

7 January 2003

**EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee of the Exmoor National Park Authority held on Tuesday 7 January 2003 at 2.30 pm in the Committee Room, Exmoor House, Dulverton.

PRESENT

Mr M A Collins (Chairman)
Mr R Morrison-Smith (Vice-Chairman)

Mr W J Dyke	Mr S J Pugsley
Mrs A M Foxhantley	Miss E I Stacey
Mr M H Knight	Mr M E Taylor
Mr M J Pile	

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J C Edwards and Mr M Prowse.

24. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

25. **MINUTES**

(1) **Confirmation**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 November 2002 were signed as correct.

(2) **Matters Arising**

(i) **Minute 16(2)(ii) – Simonsbath Sawmill Project**

It was noted that the Simonsbath Sawmill Project Members' Steering Group would be visiting the site on 17 January 2003 from 11.30 am to witness water flowing along the leat.

(ii) **Minute 23 – Members' Allowances**

In response to comment, the Head of Business Management explained that proposals on Members' Allowances emerging from the independent panel would be brought back to the Committee prior to consideration by the Authority. The timetable envisaged proposals being taken to the Authority's Annual Meeting on 10 June 2003.

26. **AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2001/02 – ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER**

The Committee received the Annual Audit Letter from RSM Robson Rhodes, the external auditors, with covering report by the Chief Finance Officer. Mr Richard Tremeer from the external auditors attended the meeting to comment on the content of the Letter.

RESOLVED: to receive the Annual Audit Letter and to note –

(1) the outcome of the Audit of the Accounts for 2001/02 and the Best Value Performance Plan for 2002/03; and

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(2) the responses to the key issues raised.

27. **BUDGET FOR 2003/04 AND THE ISSUE OF THE LEVY**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer on the National Park Grant settlement for 2003/04 and the need to issue the levy on the four local authorities.

RESOLVED: (1) to note and welcome the National Park Grant settlement for 2003/04; and

(2) to **RECOMMEND** the Authority to approve the issue of the levy to the four local authorities; £278,478 to Somerset County Council and to West Somerset District Council, £111,391 to Devon County Council and to North Devon District Council.

28. **BEST VALUE**

The Head of Business Management reported on the progress on recommendations 19(5) and 43 of the National Parks Review regarding Best Value. He said that the recommendations proposed a modified version of Best Value and National Park representatives would be meeting government officials to progress it, which would include a workshop in February 2003. The proposal envisaged a more streamlined approach to Best Value Reviews involving peer review of services by other National Park Authorities, rather than the detailed reviews required at present. However, the Best Value Performance Plan would still need to be produced.

29. **PERSONNEL UPDATE**

The Head of Business Management's report updated members on personnel matters.

Members asked for a further report to the Committee once it was clear what any changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme would involve and the financial commitment the Authority would need to make.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the personnel changes; and

(2) to note the three issues relating to the Pension Scheme, set out in paragraph 2 of the report, and to delegate responsibility for the submission of a response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the Local Government Pension Scheme Stocktake exercise to the Head of Business Management in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

(The meeting closed at 3.17 pm)

Chairman

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