

Sustainable Development Fund Committee
3rd October, 2012

Present: Councillor Mrs L Jenkins, Councillor DWM Rees, Mr EA Sangster,
Mrs M Thomas, Councillor M Williams
Mmes A Robinson, W Marmara, H Murray and Mr R Smith

(National Park Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 9.30a.m. – 12.10p.m.)

1. Appointment of Chairman

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr T Sangster be appointed Chairman for the forthcoming year.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chairman

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Michael Williams be appointed Deputy Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor RM Lewis, Ms M Hughes and Ms C Daugherty.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th February 2012 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th February, 2012 be confirmed and signed.

5. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Conduct Principles

The Monitoring Officer explained that as the funding for SDF had now been brought within the Authority's revenue grant, the governance arrangements for the Committee needed to be updated. Even though only Members of the Authority would make decisions, with the remaining members of the Committee acting in an advisory capacity, he believed that everyone needed to abide by the principles of the Authority's Code of Conduct. All Advisory Members, and their substitutes, were therefore asked to sign an undertaking to do so, Members of the National Park Authority having already signed an undertaking.

7. Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

The SDF Administrator began by thanking everyone for attending the training session the previous week. The question of electronic Committee papers had been raised at the training session, and 3 Committee Members present indicated that they would be happy to receive all the paperwork electronically. The remainder were happy to receive electronic copies but requested hard copies also.



The SDF Administrator then proceeded to take the Committee through her report. The main item of note was the financial position. The Committee were informed that a large balance had been carried over into the current financial year because for a variety of justifiable reasons, as explained in the report, a number of projects were unable to spend their allocated funding. This would have an effect on the current year's budget. It was likely that even if all the project applications under consideration were approved there would remain a large uncommitted balance. With only one further Committee meeting to assess new applications before the end of the financial year and consequently a limited period to spend any funding approved there was a strong likelihood that some funding would remain uncommitted at the year end. It would be possible to carry over any potential underspend into next year's budget, however marketing of the Fund through radio and newspaper had been undertaken and would continue. Members were keen that promotion of the Fund to community groups continued and that those with potential projects be encouraged. The Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services representative also agreed to speak to the SDF Administrator to see if they could assist with promotion of the scheme.

It was **AGREED** that the report of the SDF Administrator be adopted.

8. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

The Committee considered three new applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund. The applications were considered in detail against the fund assessment criteria, following a brief presentation by each of the project applicants.

Ref No	Project Name	Presentation by	Organisation
SDF 0323	Economic Valuation of Marine Recreation Activity	David Jones	Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum
SDF 0324	Marine Wildlife Awareness Schools Road Show	Sue Burton	Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation Relevant Authorities Group
SDF 0325	Walking with Wheels	Paul Casson	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

The Chairman reminded the Committee that under its terms of reference, the decisions were to be taken by the Members of the National Park Authority, taking into consideration the views of the lay members. The Committee determined the applications as follows:



- a) **SDF 0323 – Economic Valuation of Marine Recreation Activity.**
Following discussion, the majority of the Authority Members indicated that they did not support the project, however the majority of lay members indicated that they did. When put to the vote, two Members of the Authority voted in favour, two against and one abstained. The Chairman therefore used his casting vote to reflect the view of the majority of lay Members of the Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the application be approved.

- b) **SDF 0324– Marine Wildlife Awareness Schools Road Show:**
One Member asked that links be made to the Authority’s own education work, and the SDF Administrator agreed that she would suggest this.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the application be approved.

- c) **SDF 0325 – Walking with Wheels.**
Members expressed some concern over the fact that the National Park was seen to award itself funding. However they were reassured by officers that the Welsh Government had agreed that the Authority could apply to the fund in the same way as others could.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the application be approved.