

AGENDA ITEM No.

MINUTES

<u>Meeting:</u>	National Park Authority Meeting
<u>Date:</u>	3 October 2008
<u>Venue:</u>	Aldern House Baslow Road Bakewell Derbyshire
<u>Chair:</u>	Mr N Bajaria
<u>Present:</u>	Mrs A Ashe, Clr T Bagshaw, Miss P Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bevan, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Prof J Herbert, Clr A Marchington, Clr C McLaren, Mr G Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Mr R Priestley, Mrs S Prince Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe, Mr L Rix, Mrs L C Roberts, Clr Mrs S Roberts, Clr Mrs J A Twigg, Clr R Wilkinson, Clr Mrs B J Wilson.
<u>Apologies for absence:</u>	Mr C J Howell, Mr C Carr, Clr A Favell, Clr Mrs H M Gaddum, Mrs K Potter, Clr Mrs D Ward, Clr Mrs D Wilde.

69/08 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed Mrs Lesley Roberts a parish member who had been appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State after election by the parishes.

The ANPA conference in the Lake District had been very successful with some useful side meetings. Meetings had been held with the Board of Natural England as well as a meeting with the Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, the Secretary of State for the Environment and Jonathan Shaw MP the Environment Minister.

He had attended the Europarc Conference in Romania which had concentrated on sharing experiences in the management of protected landscapes in Europe.

Phil Hope MP, the Minister for the East Midlands, had recently visited the National Park. Meetings were held with the Local Government Minister, John Heeley MP and also the shadow cabinet of the Cheshire East Council where regional issues were discussed. Arrangements are being made for the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to meet with the Authority Chair and Chief Executive.

Consultation workshops were being held around the National Park on the Local Development Framework and the Landscape Strategy. Planning surgeries will also be held in October.

Community visits were being held. The first one in Hartington had provided an opportunity to meet community representative to discuss matters of local concern.

Other future meetings had been arranged with the Chair and Chief Executive of EMDA; a visit by the English Heritage Commissioners; a meeting with the Chief Executive of the RSPB and a meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of Natural England.

70/08 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 June 2008 and 12 September 2008, amended as below, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

27th June 2008: Add “Mrs A Ashe” to the list of Members present at the meeting. Delete “Mrs A Ashe” from the list of Apologies for absence.

12 September 2008: Add “Mrs S Prince” to the list of Apologies for absence.

71/08 **MATTERS ARISING**

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

The Chief Executive reported that a letter had been sent to the Minister informing him of the Authority’s view.

72/08 **7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item Nos 8 & 9 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”.

Part B

73/08 **8. EXEMPT MINUTES**

The exempt minutes of the meetings held on 27 June 2008, amended as below, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Add “Mrs A Ashe” to the list of Members present at the meeting. Delete “Mrs A Ashe” from the list of Apologies for absence.

58/01 **10.1 QUARRYING ISSUES AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)**

In the third paragraph delete the word “advised”.

At the end of the last paragraph add the words “Members also sought clarification and explanation of restoration issues.”

STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

Summary

74/08 **9. 1 QUARRYING ISSUES AT LONGSTONE EDGE (MIN.2382/JJL)**

The meeting considered a report on the present position to find a permanent solution to the concerns raised by the 1952 planning permission for mineral extraction at Longstone Edge.

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

Part A The meeting re-opened to the public.

The Chair proposed that Item 11.1 be considered next as there were members of the public waiting to speak on the item or listen to the debate.

OPERATIONS

75/08 11.1 REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY TO MANAGE RECREATIONAL VEHICULAR USE OF UNSURFACED HIGHWAYS AND OFF ROAD USE IN THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK (A.7622/MJR)

This report reviewed the progress of actions under the Peak District National Park Authority's strategy to manage recreational vehicular use of unsurfaced highways and address off road use in the National Park.

Chris Furness addressed the meeting on behalf of Bradwell, Abney, Brough and Shatton Parish Councils under the Public Participation Scheme. He referred to conflicting statements in the Policy and Procedures about the circumstances when the Authority would consider making Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

Officers explained that the Authority reserved the right to make TROs as a last resort within the Defra framework.

RESOLVED

1. **That progress on the strategy to manage recreational vehicular use of unsurfaced highways and off-road use in the Peak District National Park, as summarised in this report, be noted.**
2. **That officers continue to develop work programmes based on the strategy with relevant partner organisations.**

The meeting adjourned at 1.00 pm and reconvened at 1.40pm.

Chair: Mr N Bajaria

Present: Mrs A Ashe, Clr T Bagshaw, Miss P Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bevan, Ms P Coleman, Clr Mrs T Critchlow, Prof J Herbert, Mr G Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Mr R Priestley, Mrs S Prince, Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe, Mrs L C Roberts, Clr Mrs S Roberts, Clr Mrs J A Twigg, Clr R Wilkinson.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

76/08 10.1 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK, REFINED OPTIONS STAGE (A.6101/AG/BJT)

The meeting was requested to authorise officers to run a programme of consultation on Refined Options proposals as the next stage in the preparation of the Local Development Framework (LDF); and to formalise current milestones agreed with the Plans Review Task Team (PRTT) for the LDF programme into a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) for submission to Government Office East Midlands (GOEM).

The Chief Executive gave assurances that the revised Local Development Scheme, even if minor changes were proposed, will be submitted to an Authority meeting for approval after October 2009 before being submitted to the Secretary of State.

If Members wanted to propose an ideal model for Member involvement in the process this will be considered. Members were asked to provide the Chief Executive with ideas.

Members were informed that a workshop on the Local Development Framework had been arranged for 24th October 2008

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed process of consultation on Refined Options proposals as the next stage in the preparation of the LDF Core Strategy be agreed.
2. That the current milestones for the Local Development Framework programme as proposed by the LDF Project Board and supported by the Plans Review Task Team be agreed and that authority be delegated to the Plans Review Task Team to approve a revised Local Development Scheme being prepared by officers for submission to Government Office for the East Midlands.

77/08 10.2 CONSULTATION RESPONSE FOR GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN: REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS) 8 (PTA/A.61442)

The meeting was requested to agree a response to a consultation by the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) on proposed changes to the East Midlands Regional Plan, following its consideration of the Panel Report from the 2007 Examination in Public. The response was in line with the Authority's position on spatial and development matters as approved in the earlier response to the Draft Regional Plan (Authority Meeting December 2006 – Min98/06). Any further matters arising will be dealt with by officers in accordance with standing orders.

It was suggested that response should include references to conservation areas in paragraph 5 and open market housing in paragraph 12.

RESOLVED:

1. That the response, as set out in Annex 1 to the report, as amended above, seeking further changes to the proposed RSS8 to improve the context it provides for spatial planning in the Peak District National Park be agreed.
2. That a personal letter be sent to the Director of the Government Office for the East Midlands to highlight the importance of achieving the best possible wording for a Regional Plan that will enable the Authority to maintain its contribution to regional and national spatial priorities in a distinctive manner.

CORPORATE RESOURCES

78/08 12.1 CONSULTATION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS TO ENGLISH NATIONAL PARK AND BROADS AUTHORITY (A.1114/JDB/EWJ)

The meeting considered the Authority's response to a consultation paper from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the principle of direct elections to National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority.

The Chief Executive tabled a supplementary report that had been prepared following a Member workshop on the proposal where the majority of Members were not convinced of the value of replacing any category of membership with direct elections. The report set out options for the Authority's response.

Following a debate the meeting agreed the following views on the consultation paper.

1. That direct elections to appoint members who are currently appointed by the Secretary of State are:
 - unwelcome in principle because the national interest must be properly reflected by people of expertise and experience in the make up of National Park Authorities.
 - impractical because it would be inordinately expensive and politically unwelcome to hold a national election.
2. That direct elections to appoint members currently appointed by councils are:
 - unwelcome because it would break the link with councils with whom NPAs work closely and need to work increasingly closely with.
 - impractical because it would duplicate the election of members already elected by popular vote to councils and because it would be impossible to decide what boundaries would apply to the constituency of electors.
3. That direct elections to appoint members who are currently appointed by ballot of parish councils are:
 - unwelcome because it would break the link with parish councils and meetings with whom NPAs work closely and need to work increasingly closely with.
 - impractical because it would be a more expensive way of giving the resident communities the opportunity to appoint people currently elected to parish councils and then by parishes to the National Park Authority.
4. That the National Park Authority is committed to working with communities and with partners to encourage full participation in their activities by all sectors of the community. By community, we mean residents, visitors, people who work in the National Park and people whose lives are affected by our decisions. We want to reach out to harder to reach groups, such as younger people, and conduct our business in an open and transparent way. We believe that there are many ways of strengthening the relationship between the Authority and these communities that would be a priority over the costs of introducing direct elections.

RESOLVED:

1. **That the Authority's response to the questions raised in the consultation paper, reflecting the views above, be sent to Defra with the precise details delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.**
2. **That a press release be issued that alerts the public who live in or who have an interest in the National Park to both the Authority's position and also the opportunity for individuals to respond directly to the Defra consultation.**

79/08 12.2 MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE ROLES AND TASK TEAMS (A111/RMM)

This report reviewed the Member Representative roles and proposed appointments for the next year. It was proposed that 10 of the Member Representatives be appointed for each of the National Park Management Plan outcomes. It also reviewed the current Task Teams and monitoring groups and proposed that they be continued for a further year. All the proposals were summarised in Annex 1 to the report.

The Director of Corporate Resources agreed that the Budget Monitoring meeting was not a Task Team in the sense of the word and was withdrawn from the list.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Members Representative roles be agreed for the topics listed below for a period up to the Authority meeting in October 2009 and that the Members shown be appointed to those roles.

Biodiversity	Mr C J Howell
Cultural Heritage (Historic Environment)	Miss P Beswick
Natural Beauty (Landscapes)	Mr C Pennell
Climate Change and Natural Resources	Mrs A Ashe
Mineral Extraction	Clr Mrs H M Gaddum (Planning Committee Chair) and Narendra Bajaria (Chair of the Authority)
Traffic, travel and accessibility	Clr Mrs J Bevan
Recreation	Mr G D Nickolds
Tourism	Mr L Rix
Understanding the National Park	Prof J Herbert
People and Communities	Mrs L C Roberts
Economy	Mrs S Prince
Asset Management	Mr L Rix
Transformational Government	Ms P Coleman
Member Learning and Development	Ms P Coleman

2. That the following Task Teams continue for a further year and that the Members shown be appointed to those Task Teams.

a) Plans Review Task Team:

Chair of the Authority	Mr N Bajaria
Deputy Chair of the Authority	Clr Mrs I Ratcliffe
Chair & Vice Chair of Planning Committee	Clr Mrs H M Gaddum Mrs A Ashe
6 other Members:	
Councillors (2)	Clr Mrs J Bevan Clr Mrs T Critchlow
Secretary of State (2)	Miss P Beswick Mr C Pennell
Parish (2)	Ms P Coleman Prof J Herbert

b) Losehill Hall Business Strategy Monitoring Group:

Clr Mrs H M Gaddum
Prof J Herbert
Mr C Pennell
Mr L Rix

3. That the Member Representative and Task Team and roles above be approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.

80/08 12.3 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE ANNUAL RETURN (A.111/EWJ)

The meeting considered the annual return of Members' attendance at Authority and Committee meetings and Training and Development events for 2007/08.

RESOLVED:

That the annual return of Members' attendance for 2007/08 be noted.

81/08 13. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees be received:

**Planning Committee 13th June, 11 July & 15th August 2008
Services Committee 23rd May & 6th June 2008**

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm