

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 10:00 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
LYMINGTON TOWN HALL, AVENUE ROAD, LYMINGTON**

**Present:**

*Members:*

Gordon Bailey  
Mary Davies (Chair)  
David Harrison  
Joe Reilly  
Ann Sevier  
Derek Tipp  
Malcolm Wade

*Officers:*

Nigel Stone	Head of Resources (CFO)
David Illsley	Interim Head of Planning & Place
Gareth Hale	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Paul Walton	Head of Environment and Rural Economy
David Stone	Corporate Services Manager
Jim Mitchell	Access and Learning Manager
Hilary Makin	Communications Manager
Frances Connolly	Executive Assistant

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair made a presentation to Patrick Heneghan in recognition of his dedicated service to the Authority. Patrick had been a member of the New Forest National Park Authority since 2017, Deputy Chair and then Chair of the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee, a National Park Authority representative on the Cycle Working Group and PEDALL, and member representative on the Health and Safety Forum.

**50. Apologies for absence**

50.1 Apologies for absence were received from David Bence, Victoria Mander, Barry Dunning, Brice Stratford and Alison Barnes.

**51. Declarations of Interest**

51.1 None.

**52. Chair's announcements**

52.1 None.

**53. Minutes**

53.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025 be confirmed as a correct record.

*Voting: Unanimous*

**54. Public Question Time**

54.1 None.

**55. First Quarter Progress Report 2025/26**

55.1 Members considered the first quarter progress report of the 2025/26 Work Programme and discussed a number of issues therein. Members also specifically referred to the following:

- Key Performance Indicators – Quarterly Monitoring (Local Indicators). Nigel Stone referred to the three blue shaded items in the table and mentioned that the quarterly number of consultations completed by the Archaeology team was not currently available but that the standard average was 30-40 consultations over a quarter. The number of first quarter results for promoting understanding face-to-face contacts was 9,521 and the number of Pedall participants for the quarter was 2,167. Members noted that, in the light of this information, both items had resulted in a green status for the quarter.
- Referring to the result for the first quarter of member participation in attending committees, the Chair requested that members who were unable to attend a meeting forward their apologies to the relevant officers in good time. This information would assist in assessing if there were sufficient members present at a meeting to achieve a quorum.
- David Illsley advised members that an update of the Local Plan review would be submitted to the Authority meeting on 16 October 2025. Nigel Stone advised that a report on the work of the Youth Board would also be presented at the October meeting, giving an update on youth issues and providing an opportunity for interaction between members and the Board.
- Members noted that Commoning was experiencing a difficult period and were advised that officers of the Authority had been in contact over the summer with Defra at the highest level to encourage greater support for Commoners and sustainable land management in the New Forest.

Following further discussion, members noted the report.

**56. April-July Budgetary Control Report 2025/26**

56.1 Nigel Stone explained that the figures in his report were for the first four months of 2025/26 April to July. In section 2 of the report, he drew attention to the expenditure position of 28% which was on track and 22% of expected income.

56.2 In paragraph 4.2 of the report, Nigel Stone mentioned the pay award for this year which had recently been agreed at 3.2% and was paid out to staff and members in the August salary pay run. Although the figures in the report did not include these costs, they were in line with officer expectations and would not cause any additional budgetary issues going forward.

56.3 In response to a query, Nigel Stone referred to the two affordable homes in Burley. He informed members that a Quantity Surveyor was now in place for the two houses and a draft Invitation to Tender for the building works would likely be sent out over the next seven to ten days. He pointed out that the works would likely not begin until the middle of 2026 due to the procurement process being completed and the builders being available to start. Nigel was pleased to report that all the relevant approvals were now in place which was positive news for the lengthy project.

56.4 Members then noted the report.

**57. Any other items that the Chair decides are urgent**

57.1 None

On closing the meeting, the Chair took the opportunity to thank officers, teams and Members for their input into reports and debate at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11:20 hours.

Signed .....Date.....  
(Chair)