and Development Interview:** The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Resources Committee had recently undertaken the National Park Officer's first Staff Review and Development interview. It had been a useful exercise and learning experience for all involved. The National Park Officer would circulate copies of his work programme for the year to members.
- (5) **North Devon District Council:** The Chairman had held discussions with North Devon District Council's Leader, Malcolm Prowse, with the aim of achieving closer working arrangements between the two authorities.

## 6. MINUTES

- (1) **Confirmation**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 23 April 2002 were signed as correct.

- (2) **Matter Arising**

### **Minute 95 – An Economic Statement for Exmoor**

The National Park Officer reported that a few alterations were to be made to the document prior to its circulation to partners and others for comment.

The Chairman said that comments made to The Rt. Hon Alun Michael, Minister for Rural Affairs in response to the government's latest consultation on hunting had been met with a standard letter about how responses could be made, and had not addressed the issues raised. However, both the Chairman and the National Park Officer would be meeting him in Cardiff the following week, when they attended the ANPA Executive Committee's meeting, and hoped to pursue the matter then.

## 7. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

8. **HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

On the motion of the Chairman, duly seconded, the Authority **RESOLVED:**

That the Exmoor National Park Authority send a message of congratulations and best wishes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II upon the occasion of her Golden Jubilee.

(There was also comment about the successful lighting of Dunkery Beacon as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, and praise was paid to those involved in organising the event).

9. **APPOINTMENT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** to appoint all members to the Planning Committee, under the terms specified in Standing Orders.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** to appoint the following members to the Resources Committee: -

|                                    |                                                           |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Somerset County Councillors        | Mr J C Edwards and Mr W J Dyke                            |
| West Somerset District Councillors | Mr S J Pugsley and Mrs A M Foxhuntley                     |
| Devon County Councillor            | Mr M H Knight                                             |
| North Devon District Councillor    | Mr M Prowse                                               |
| National Members                   | Mr R Morrison-Smith, Miss E I Stacey and<br>Mr M E Taylor |
| Parish Members                     | Mr M A Collins and Mr M J Pile                            |

11. **STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** to appoint the following members to the Standards Committee, under the terms specified by Minute 37 of the Authority's meeting held on 4 September 2002 and statutory requirements: -

Mr D E Gladding, Mrs M Russell (with Mr F J Bray as substitute for Mrs Russell) and Mr M E Taylor (NPA) and Ms S V Mew (Independent Member).

12. **EXMOOR CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

**RESOLVED:** to appoint the Forum's Chairman and Vice-Chairman as follows: -

Mr E Nightingale (Chairman) and Mrs A Amory as Vice-Chairman.

13. **DISTRICT AND PARISH CONSULTATIVE GROUP**

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Mr Collins as Vice-Chairman, with the Deputy Chairman of the Authority continuing as Chairman of the Group in accordance with previous practice.

14. **APPOINTMENT TO INTERNAL PANELS/GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Head of Business Management's report asked the Authority to make its annual appointments to various internal Panels/Groups and Outside Bodies.

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**RESOLVED:** (1) to appoint members to serve on internal Panels and Groups as follows: -

**Land and Property Advisory Panel**

Mrs A Amory, Mr M A Collins, Mr W J Dyke, Mr J C Edwards, Mr M H Knight, Mr S J Pugsley, Mr M Robins, Mr M E Taylor and Mr R J Webber.

**The Chairman's Group**

The Chairman, Deputy and Second Deputy Chairmen of the Authority, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Resources Committee.

**Local Plan Review Working Group**

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mr F J Bray, Mr M A Collins, Mr J C Edwards, Mr R Morrison-Smith, Mr M Prowse, Mr F Rawle, Mr M E Taylor and Mr R J Webber.

**Traffic and Transport Working Group**

Mrs A Amory, Mr F J Bray, Mr M A Collins, Mr J C Edwards, Mr D E Gladding, Mr M H Knight, Mrs C Lawrence and Mr R J Webber & Miss B Child, West Somerset District Council.

**Exmoor Moorland Panel**

Mr F J Bray, Mr J Dallyn (subject to re-appointment to the Authority), Mr W J Dyke, Mr J C Edwards, Mr M A Collins, Mr R J A Martin, Mr M J Pile, Mr M Robins, Mr M E Taylor, Mr R J Webber and Mr J Yabsley, plus invited Moorland owners and managers.

**Future of Farming Working Group**

Mr J Dallyn (subject to re-appointment to the Authority), Mr W J Dyke, Mr J C Edwards, Mr M H Knight, Mr M Robins, Mr M E Taylor and Mr R J Webber.

**Simonsbath Sawmill Project Members' Steering Group**

The Chairman of the Resources Committee, Mrs A Amory, Mr F J Bray, Mr J C Edwards, Mr M Gammon, Mr R J A Martin, Mr S J Pugsley, Miss E I Stacey, Mr F Rawle and Mr R J Webber.

**Porlock Bay and Marsh Steering Group**

Mrs A Amory, Mr J C Edwards, Mr J Dallyn (subject to re-appointment to the Authority) and Mrs M Russell.

**Dunster Working Group**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Mrs A Amory, Mr M A Collins, Mr J C Edwards, Mrs C Lawrence, Mr M E Taylor and Mr R J Webber.

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**Exmoor Resource Steering Group**

Mrs A Amory and Mr R J A Martin.

**Local Countryside Access Forum**

Appointment deferred until the detailed guidance on the constitution of the Forum is brought to the Authority.

(2) to appoint members to represent the Authority on outside bodies as follows: -

**Association of National Park Authorities Executive Committee**

The Chairman of the Authority (Substitute: Deputy Chairman).

**Greater Exmoor LEADER Local Development Group (final meeting on 3 July 2002)**

Mr J C Edwards.

**Exmoor Area Tourism Advisory Group**

Mr J C Edwards, Mr R Morrison-Smith, Mrs M Russell and Mr R J Webber.

**Somerset Local Government Forum**

The Chairman of the Authority  
(Substitute – Deputy Chairman).

**Devon Joint Rural Development Committee**

Mr E Nightingale.

**Somerset County Council's Environment and Transport Policy Panel**

Mr M A Collins.

**Somerset Public Transport Forum**

Mr M A Collins.

**Somerset Strategic Planning Conference**

Mrs A M Foxhuntley and Mr R J Webber.

**West Somerset Community Transport Partnership**

Mr M A Collins.

**Sustainable Somerset Forum**

Mr R J A Martin.

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**Community Council for Somerset Board**

Mrs A M Foxhuntley.

**Community Council of Devon**

Mr E Nightingale.

**Deer Forum**

Mr J C Edwards and the National Park Officer  
(Substitute – Mrs A Amory).

**South West Regional Assembly**

Mrs A Amory.

**South West Local Government Association Branch**

The Chairman of the Authority.

**South West Coast Path Forum**

Mr J Dallyn (subject to re-appointment to the Authority)  
(Substitute – Mrs A M Foxhuntley).

**South West Water Recreation and Conservation Forum**

Mrs A M Foxhuntley.

**Lyn Community Development Trust**

Mr M Prowse.

**Local Government Association's Rural Commission**

Mr M Robins.

**Council for National Parks** (nomination)

Mrs A Amory.

**Exmoor Coast and Countryside Partnership**

The Chairman of the Authority and the National Park Officer

(NB. This Partnership replaced the West Somerset 'Partnership Working' Meeting and required a different representation from the Authority).

**South West Tourism Consultative Committee**

Mr R Morrison-Smith (Substitute: Miss E I Stacey).

**Greater Exmoor Tourism Forum**

Mr R Morrison-Smith.

**Exmoor, North Devon and West Somerset Rural Housing Enabler Project Steering Group**

Mr R J Webber.

**South West Forest Project Steering Group**

Miss E I Stacey.

15. **EVENTS**

(1) **ANPA Member Induction Course**

The Authority was asked to consider whether to send members most recently appointed to the Authority to a Member Induction Course, organised by ANPA, being held at Losehill Hall, Peak District National Park from 24-26 July 2002. A copy of the draft programme had been circulated.

There was a suggestion that the course needed to give sufficient weight to the role of national members, particularly in the planning process. In response, the Member Services Officer mentioned that the course programme was being revised and should be available from ANPA shortly.

**RESOLVED:** to agree that it would be appropriate for members most recently appointed to the Authority to attend this course, and Mrs Lawrence and Mr Yabsley gave an undertaking to attend.

(2) **National Parks Conference, 18-20 September 2002, Northumberland**

**RESOLVED:** to appoint Messrs Bray, Collins, Dyke, Nightingale, Pugsley and Webber to attend this year's Conference (with Mrs Amory as reserve).

If any other members had an interest in attending, they were asked to let the National Park Officer or the Member Services Officer know.

(3) **Europarc Conference, 2-4 October 2002, Snowdonia**

**RESOLVED:** that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman shall attend the Conference.

If any other members had an interest in attending, they were asked to let the National Park Officer or the Member Services Officer know.

16. **RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Resources Committee's meeting held on 23 April 2002 were received and noted.

**Minute 41(2)(ii) – Simonsbath Sawmill** – Some concern was expressed about whether the timber and felting work required to the roof of the building would be contained within the estimated figure of £25,000. Whilst officer comment was noted about the cost of the timber being reduced through its being sourced from the Authority's woodland at Hadborough, it was nevertheless **RESOLVED** that an update on the costs of the restoration work be brought to the Resources Committee's meeting on 23 July 2002, in addition to also being considered by the Members' Project Steering Group at its next

meeting.

17. **COUNTY GATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

The Authority considered a report by the Head of Education and Interpretation on the progress of the project.

Comments were noted about the need for the interior of the new building and interpretation facilities to be of the highest quality in order to achieve a successful visitor experience, and for the building's services to be sustainable, for example, the possible use of 'grey' water systems.

In response to comment, the National Park Officer said that the drawing up of proposals for the enhancement of County Gate would not prejudice any future involvement by the Authority in the re-development of Lynmouth Pavilion or any other project. Once detailed designs and costings were available, the Authority would be in a better position to attract external funding and determine its own funding priorities.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to note the content of the report;

(2) that the four designs submitted for the project be displayed in the Committee Room, Exmoor House from 6.00 pm on Wednesday 19 June 2002 (prior to the Consultative Forum's meeting) to enable members to have a further opportunity to view the concepts and to make comments;

(3) that the project be further discussed at the meeting of the Land and Property Advisory Panel on 24 June 2002; and

(4) to appoint Mrs Amory, Mr Nightingale and Miss Stacey to a small Steering Group to advise the National Park Officer and his Management Team on the proposals, prior to the National Park Officer making a final decision on the winning designer.

18. **MEMBERS' REPORTS**

(1) **Regional Governance**

Mrs Amory referred to the government's proposals for regional governance set out in its White Paper 'Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions'. A summary document containing the main points had been circulated to members as an Information Note.

Mrs Amory felt that the Authority should respond to the White Paper since the proposals, if implemented, would impact upon it. Of principle concern was the absence in the document of any mention of National Park Authorities and their role and, even if they were considered to be stakeholders or social and economic partners, their role regarding any elected Regional Assembly would be as observers and advisers only, with no representation.

Mrs Amory also mentioned the need to continue to try to improve the Authority's representation on the existing unelected South West Regional Assembly.

Following lengthy discussion on the position of National Parks and rural areas generally vis-à-vis the proposals, the Authority **RESOLVED:**

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- (i) to ask the National Park Officer to respond to the government's White Paper 'Your Region, Your Choice: Revitalising the English Regions', in consultation with Mrs Amory, Mr Knight and Mr Robins, and finally the Chairman's Group on 24 June 2002;
- (ii) that the response to the White Paper shall include –
  - the need for any changes in regional governance to recognise the position and importance of National Park Authorities;
  - the need to feature National Park purposes as an objective and recognise the requirements of rural areas generally and their environments (with community planning having a pivotal role);
  - a questioning of whether the above can be achieved through a Regional Assembly of only 35 members and whether this number can adequately represent rural areas; and
  - reference to the positive working arrangements of the three Welsh National Park Authorities vis-à-vis The National Assembly for Wales;
- (iii) that the response to the White Paper be copied to ANPA, CNP and other interested parties.

(The meeting adjourned from 12 noon until 12.10 pm to facilitate the setting up of the visual presentation for the National Park Officer's Review of 2001/2 and Proposed Future Priorities – see Minute 19 below).

**(2) ANPA Workshop, Cairngorms, 24-26 May 2002**

Four members, the National Park Officer and the Education Officer had attended this year's workshop, where the theme had been sustainable tourism. There had been a number of speakers, focusing particularly on tourism in protected and rural areas, and a series of site visits. The key messages were that National Park Authorities needed to better inform the tourism industry about sustainable tourism and eco-tourism, and that there was a balance to be achieved between encouraging more visitors and land and environmental constraints. The National Park Officer indicated that there was a need to review the approach to sustainable tourism on Exmoor and the Authority's role.

Whilst the workshop had generally been well organised, it was felt that sessions arranged for the final morning, which had attempted to involve all those attending, had not been as constructive.

**19. REVIEW OF 2001/2 AND PROPOSED FUTURE PRIORITIES**

A visual presentation by the National Park Officer reviewed the Authority's activities in 2001/2 and looked forward to future priorities. He was thanked and asked to make the presentation an annual event.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to agree the following priorities for 2002/3: -

- Complete the Local Plan review
- Complete the restoration of Simonsbath Sawmill

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- South West Coast Path at Porlock Bay (achieving a re-routing)
  - Tarr Steps visitor facilities and replacement toilets
  - CROW Act implementation - Access Forum and maps
  - Publish first 'State of the Park' report
  - Sustainable tourism initiative in partnership with the Countryside Agency
  - IEG ('Implementing Electronic Government')
  - Best Value (further reviews)
  - Job evaluation for all NPA posts; and
- (2) to confirm that this year's Members' Tour will be held on Friday 13 September 2002 – suggestions for inclusion were – visiting the MIRE project to restore blanket bog (which had benefits in storing CO<sub>2</sub> and reducing flood water flows), renewable energy projects, Driver Farm and the Mineral Line.

(The meeting closed at 12.55 pm)

Chairman

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## **EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Minutes of a special meeting of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday 2 July 2002 at 12 noon 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 W J Dyke  
Mrs A M Foxhuntley  
Mr M Gammon  
Mr M H Knight  
Mrs C M Lawrence

Mr R J A Martin  
Mr R Morrison-Smith  
Mr M J Pile  
Mr F Rawle  
Miss E I Stacey  
Mr R J Webber

By invitation (observer capacity only): Mr J Dallyn (who was awaiting his annual re-appointment to the Authority)

Apologies for absence were received from Miss S R Cassell, Mr D E Gladding, Mr E Nightingale, Mr M Robins, Mrs M Russell, Mr M E Taylor and Mr J Yabsley.

### **20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Prior to the meeting, the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer had written to members concerning the item on the Minister for Rural Affairs consultation on 'Hunting with Dogs' (see Minute 22 below). The letter had explained that hunting was an emotive issue and that members needed to consider carefully whether they had an interest. It was the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer's view that mere membership of a body which had taken a stance on the question of hunting did not constitute an interest within the terms of the new Code of Conduct. The item under consideration was only formulating views on a government consultation paper. Many hundreds of bodies had been asked for comments. The position might be different if the Authority was considering, for example, a ban on hunting on its own land. In those circumstances, individual members who hunted might have a prejudicial interest. The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer advised, however, that if members did have membership of any body which had taken a view on the matter, they should declare membership of that body. They would then be free to participate in discussion and vote, as appropriate.

Members made the following declarations: -

- Mr Pugsley – membership of the Countryside Alliance.
- Mr Bray – membership of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, but paid no subscription and took no part in their decision making.
- Mr Collins – thought that he may have membership of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, but had not paid a subscription for some time.
- Mr Rawle – membership of the Countryside Alliance, the Devon and Somerset

Staghounds and the West Somerset Foxhounds.

- Mr Webber – membership of the Countryside Alliance and the National Farmers' Union, a landowner and may be a member of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds.
- Mr Dyke – supported social functions organised by a hunt in his local area of South Somerset.
- Mr Edwards – non-hunting, non-subscribing membership of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, a deer stalker in Scotland and a member of the National Farmers' Union.
- Mr Martin – neutral Chairman of both the Quantocks and Exmoor Deer Forums, and no views on hunting had been expressed by either body.

Mr Pile declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Minute 24, Hawkcombe Woods concerning an existing grazier in the Woods being a relative of his.

21. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Dallyn said that, where lamping with rifles was used to cull wild animals, farm animals had sometimes been killed by mistake.

22. **RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION FROM THE MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS, ON 'HUNTING WITH DOGS – ISSUES OF CRUELTY, UTILITY AND PROCESS'**

The Authority considered a report by the National Park Officer on a proposed response to the consultation from the Minister for Rural Affairs. The appendices to the report set out the scope of the consultation, the suggested response to the issues raised (which also included a statement on the economic and social impacts of hunting not specifically requested by the consultation) and the Authority's earlier submission to the Burn's Inquiry into hunting with dogs.

The Chairman said that, with the National Park Officer, he had met the Minister for Rural Affairs, The Rt. Hon Alun Michael, some two weeks earlier. Mr Michael had given a verbal commitment to visit Exmoor to discuss the hunting issues, probably at the beginning of September. The Chairman also emphasised that it was not the purpose of this meeting to discuss the moral and ethical issues of hunting, but rather to consider the principle conservation issues identified with National Park purposes and to respond to the Minister's direct questions and to decide whether the statement on the social and economic impacts of hunting should also be submitted.

In response to comment from some members about why the main response had concentrated on red deer hunting and excluded fox hunting, it was explained that: -

- The red deer were of paramount importance to Exmoor, which was reflected in their being the symbol of the National Park and one of Exmoor's 'special qualities'.
- There was considerable research into the conservation and management of the red deer, which was not available for foxes (the consultation had asked for firm and clear evidence). The only information about fox hunting related to the social and

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economic issues and this was covered in the statement attached to the main response.

- Other respondents from elsewhere could more adequately cover fox hunting. The Burn's Inquiry had also received a significant amount of evidence on it.
- Were the Authority's main response to include fox hunting, it may dilute the message about the red deer.

The National Park Officer was complemented on producing a well balanced response to the consultation.

**RESOLVED:** to approve unanimously the submission of the response, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, by the Chairman to the Minister for Rural Affairs on the Authority's behalf, subject to the following: -

- In paragraph 2 (page 2), to identify, if possible, the number of members who are or have been actively involved in hunting.
- The conclusions in paragraph 35 to be emboldened.
- In paragraph 20 (page 4), the comment on deer tolerance in the second sentence to be re-worded to reflect the evidence available.
- In paragraph 35 (page 6), the bullet points to read as follows: -
  - **adequate arrangements are in place in good time for the future conservation and management of the red deer herds on Exmoor, involving as necessary, secondary legislation to regulate deer culling and enable effective population management**
  - **adequate measures are in place in good time to balance any adverse effects on the social and economic well-being of Exmoor's rural communities**
- The statement on the economic and social impacts of hunting on Exmoor to accompany the main response.
- Paragraph 3 (page 7) of the statement etc. to be expanded to include reference to the overall effects of last year's Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks on the Exmoor economy.
- An extra item to be included after Paragraph 14 (page 9) of the statement etc. to provide information on events organised by the four fox hunts on Exmoor.

(NB. Subsequent to the meeting, it emerged that there was no definitive evidence over the figures for deer culled each year by the hunt. It was not, therefore, possible to meet members request for an elaboration of the percentages referred to Paragraph 23 (page 4)).

(There was a five minute adjournment at this point in the meeting, prior to the two confidential items being considered).

23. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**RESOLVED:** to pass a resolution a resolution pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business arising and that the following information will be considered which is exempt information as presented in Schedule 12A of the Act: -

**Re. Minute 24:**

12 Any instructions to counsel and any opinion of counsel (whether or not in connection with any proceedings) and any advice received, information obtained or action to be taken in connection with –

- (a) any legal proceedings by or against the authority, or
- (b) the determination of any matter, affecting the authority,

(whether in either case, proceedings have been commenced or are in contemplation)

**Re. Minute 25:**

7 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)

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## **SUMMARY OF MINUTES 24 & 25**

### **Minute 24**

#### **Hawkcombe Woods**

The Authority considered a confidential report by the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer on a claim for grazing rights in Hawkcombe Woods which, following a detailed assessment, appeared to be valid. The Authority agreed a recommendation to this effect, after having taken all the relevant issues into consideration, including its remit of ensuring that the Woods were properly conserved.

### **Minute 25**

#### **Tenancy Agreement on National Park Authority Land**

The Authority considered a confidential report by the Head of Conservation and Land Management on a proposed change in a tenancy's arrangements which was agreed.

(The meeting closed at 1.30 pm)

Chairman

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