AT A MEETING of the

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

held at Sir George Staunton Country Park, Havant on 28 June 2013

PRESENT

Hampshire County Council

- p Councillor Mrs. L. Fairhurst
- p Councillor Mrs A Briggs
- a Councillor R Finch
- p Councillor D Keast
- p Councillor R.C. McIntosh
- p Kerry Bailey
- a Tim Speller
- p Jane Lovett
- p Adam Owen

East Hampshire District Council

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

Havant Borough Council

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Stephen d'Este Hoare, Jeff Crate and Tim Speller.

2. 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.

		Action
3.	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN	
	Nominations were called for the post of Chairman of the Joint Management Committee. Councillor Robin MacIntosh proposed and Councillor Yvonne Weeks seconded the nomination of Councillor Liz Fairhurst.	
	RESOLVED:	
	The JMC agreed that Councillor Liz Fairhurst should serve as Chairman until June 2017.	
4.	APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN	
	Nominations were called for the post of Vice-chairman. Councillor Yvonne Weeks proposed and Councillor Robin MacIntosh seconded the nomination of Councillor Ann Briggs. RESOLVED:	
	The JMC agreed Councillor Ann Briggs should serve as Vice-chairman until June 2017.	
5.	DEPUTATIONS	
	There were no deputations.	
6.	MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.	
	Matters arising:-	
	128: The Chairman informed the Committee that the decision to offer the catering contract to HC3S was made by the Countryside Service. It was noted by Adam Owen that during the first year of the contract, no profit had been made as the introduction of new infrastructure had been necessary and it was unlikely to break even in 2013/14, its first proper trading year.	

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	128: Tim Speller would update the JMC on the Shipwright's Way at the 15 July meeting.	Tim Speller
	130: Tim Speller would update the JMC on the impact of the Angling ticket increase at the meeting on 15 July.	Tim Speller
7	FINAL ACCOUNTS 2042/42	
7.	FINAL ACCOUNTS 2012/13	
	The Honorary Treasurer presented a report on the Final Accounts for the Park for 2012/13 (item 7 in the Minute Book).	
	The Treasurer answered questions raised by Members about the report.	
	She explained that the main reason for the park's deficit of	
	£1,900 was due less to income than projected, but that	
	expenditure had come in under budget. The Park had not been	
	able to pay off anything from the deficit as anticipated. Concerns were raised that the Park was not making a profit, nor making	
	any inroads into paying off the deficit. It was also commented	
	that it would be difficult to get the Park to become cost neutral by	
	2015, which was the aim of the Countryside Service for all	
	Hampshire's Country Parks. It was noted that there had been	
	plenty of visitors, but that they were not spending. Membership	
	had increased, but it was felt that the terms of Memberships may need to be reviewed. It was generally felt that the Park was 'on	
	the up' despite the financial issues, with increased visitor	
	numbers and memberships being a positive.	
	Adam Owen provided Members with approximate cash limit	
	figures for Staunton and a number of other Country Parks for	Adam
	comparison and agreed to bring income and expenditure	Owen
	comparison figures for the Parks to the next meeting. Staunton	
	had a cash limit of £191,000 compared with Lepe of £40,000, Queen Elizabeth of £50,000, Royal Victoria of £70,000 and	
	Manor Farm of £80,000. It was noted that Staunton needs more	
	staff than the other Parks, hence its larger cash limit.	
	Answering a question on the overstated value of the farm	
	animals stock account, the Treasurer, who was new in post,	
	indicated that this appeared to be a historical overstatement that	
	it had been important to correct.	
	Referring to Appendix C, it was explained to Members that the	
	shop made £10,000 less than budgeted due to stock costing	
	more and not so much being sold.	
	It was noted that South Downs National Park had been	
	approached for contributions to the Park, and that they had	
	offered a grant to do specific works, not an annual amount.	

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	RESOLVED:	
	That the JMC endorsed the report.	
8.	SMALL BODIES ANNUAL RETURN 2012/13	
	The Honorary Treasurer presented the Annual Governance Return and Accounting Statement to the Committee (item 8 in the Minute Book).	
	The Treasurer explained that it was a legal requirement that an Annual Return, summarising the Park's financial activities during the past year, and a Committee-approved Annual Governance Statement was submitted.	
	RESOLVED:	
	 That the JMC agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2012/13 and should be signed by the Chair and Clerk. That the Accounting Statement for 2012/13 be approved and signed by the Chairman. 	
9.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	Kerry Bailey agreed to set up a 'grand tour' of the Park for Members and would email possible dates to Members. She would be arranging for the department managers to make presentations to the JMC over the next few meetings.	
	It was suggested that Members should take on the role of 'champions' for one aspect of the park – farm, retail, education, gardens, and rangers. This would be discussed at the meeting in July.	
	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
	The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday 15 July 2013 at 9.30 am at the Park.	