

AT A MEETING of the  
SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 3 December 2012

**PRESENT**

**Hampshire County Council**

p Councillor Mrs. L. Fairhurst (Chairman)  
p Councillor I.F.E. Beagley  
a Councillor Mrs. A. Buckley  
a Councillor R.C. McIntosh  
p Councillor F. Pearce (Vice-chairman)

p Colin Hudman  
p Gordon Gardner  
p Tim Speller

**East Hampshire District Council**

p Councillor Mrs. D.K. Denston  
p Mr. S. d'Este Hoare

**Havant Borough Council**

p Councillor Mrs. Y. Weeks  
p Mr. Jeff Crate

The meeting began with a visit to the newly opened Naturalists Garden.

**109. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Councillors R McIntosh and Mrs A Buckley.

**110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

		<b>Action</b>
<b>111.</b>	<b>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</b>	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2012 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p><b>Matters arising:-</b></p> <p><b>Item 106: Park Managers Report</b></p> <p>Members were informed that the new logo for the Park had not been completed due to a change in the marketing company. Councillor Weeks offered a design contact and a schools' competition was suggested.</p>	
<b>112.</b>	<b>DEPUTATIONS</b>	
	There were no deputations at this meeting	
<b>113.</b>	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b>	
	<p>The Committee received the report of the Director of Corporate Resources - Corporate Services on the revised budget for 2012/13 and the proposed forward budget for 2013/14. (Item 5 in the Minute Book)</p> <p>The Treasurer summarised his report and answered Members' questions.</p> <p>He explained that the first part gave an overview to date compared with the same period last year. He noted that costs and expenditure had increased; however, there would be a slight reduction in staffing costs as some staff were now shared with Queen Elizabeth Country Park and some of the catering costs would be charged to the catering concession, HC3S, rather than the Park as under the previous arrangement. It was anticipated that the surplus at the end of the year would be approximately £16,000, which was better than reported at the last meeting and would be added to the reserve account to reduce the deficit. Members asked whether, for improved clarity, income and expenditure on match-funding projects could be stated within the report. It was explained that the additional £20,000 expenditure (2.4 in the report) on employees in the 2012/13 financial year was funded partly by an education grant and the remainder, which was extra visitor services staff, by the increase from membership.</p>	Colin Hudman

Members' attention was drawn to the forecast budget for 2013/14. It was noted that staff costs would increase due to annual increments and the full year effects of the new visitor service staff. However, the completion of two projects in 2012/13 would bring a reduction in supplies' and services' costs for 2013/14. Referring to paragraph 4.2 in the report, it was explained that the '5% increase to entrance charges and 22% on memberships' referred to an projected increase in income driven by higher visitor numbers, not a price increase. Members were informed that partner contributions would decrease as Horndean Parish Council were withdrawing from the partnership. There was uncertainty about Havant Borough Council maintaining the same level of funding ; East Hampshire District Council had not made any decision yet, and it was anticipated that Hampshire County Council's contribution would remain the same as 2012/13. Members were asked to note that if the 2013/14 budget was achieved then a surplus of £32,670 would be available to reduce the deficit on the reserve account, leaving a balance of £31,339 as the deficit going in to 2014/15. This was dependent on the Park continuing to keep expenditure down and being able to generate additional income.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the JMC approved the revised budget for 2012/13 as shown in appendices A and B of the report.
- That the/JMC approved the partner contributions for 2013/14 as shown in appendices A and B of the report.
- That the JMC approved the budget for 2013/ 14 as shown in appendices A and C of the report.
- That members should continue to seek additional revenue and capital funding from their authorities to help ensure the future of the Park.

**114. PARK MANAGER'S REPORT:**

The Committee received the report of the Park Manager giving an update on developments at the Park. (Item 6 in the Minute Book). He answered questions raised by Members about his report.

Members were pleased to learn that the barbecues had been ordered and would be installed in January 2013, and that they would be bookable by the centralised online booking form.

Members were advised that the new lambing barn would be in place in the current overflow car park by the end of

April/beginning of May 2013. The Wallaby Walk project had been put on hold as its funds had been diverted to supplement that available for the new lambing barn, which had increased in cost and was essential.

Members were informed that 2 of the Gothic Library Windows would have historical themes, but the others were not specified; it was also noted that the walls of the Library were to be lime plastered.

The flooding at the Coach House was being investigated, and temporary measures were in place to reduce the problem. There were temporary toilets near the Coach House, but no decision had been taken on where permanent toilets would be located or when they would be installed. Members were informed that of the businesses in the social enterprise project, only the cycling had failed; but it was hoped to bring in another cycling business.

Councillor Yvonne Weeks informed Members that the Park Run, which currently had 74 runners every Saturday, was a great success, and that she had received a lot of positive feedback about the Park's co-operation and the cafe.

Members were advised that 'Staunton Festival' in 2013 would not be a water festival, but some type of country fair; a meeting of the organisers in January 2013 would discuss the format. It was noted that the proposed date, 14 July, clashed with the date of the Wood Fair at Queen Elizabeth Country Park; it was agreed that this would prove unworkable for ranger availability and that visitors would not attend both events on the same day or weekend.

It was noted that one of the pine trees that had been chopped at the front of Leigh Park Gardens was being sculpted into a peacock; other parts of the tree had been used to make a bench and a shark, which had gone to Emsworth Primary School.

Contractors were working to improve the condition of cycle routes around the Park. A new map of Leigh Park Gardens would be available at the beginning of 2013 which would show the circular cycle route round the Park. It was agreed that better signage was needed for the Shipwrights and Staunton Ways. There was discussion about the incomplete routes of the two Ways and the spur to Petersfield. Mention was made of marker stones for the Ways that had been erected along the parts of the routes already completed.

**RESOLVED:**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the JMC accepted the report.</li> </ul>	
<b>115.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	<p>Members raised concerns about the state of the footpaths from the car park to the main entrance of the Park.</p> <p>Updating Members on problems in Durrants Road, Tim Speller, the Visitor Centre Manager for Queen Elizabeth Country Park, explained that improved drainage and access, and cutting back of hedges was being done by HCC highways department.</p> <p>Tim Speller informed Members that he would bring a report to the next meeting of the JMC in March 2013 on the boundary project, which was aimed at confirming the Park's boundaries.</p> <p>Members were advised that very productive meetings were taking place every couple of months with the fishermen; they had formed a club and were organizing working parties to look after the fishing area themselves.</p> <p>It was noted that Santa's Grotto, which was situated in the Gothic Library was well booked up.</p>	Tim Speller
<b>116.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
	<p>The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 25 February 2013 at 10.00 am at the Park.</p>	