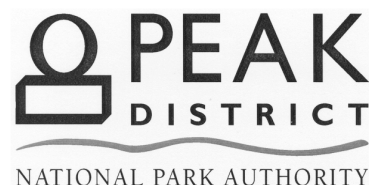


Tel: 01629 816200
Fax: 01629 816310
E-mail: customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk
Web: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk
Minicom: 01629 816319
Aldern House . Baslow Road . Bakewell . Derbyshire . DE45 1AE



AGENDA ITEM No. 3

MINUTES

Meeting: National Park Authority Meeting

Date: 7 December 2007

Venue: Losehill Hall Castleton Derbyshire

Chair: Mr N Bajaria

Present: Mrs A Ashe, Miss P Beswick, Clr D Barker, Clr Mrs J Bevan, Mr C Carr, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Clr A Favell, Clr Mrs H M Gaddum, Mr A D Hams, Prof J Herbert, Clr A Marchington, Clr C McLaren, Mr G Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Mrs K M Potter, Mr R Priestley, Mrs S Prince, Mr L Rix, Clr Mrs J Twigg, Clr R Wilkinson, Clr B J Wilson.

Apologies for absence: Clr T Bristowe, Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe, Clr E Wain.

102/07 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed the government's announcement of a three year financial settlement for the Authority of 4.2%, 2.9% and 2.75%. The Minister had recognised that National Parks were a special place that needed sustainable funding. It was expected that the Authority would be involved in greater partnership working.

The Authority's representation on housing allocations in the National Park to the inquiry on the Regional Spatial Strategy had been accepted by the Inspector. The strategy included in principle support for improvements to the A628 road.

He referred to the publication of the new Design Guide and the Authority's recent Design Awards. The overall winner was the Design Museum, café and visitor centre at the David Mellor Cutlery Factory, Hathersage. The building also won the design category in the Friends of the Peak District Countryside Awards with the Peak Experience themed cultural trails guides winning the countryside interpretation category.

He welcomed John Fearn the new Head of Communications and Fiona Wallace Head of Losehill Hall. Matthew Croney had been appointed as the new Head of Property.

Members were reminded about the importance of following the guidance note on committee procedure that had been issued.

The Chair mentioned the recent death of Eric Robinson, a retired employee, who had worked as an Estate worker at Losehill Hall. Clr Priestley, Mr Robinson's brother in law, spoke about his working life and his contribution to the local community.

The Chair had recently had meetings with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Derbyshire Dales District Council and the Leader and Chief Executive of High Peak Borough Council. Meetings with other constituent councils are being arranged.

103/07 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 October 2007 as amended below were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

MINUTE 94/07 10.2 MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES AND TASK TEAMS (A.111/RMM)

Delete the word "Management" and insert the word "Monitoring" in Resolution 4.

104/07 MATTERS ARISING

MINUTE 61/07 MATTERS ARISING

MINUTE 50/07 8.1 RESPONSE TO THE A628 MOTTRAM - TINTWISTLE BYPASS 2007. (A811/SAT)

Meetings had been held to consider the Highways Agency new evidence. The inquiry process was likely to be delayed until April 2008.

MINUTE 62/07 9.1 FULL APPLICATION - CONTINUED EXTRACTION OF STONE FROM EXISTING QUARRY, EXTRACTION OF STONE FROM LAND TO WEST OF EXISTING QUARRY, PROVISIONS OF SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING AND RESTORATION OF EXISTING QUARRY AND PROPOSED EXTENSION. DALE VIEW QUARRY, STANTON IN PEAK (NP/DDD/0606/0613/JEH)

It was reported that the S.106 agreement had been drafted and when this is completed the revocation process will proceed.

Mrs Potter expressed her thanks to the staff for the successful outcome of this case.

MINUTE 95/07 10.4 REVIEW OF MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (A111/RMM)

A meeting had been arranged with the Local Government East Midlands to discuss the Member Development Charter.

STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

105/07 7.1 QUARRYING AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN 2382/JJL/DGB/GPR)

Mr R Priestley declared a personal interest in this application as a haulage operator.

This report advised the meeting of the current quarrying situation at Backdale and Wagers Flat, Longstone Edge and outlined the legal matters arising. The Director reported that the Planning Inspectorate had decided that the nullity issue on the enforcement notice at Wagers Flat would be dealt with by written representations.

It was explained that the 50,000 tons of limestone referred to in paragraph 11 of the report was made up of 17,000 tons that had left the site and 33,000 tons that remained on the site.

Mr J Lambert Save Longstone Edge Group and Dr A Tickle CPRE Friends of the Peak District addressed the meeting under the Public Participation Scheme and answered questions from Members. Both speakers supported the action being taken and urged the Authority to serve a Stop Notice as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

1. **That the continued unresolved enforcement and other legal action to prevent unlawful quarrying activity at Longstone Edge be noted with concern and that further action be considered under exempt business at the meeting.**
2. **That the Minerals and Legal teams be thanked for their work on this case.**

106/07 8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item Nos. 9, 10 & 11 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3 "Information relating to the financial affairs of the Authority" and Paragraph 5 "Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings".

Summary

STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

107/07 9.1. QUARRYING AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)

The meeting considered a report and a supplementary report on the current financial and legal matters arising from quarrying issues at Backdale and Wagers Flat, Longstone Edge.

The decision of the Meeting is recorded in the PART B Exempt Minutes relating to this item.

108/07 9.2 BACKDALE LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)

This report gave an assessment of the current quarrying activities at Backdale Longstone Edge.

The decision of the Meeting is recorded in the PART B Exempt Minutes relating to this item.

109/07 10. EXEMPT MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the meetings held on 5 October 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

110/07 11. SERVICES COMMITTEE EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meetings of the Services Committee held on 26th October 2007 be received.

The meeting then re-opened to the Public.

The meeting adjourned at 1.05pm and reconvened at 2:50pm.

Chair: Mr N Bajaria

Present: Mrs A Ashe, Miss P Beswick, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Clr Mrs H M Gaddum, Mr A D Hams, Prof J Herbert, Clr A Marchington, Mr G Nickolds Mr R Priestley, Mrs S Prince, Mr L Rix, Clr R Wilkinson, Clr B J Wilson.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

111/07 12.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY, REPORTING FRAMEWORK AND OPTIONS FOR ACCREDITATION (A595/JBD)

This report gave progress to date on a more structured and all-embracing approach to environmental management in the Authority and especially the actions taken pursuant to the Authority resolutions of 9 February 2007. It reported 'quick wins'; proposed an environmental policy that incorporated actions in line with our Nottingham Declaration commitment; proposed a reporting framework for environmental information; and make recommendations for taking the programme forward.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the established good environmental practices, including examples of best practice and recently achieved 'quick wins' in paragraphs 3-5 of the report be noted and that lessons be learned from these.**
- 2. The Environmental Policy at Annex 1 of the report be adopted.**
- 3. That the environmental monitoring framework at paragraph 8 of the report be noted as a reasonable balance between comprehensive reporting and cost-effectiveness and that the first report be brought to Audit and Performance Committee 25 January 2008 and annually thereafter.**

4. That the Authority's limited time and resources be focused on an 'action-based approach' to environmental management rather than an externally accredited scheme, but that we should, wherever possible benchmark ourselves against requirements of our own schemes such as EQM and our obligations under the Nottingham Declaration and other requirements on local authorities and other public bodies.
5. That a report be brought to the Authority no later than December 2008 on a wider strategy for addressing impacts of and adaptation and mitigation to climate change within the National Park.
6. That a report be brought to Services Committee 25 January 2008 setting out proposals to support the development of environmental management, in line with the Authority's allocation of financial resources of £20 000 per year for 2 years.
7. That staff who have actively contributed action towards the quick wins and preparation of this report be thanked.

112/07 12.2 INCORPORATION OF THE ENGLISH NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATION (A956/JBD)

The meeting considered a proposal to incorporate the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) as a Company Limited by Guarantee and the appointment of the Chair of the Authority as a Director.

Paragraph 4 of the report was amended with the deletion of the words "with all staff formally employed by the North Yorkshire Moors NPA".

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposals to incorporate the English National Park Authorities Association as a not for profit Company Limited by Guarantee be supported, subject to no significant matters being raised by the Head of Law.
2. That the Chief Executive be authorised to approve the detailed Memorandum and Articles of Association at an Extraordinary General Meeting of ENPAA following agreement with the Head of Law.
3. That an in principle commitment to making a financial contribution to the English National Park Authorities Association for a 3 year period in line with the current annual subscription be agreed.
4. That the Chair of the Authority be appointed as one of the non executive Directors of the Company Limited by Guarantee in line with his appointment as the Authority's representative on ENPAA.

113/07 12.3 ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES CONFERENCE, BUXTON, 19-21 SEPTEMBER 2007 (A.11911/JBD)

The Meeting considered a report of the 2007 National Parks Conference.

RESOLVED

1. That the evaluation report and final budget be noted.

2. That thanks be expressed formally to the members of the task team; to all staff, volunteers and members who helped; to partners who helped on tours; to the speakers, chairs and other contributors; the staff of The Conference People, The Palace Hotel and the University of Derby; and to the sponsors who generously supported the event.
3. That the Authority also express its appreciation of the contribution made by John Thompson former Director of Recreation & Education, Jim Dixon the Chief Executive and Tony Hams, former Chair of the Authority.

CORPORATE RESOURCES

114/07 13.1 UPDATE ON 2008/09 BUDGET PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT ISSUES (A/137/RMM)

This report updated Members on the key issues identified in planning for the 2008/09 budget as reported to the Authority in October and requested support for some establishment changes in accordance with the proposals for a balanced budget at a 2% or 0% settlement.

The final budget report in February will take into consideration the recent 4.2% settlement.

RESOLVED:

1. That the update on key issues in planning for the 2008/09 budget identified at paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the report be noted.
2. That a final budget report based on the proposals considered by the Authority in October 2007 and on further discussions with Members as a result of the final settlement be submitted to the February Authority meeting.
3. That the following posts be made permanent from 1 April 2008 so that confirmation to existing postholders can be given:
 - a) Planning Assistant Scale F/H.
 - b) Communications Officer, 18.5 hours pw, Scale F.
4. That the grade of the post of Planning Technician be reviewed with:
 - a) Phase one changes being backdated to 17 September 2007 to reflect delegated responsibilities from this date.
 - b) Phase two being implemented during 2008 with any changes in grade, if appropriate, effective from a date in 2008 as agreed with the Head of HR and Performance and Director of Strategy and Development.
5. That the Resources Management Team be complimented for their work on the budget and also the Chief Executive for his contribution to achieving a favourable 3 year financial settlement for the Authority.

115/07 13.2 STANDARDS COMMITTEE – INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP & APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER (A.1118/EWJ)

This report updated the Authority on changes to the current framework for standards in local government. The Authority was requested to agree to the increase in the membership of the Standards Committee and the appointment of an additional Independent Member to enable the Committee to handle the new procedures for considering complaints under the Members Code of Conduct which will be operative from 1st April 2008.

RESOLVED:

1. That the changes to the functions of the Standards Committee under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 be noted.
2. That the membership of the Standards Committee be increased to 9 members by the appointment of two Members of the Authority and one Independent Member.
3. That Cllr A Marchington and Miss P Beswick be appointed to the Standards Committee.
4. That the Chair of the Authority, the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee and Ms P Coleman be appointed as a panel to interview applicants for the position of an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.
4. That the Chair of the Authority be authorised to appoint a substitute Member to the interview panel if necessary.
5. That the panel make a recommendation to the Authority meeting in February 2008 for an appointment for a period of four years.
6. That all attendances by the panel members for short listing and interviewing purposes be an approved duty for the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances.

116/07 14. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Committees be received:

Planning Committee – 26th September & 19th October 2007

Services Committee 14th September & 26th October 2007

Audit & Performance Committee 14th September & 26th October 2007

The Meeting closed at 3.55 pm