NOTES OF THE HASTINGS COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT FORUM

Milking Parlour, Hastings Country Park

29th June 2016 at 2pm

Present:



	ACTION
Welcome and Introduction	
welcomed everyone and introductions were made. He informed that due to the wet weather, the site visit following is cancelled. Should anyone like a visit around the park at another time to contact	
expressed an interest.	
Apologies	
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Notes of Previous Meeting held 24th February 2016	
Agreed as read.	
Matters arising: National Speed at Coastguard Lane: Forum recommended that the speed limit should be set at 20 mph. Signs to indicate this and to include "Drive Carefully"	to progress
Future Management of the concerns: advised that there was no further update on this but will be discussed again at the appropriate time.	
Review of meetings and structure of Hastings Country Park Management Forum and Constitution	
Principles of the Briefing paper were agreed by the Forum.	
	welcomed everyone and introductions were made. He informed that due to the wet weather, the site visit following is cancelled. Should anyone like a visit around the park at another time to contact expressed an interest. Apologies Notes of Previous Meeting held 24 th February 2016 Agreed as read. Matters arising: National Speed at Coastguard Lane: Forum recommended that the speed limit should be set at 20 mph. Signs to indicate this and to include "Drive Carefully" Future Management of the concerns: advised that there was no further update on this but will be discussed again at the appropriate time. Review of meetings and structure of Hastings Country Park Management Forum and Constitution

It was agreed that Councillor as lead member would chair the Forum meetings and the Council's Cabinet Appointment Committee would appoint a Vice Chair. The forum agreed to 3 meetings in the year – February, to amend June and November. All meetings on a Wednesday at Constitution accordingly 2pm. to send requests to Forum and to include on ModGov. Any additional meetings can be arranged as required with agreement of the Chair. It was proposed that the Constitution be taken to Cabinet Agenda Planning Committee (CAP) 4. **Management Update** went through his paper. Cattle: White cattle removed and replaced with 5 Belted Galloway cattle purchased. Cattle registered with our Graziers. The Council will pay for any vets bills that may arise. A rota will be set up with the Friends of Hastings Country Park for checking the cattle to ensure they are well. Ponies: Costs for the hire of the Exmoor ponies will be reviewed. We may consider purchasing ponies as an option. Heavy Horses: The horses received widespread press coverage - they will return again in September as part of the annual management of bracken. Cllrs expressed that more schools should get involved in taking children to visit HCP. will progress with requested HCP be included in the developing Cllr Cultural Strategy. appropriate HBC Officers said we should contact Plumpton/Hadlow. informed that we do work with Plumpton and have had students as trainees. also informed that we had students from Hastings College but it didn't sustain itself. European Funding: There is two dependencies relating to EU funding at HCP – Higher Level Stewardship and Visitor Centre Project. It is understood that the monies for the stewardship

agreements will be honoured. Clarification is needed from Natural England but they have implied that as our scheme was in place, funds are already allocated. informed that the Stewardship payments are formed of two sums; The Higher Level Stewardship of approximately £22,000 and the Basic Payment Scheme of £22,000. Both payments are EU funded. Visitor Centre – we are working with Groundwork South to secure funds from Interreg funding programme. The final application will be submitted in December 2016. External Officers who coordinate European funding applications have advised to pursue "business as usual" Concerns were expressed with regard to the planning application for the Visitor Centre in that it lasts for 3 years. We need to show that work has commenced otherwise we to check with will have to reapply to comply with the Planning planning Application. suggested that we have a ground breaking ceremony for the new Visitor Centre. Planning Officer to attend (maybe in the Autumn) - we need to be confident that we are going ahead with the build. asked if we could have a contingency plan in process as there is a lot of interest with a new Visitor Centre. We could always revert to Modular build as it does not need planning permission. Lund Fund Grant: informed that we were successful in being awarded £8,400 – these funds will contribute to replanting a native hedge; heather seed spreading to regenerate costal heath habitat and spreading green hay on pasture fields. The Forum thanked in her efforts in achieving this grant fund award. Ecclesbourne Glen: informed that ESCC continues to work with HBC in improving the access in Ecclesbourne Glen. Bridges and culverts are being replaced over Definitive Public Rights of Way to ensure the Glen is open for visitors. **Friends Update**

informed that the Friends had their AGM on the 1st
June. Two members have resigned and two new members

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3.	Date of next meeting 23 rd November 2016 at 2.30pm.	
	stated that it is part of the Neighbourhood plan that Rother are involved with for potential housing. It is not an immediate concern and completely speculative.	For Note
	Cllr receiving concerns for the proposed planning application the other side of the Firehills (Fairlight).	
	Cllr requested that the gorse cuttings be removed from the Firehills.	to contact TLG
	Cllr asked to note action for consideration but bear in mind of cost implications.	to discuss with
	suggested putting sleepers here.	
	Cllr — Car park at the VC. The car park is being used late in the evening and large holes is being torn up. He is concerned that members of the public could have an accident by falling into the holes. He asked if we could have an access barrier and that the toilets are locked.	
' -	Any Other Business	
	Next Friends committee is on the 6 th September at 7pm at the Milking Parlour.	
	Publicise on facebook to get a much wider participation.	
	Programme of events which rangers will oversee.	
	is working on a rota for the cattle inspection. 10 tasks in the Country Park by Volunteers. Information to be shared with forum and all councillors.	
	The newsletter was received very well by members – it is hoped that the next newsletter will be in September. HBC facilitated the publication of their last newsletter Any articles to be sent to first before publicising.	
	The new treasurer is The new editor for the Friends Newsletter is	