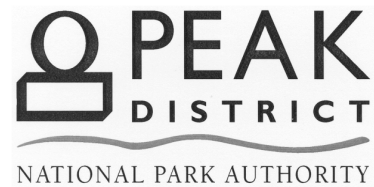


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AGENDA ITEM No. 3

MINUTES

Meeting: National Park Authority Meeting

Date: 28 March 2008

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow, Road, Bakewell.

Chair: Mr N Bajaria

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

Apologies for absence: Clr C McLaren, Clr J Muir, Clr R Wilkinson.

14/08 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair paid tribute to Tony Hams who was retiring as a Member of the Authority after 10 years service. During that time he was Chair of the Authority for 5 years. Mrs Potter, Clr Mrs Gaddum and Mrs Prince on behalf of the Members all spoke about his achievements through his inspirational leadership, steering the Authority through major changes, the improvement in relations with the Parishes and the communities and the raising of the national profile of the Authority.

The High Court decision on the Backdale appeal was a disappointment. An urgent meeting had been held with the Defra Minister Jonathan Shaw.

The Chair had attended a Defra seminar on climate change. The Minister, government agencies and other National Park Authority Chairs also attended.

Congratulations were offered to Kirklees Borough Council for achieving the Local Government Chronicle's "Council of the Year" award. Derbyshire County Council was highly commended. Barnsley Borough Council won the "Leadership and Place Shaping Award".

A meeting had been held with Cllr John Williams the Leader of Derbyshire County Council. Further meetings will be held between officers and the Cabinet Member to discuss road signs in the National Park.

The had attended the international business conference arranged by the European Union-funded BESST (Business and the Environment linked through Small Scale Tourism) project. He was very impressed with the international joint working that the Authority led project had achieved.

15/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 February 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16/08 MATTERS ARISING

MINUTE 3/08 MATTERS ARISING

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 not yet been completed. The company were being pressed to bring the matter to a conclusion.

STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

17/08 7.1 QUARRYING AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)

This report advised the meeting of the legal developments concerning limestone extraction at Longstone Edge following the High Court hearing on 27-29 February 2008. Discussions with the Authority's Counsel and with Defra were continuing, and a transcript of the judge's decision was awaited. An update on those matters was given later at the meeting in the consideration of a Part B exempt report.

The following addressed the meeting under the Public Participation Scheme:

Stephen Barton Great Longstone Parish Council
John Lambert SLEG
Dr Andy Tickle, CPRE Friends of the Peak District

All the speakers expressed their concerns about the judgement and urged the Authority to appeal against the decision if sufficient grounds of appeal could be found.

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin MP for West Derbyshire was invited by the Chair to speak to the meeting. He said that he appreciated the difficulties that the Authority found itself in and that he had spoken to Ministers to express his concerns. He felt that the government should now take the lead to have the High Court decision overturned.

RESOLVED:

That the outcome of the High Court hearing held on 27-29 February 2008 be noted as a significant cause of concern and that further action be considered under exempt business at the meeting.

18/08 8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item No.9.1 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

19/08 9.1 QUARRYING ISSUES AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)

The meeting considered a report on the legal and financial matters arising from the Authority's actions to prevent what has been considered to be unlawful quarrying at Backdale and Wagers Flat, Longstone Edge. This report provided an update on the outcome of the High Court hearing on 27-29 February 2008 and on discussions with Counsel, and on a meeting with Defra Minister Jonathan Shaw MP. The planning and financial implications were explained.

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

The meeting adjourned at 1.05pm and reconvened at 1.35pm

Chair: Mr N Bajaria

Present: Mrs A Ashe, Clr D Barker, Miss P Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bevan, Mr C Carr, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Clr A Favell, Mr C Fearn, Mr A D Hams, Prof J Herbert, Clr A Marchington, Mr G Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Clr Mrs S Prince, Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe, Mr L Rix, Clr Mrs S Roberts, Clr Mrs J Twigg, Clr B J Wilson.

Mr Hams responded to earlier comments from the Chair and Members acknowledging his service with the Authority. He said that it had been a privilege to be a Member and Chair and that the Authority had made some outstanding achievements during his period of office. He mentioned the introduction of open access to the countryside, the Moors for the Future and the New Environmental Economy projects and the improved working relations with the parishes. He thanked the Members and officers for the support that they had given him over the years.

Members congratulated and paid tribute to Ken Parker the Director of Operations who was retiring after 37 years service with the Authority.

STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

20/08 12.1 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL PARK (A.5912/JC)

This report summarised the process and methodology used in undertaking the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) of the National Park in 2007/08. It described the key elements of the LCA and outlined the proposed timetable to develop a Landscape Strategy and Action Plan to be delivered by 31st March 2009.

Jonathan Porter, the Authority's consultant, gave a presentation to the meeting.

Dr Andy Tickle from the Friends of the Peak District addressed the meeting under the Public Participation Scheme supporting the adoption of the Assessment.

RESOLVED:

- 1. The Landscape Character Assessment of the National Park be approved as the descriptive phase of developing the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan.**
- 2. That the proposed timetable, process and scope for the development of a Landscape Strategy and Action Plan be agreed.**
- 3. That the Landscape Character Assessment be adopted as an interim document for informing planning decision making.**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

21/08 10.1 RURAL TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIPS FUTURES (A8705/ED)

The meeting considered developments in the future of Rural Transport Partnerships (RTPs) since the previous Authority report of 30 March 2007, including the impacts of these on the current Hope Valley and High Peak Transport Partnership (HVHPTP) team, who are employed by the Authority. The Authority was requested to consider Member representation and the provision of funding towards relevant future partnerships.

Cllr Favell expressed thanks to Mrs Anne Ashe and Emily Davies for their work on the transport partnerships.

The following members declared personal interests in this item:

Mrs A Ashe as the current chair of Hope Valley and High Peak Transport Partnership.

Clr A Favell as a member of High Peak Borough Council

Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe as a member of Derbyshire County Council

Clr Mrs J Twigg as a member of Derbyshire County Council

Clr Mrs B J Wilson as a member of Derbyshire County Council

Clr Mrs T Critchlow as a member of Derbyshire County Council

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the proposed cessation of RTPs and establishment of new partnerships to continue and add value to the good work begun by RTPs be noted.**
- 2. That the Authority Member representation, without deputies, and officer representation on selected new partnerships and the budgetary implications, as outlined in the report be approved.**
- 3. That Members be appointed to the Partnerships as follows:**

**Hope Valley & High Peak
Community Rail Partnership
Management Group**

Clr A Favell

**Derbyshire Dales and High Peak
Accessibility Partnership
Management Group**

Clr Mrs J Bevan

**Derwent Valley Community Rail
Partnership Management Group**

Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe

4. **That attendance at all Partnership Meetings be an approved duty for the purposes of the Members Allowances Scheme.**
5. **That the Chief Executive and Head of Law be delegated authority to approve and enter into Memoranda of Agreement for selected new partnerships, as outlined in the report.**
6. **That the officer advice in the report that TUPE does not apply to any of the existing HVHPTP posts, so they will be disestablished with effect from 31 March 2008, be endorsed.**
7. **That the transfer of any budget remaining for the HVHPTP to Derbyshire County Council as the Accountable Body for the proposed High Peak and Derbyshire Dales Accessibility Partnership and the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership be approved.**
8. **That the staff at the Hope Valley & High Peak Transport Partnership be thanked for their services with the Authority.**

CORPORATE RESOURCES

22/08 11.1 EMPLOYMENT POLICIES (A12/DJU)

This report requested the Authority to approve a further 4 employment policies.

RESOLVED:

1. **That the following employment policies annexed to the report be approved:**
Annex 1: Learning and Development Policy
Annex 2: Succession Planning Policy
Annex 3: Flexible Working Policy
Annex 4: Family Friendly Policy
And that the employment contracts of all relevant staff be amended.
2. **That the new/updated policies become effective on 1 May 2008 to allow for an appropriate launch to all staff and manager briefings.**

23/08 11.2 EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER (A.111/RMM)

This report asked Members to consider signing up to the East Midlands Member Development Charter.

In October 2007 the Authority approved (Min Ref:95/07) as part of a report on a review of Member training and development that further consideration, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, be given to the Authority signing up to the Member Development Charter through Local Government East Midlands.

RESOLVED

- 1, **That the Authority sign up to the East Midlands Member Development Charter.**

2. **That Mrs P Coleman be appointed as a Member Representative for Member Learning and Development as described at Annex 2 of the report, with a review in October 2008 as part of the annual review of all Member Representative roles.**

3. **That the Member Representative role be an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.**

24/08 11.3 PROTOCOL ON PLANNING – DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND PLANNING POLICY – REVISED VERSION (A.1118/EWJ)

This report requests the meeting to adopt a revised Planning Protocol as a consequence of the introduction of the new Members' Code of Conduct.

The Director of Corporate Resources clarified that the question from a Member on site notices would be addressed by the Director of Strategy and Development and the Head of Planning and was not relevant to the discussion on the Protocol item.

In adopting the revised Protocol officers were requested to make it clear in the final version that in paragraph 15 a Member with a prejudicial interest in an item had to leave the meeting room only for that item. Paragraph 17 also needed to be made clearer to explain that officers would assist the Planning Committee to define reasons for rejecting an officer's recommendations.

RESOLVED

That, subject to clarification of the points referred to above, the revised Protocol on Planning Development Control and Planning Policy as set out in Annex 1 of the report be adopted.

25/08 9. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Committees be received:

Planning Committee – 18th January & 15th February 2008

Services Committee - 8th February 2008

Audit & Performance Committee – 25th January 2008

26/08 14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item No.15 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 a particular person".

27/08 15. SERVICES COMMITTEE EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meetings of the Services Committee held on 8th February 2008 be received.

The Meeting closed at 4.00pm