

**AGENDA ITEM No. 2**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting:** **Urgent Business Items Sub-Committee**

**Date:** 9.30 am 28 September 2001

**Venue:** Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

**Chair:** Cllr G M Doughty

**Present:** Cllr T Bagshaw. Mr A Brown, Mrs L Crowe, Mr A D Hams Mrs T Heathcote,  
Cllr J M T Sutcliffe.

**Apologies for Absence:** Mr G R Adams, Cllr J A Bull, Cllr D B Taylor.

**23/01 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item No 5 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraphs 8 and 9 "Information relating expenditure and property negotiations by the Authority".**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT NATIONAL PARK OFFICER – HEAD OF RECREATION**

**24/01 CORPORATE PROJECT – NEW CASTLETON VISITOR CENTRE (A.214/AG)**

The Authority had been offered a grant of £384,000 towards this project from the Objective 2 European Regional Development Fund. One of the conditions of the grant was that match funding had to be secured by 1 October 2001. Matched funding had been secured apart from £53,00 which was expected from the Derbyshire Environmental Trust and from the voluntary sector.

To secure the grant offer it was proposed that the Authority underwrites the matched funding amounting to £263,000 which includes the awaited funding of £53,000. This would not have any impact on the current year's budget.

In addition approval was requested to include in the negotiations with the occupier a payment for the future partial loss of income. This had been discussed with the District Valuer who had advised on the original purchase package.

Mr Kirkham addressed the meeting expressing concern that this matter was being dealt with by the Sub-Committee rather than a special meeting of the Resources Committee. This would be consistent with decision made by the Resources Committee in July when it considered the Objective 2 bids. The request for additional funding needed to enable the assignment of the lease to be completed should be first considered by the Park Management Committee. He was also concerned that the Resources Committee had not considered a business plan for the project.

In response it was explained that the matter needed urgent action and was within the functions of the Sub-Committee. The underwriting of the matched funding was urgently needed to secure the ERDF grant offer. It would not make any additional demand on this year's budget and did not commit the Authority to the acceptance of grants offers or expenditure on the project. The additional item required for negotiation of the assignment of the lease could be found from the current project budget. There would be no commitment to the project until a further report had been considered by the Resources Committee which would include a business plan for the operating expenditure and income over the future years.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That approval be given to the Assistant National Park Officer, Head of Recreation to give Government Office for the East Midlands a statement by 1 October 2001 which underwrites the Authority's match funding requirement of £263,000 which includes the current amount awaited from other sources of £53,000 for the Castleton Visitor Centre.**
- 2. That the issue relating to the Occupiers loss of future income from the assignment of the lease as detailed in the report be resolved by means of an additional payment to the assignor, not to exceed the amount stated in the report on terms to be approved by the Assistant National Park Officer, Secretary and Solicitor and the Assistant National Park Officer – Head of Recreation.**
- 3. That a report be made on the project to the next meeting of the Resources Committee as referred to in paragraph 1.24 of the report before authorising the letting of contracts.**

Meeting ended at 9.55 am