

**NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
(Extraordinary Meeting)**

4th March 2015

Present: Councillor M James (Chair)

Mr A Archer, Mr D Ellis, Ms C Gwyther, Councillor P Harries, Councillor S Hudson, Mrs G Hayward, Councillor O James, Councillor R Kilmister, Councillor RM Lewis, Councillor PJ Morgan, Councillor R Owens, Councillor D Rees, Mr AE Sangster, Mrs M Thomas, Councillor A Wilcox and Councillor M Williams.

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 11.50am – 12.35pm)

1. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor L Jenkins.

2. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Lower Solva Car Park

Members were reminded that at the meeting of the Authority on 4th February 2015 it was resolved that Solva Community Council would manage the Lower Solva car park for the 2015 season subject to the revision of the terms of the management agreement. Members had asked for a report on progress to be provided to an extraordinary NPA in early March.

Since that meeting, officers had met Solva Community Council to discuss the revised management agreement and a further revised proposal was subsequently received from Solva Community Council (SCC); this proposal had been sent by the Community Council to all Members.

The Chief Executive explained that there remained three areas of concern with regard to the proposal put forward by SCC:

- 1) they had requested that the gross income less the operating costs should be paid into the Authority's bank account, however officers stated that if the Authority were to submit VAT returns on behalf of SCC as well for itself, it was necessary for all gross income to be paid to the Authority;
- 2) SCC's definition of reasonable costs as set out in the proposal; and
- 3) the percentage of the management fee to be paid to SCC.

Turning first to SCC's request that the gross income less the operating costs be paid into the Authority's account, some Members were concerned that the Community Council had sufficient cashflow. Officers replied that in order to overcome this problem the Community Council could be provided with an advance in order to allow payment of necessary expenditure and Members were satisfied with that arrangement.

Looking at the costs set out in the agreement put forward by SCC, officers were surprised to see inclusion of additional insurance premiums, the Clerk's costs



and independent financial account audit costs. These were not considered to be reasonable costs for the Authority to reimburse and Members agreed with this assessment.

Considering the level of the management fee to be paid to SCC, the figure put forward was 40%, which Members considered to be too high. It was suggested that somewhere between 10% and 30% would be more realistic. The Finance Manager provided an illustration of the sums to be received by all parties if 25% were to be paid to SCC and this was proposed and seconded by Members of the Authority.

While some Members expressed the view that car park attendants carried out an important role in Solva, others remained concerned that preferential arrangements were being made with SCC which were not being conferred upon other Community Councils and that this was unfair and set a dangerous precedent. The Chief Executive replied that the resolution at the previous meeting had been quite clear that Solva Community Council should continue to manage the car park for the forthcoming season subject to revision of the terms of the management agreement and officers had initiated discussions to take that forward; Members concurred with this. He added that discussions were still ongoing with Pembrokeshire County Council regarding their future management of the Authority's car parks and he expected to bring a proposal resulting from those discussions to a future meeting of the Authority.

It was **RESOLVED** that Solva Community Council would manage the Lower Solva car park for the 2015 season subject to the following:

- a) gross income to be paid into the Authority's bank account;
- b) reasonable costs to amount to no more than £15,000
- c) Apportionment of the parking revenue collected to be 75% PCNPA: 25% SCC after VAT and operational costs had been deducted;
- d) if agreement of these terms had not been received from SCC by 4pm on 23rd March 2015 the Authority would resume management of the car park for the 2015 season.

