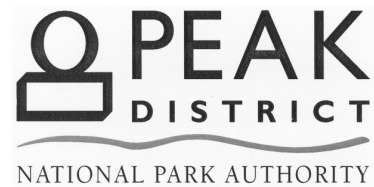


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**AGENDA ITEM No. 3**

**MINUTES**

Meeting:

**National Park Authority Special Meeting**

Date:

12 September 2008 at 9.30am.

Venue:

Aldern House, Baslow, Road, Bakewell.

Chair:

Mr N Balaria

Present:

Mrs A Ashe, Miss P M Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bevan, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Clr Mrs H M Gaddum, Prof J Herbert, Clr C McLaren, Clr A Marchington, Clr J Muir, Mr C Pennell, Mrs K M Potter, Mr R Priestley, Clr Mrs S Roberts, Clr Mrs J A Twigg, Clr R Wilkinson, Clr B J Wilson (*from 9.40am*).

Apologies for absence:

Clr T Bagshaw, Mr H Bowell, Mr C Carr, Clr A Favell, Mr G Nickolds, Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe and Mr L Rix.

**66/08 URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair reported that there were no items of urgent business to consider.

**67/08 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair reported that no members of the public had given notice to speak.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**68/08 1. AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES – CHESHIRE COUNCILS (A.11/EWJ/JBD)**

Clr Mrs H M Gaddum declared a personal interest as a member of the Shadow Council for Cheshire East.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and tabled two further consultation replies received from Authority Member Clr A Favell and Tom Levitt, MP for High Peak. Clr Favell recommended that High Peak Borough Council should be allocated 2 seats on the Authority rather than Cheshire East and Tom Levitt recommended that the 'vacant' seat be allocated to High Peak Borough Council as first choice or to Derbyshire County Council as second choice. The Chief Executive stated that if Members felt that one available seat should go to a council other than Cheshire East then this should be put forward by formal response together with a letter to MPs and Ministers from the Chair.

Clr Wilkinson reported that comments from Derbyshire County Council on this issue had been sent by email. The Chief Executive confirmed that the email had not been received, however Clr Wilkinson was able to provide a copy and this was tabled for Members to consider. Unfortunately the comments were unclear and the relevant contacts at Derbyshire County Council (DCC) were unavailable to clarify their position

when DCC was contacted during the meeting. Therefore it was agreed to note the receipt of the comments but as they had not been clarified they were not considered as a formal response.

Members considered and debated the report and the current representation on the Authority. They were concerned about the possible loss of links with the North West region by Cheshire East only having one representative on the Authority but were also aware that High Peak had a larger area and resident population within the National Park. A motion for the Authority's response to the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) to be for the one additional seat to be given to High Peak Borough Council, and including the letter to MPs and Ministers, was moved and seconded.

Some concern was expressed about the geographical representation of Members, in particular by Secretary of State appointed Members, and an amendment to the motion was proposed to include in the response to the CLG a request to the Secretary of State to consider the geographical knowledge of applicants when appointing to the Authority. However the Chief Executive stated that discussions would be taking place during the year regarding national interests, including during the recruitment of Secretary of State members, and it may not be prudent to raise the issue this way. Therefore the amendment was not seconded and was withdrawn.

The motion was then voted on and carried. Cllr Mrs H M Gaddum requested that her vote against the motion be recorded.

**RESOLVED:**

**That a response be made to the Department of Communities and Local Government on the proposals for future membership of the Authority following the introduction of unitary councils in Cheshire in 2009, together with a letter to MPs of the Peak District and Ministers, stating that only one seat on the Authority should be allocated to Cheshire East and that the remaining seat on the Authority should be allocated to High Peak Borough Council.**

The meeting ended at 10.38am.