

**AGENDA ITEM No. 3**

**MINUTES**

<u>Meeting:</u>	<b>National Park Authority</b>
<u>Date:</u>	7 October 2011 at 10am
<u>Venue:</u>	Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire
<u>Chair:</u>	Clr A Favell
<u>Present:</u>	Mr P Ancell, Clr Mrs B Beeley, Miss P Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bragg, Clr C Burke, Clr D Chapman, Clr G Claff, Mr R Clarke, Clr C Furness, Clr Mrs N Hawkins, Clr Mrs C G Heath, Prof J Herbert, Clr H Laws, Ms S Leckie, Clr A McCloy, Mr G D Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Clr G Purdy, Mr B Rayner, Clr P Raynes, Clr Mrs L C Roberts, Clr Mrs M Stockdale, Clr Mrs J A Twigg and Clr Mrs D Wilde.
<u>Apologies for absence:</u>	Clr Mrs J Goodison, Clr Mrs K Potter and Clr R Priestley.

**51/11 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**52/11 MATTERS ARISING**

**38/11 MATTERS ARISING - PEAK DISTRICT BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2011-2020**

The Chief Executive reported that he had contacted the government's advisor Professor John Lawton, who had visited the Authority on 9 September 2011 and been supportive of the proposals in the Action Plan.

**38/11 MATTERS ARISING - GOVERNANCE REVIEW: RESPONSE TO OUTSTANDING PROPOSALS**

The Chief Executive reported on the publication of the proposals developed following national consultation on the governance arrangements for National Park Authorities, part of which included proposals to pilot direct elections within the Peak District which would be discussed later in the meeting. He confirmed that the Secretary of State would now be confirming the appointment of Geoff Nickolds and starting the recruitment process for the remaining Secretary of State vacancy.

**45/11 MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE ROLES AND TASK TEAMS**

The Director of Corporate Resources advised that as part of the review of the Member Representative Roles and the review of Outside Bodies a survey had been circulated to Members who were encouraged to respond so that their views could be considered.

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**53/11 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The following members declared a personal interest in item 8.1 Outcome of National Governance Review as existing Members of the Authority and as Members of other Local Authorities whose ability to appoint members to the Authority could be affected by Government proposals:

Clr Mrs J Bragg, Clr Mrs B Beeley, Clr D Chapman, Clr G Claff, Clr Mrs N Hawkins, Clr Mrs C G Heath, Clr H Laws, Clr G Purdy, Clr P Raynes, Clr Mrs M Stockdale, Clr Mrs J A Twigg, and Clr Mrs D Wilde.

The following members also declared a personal interest in item 8.1 Outcome of National Governance Review as existing Members of the Authority and as Parish Members appointed by the Secretary of State whose position on the Authority could be affected by Government proposals:

Clr C Furness, Prof J Herbert, Clr A McCloy, and Clr Mrs L C Roberts.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**54/11 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN (A.6121/RG)**

Members considered a report providing an update on responses received to the “Join Our Conversation” consultation on the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and the next steps in the review of the plan. Members were also asked to review arrangements for the NPMP Advisory Group including whether the Chair of the Group should receive remuneration for carrying out their duties.

Some members expressed concern that the Authority did not appear to have received representations from some of the constituent councils. The Chief Executive agreed to follow this up with the Members appointed by the relevant authorities. Members agreed that the Strategic Advisory Group should give further consideration to the issues raised during the consultation and that all Members be invited to participate in that part of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **To welcome the wide range of responses to the National Park Management Plan consultation and receive the summary of responses.**
2. **To ask that a further report on progressing the response to consultations be considered at the next meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group.**
3. **To agree the terms of reference and operating arrangements for the National Park Management Advisory Group, as set out in Appendix 2. These specifically related to the purpose and independent chairing of the Advisory Group as set out in paragraphs 24-25 of the report.**
4. **To confirm that the Chair of the National Park Management Advisory Group be entitled to claim travel and subsistence expenses incurred in carrying out their duties at the same rates as those paid to Members of the Authority.**
5. **To thank members of the group who had supported the work of the National Park Authority over the last four years.**

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

**55/11 ADOPTION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF) CORE STRATEGY (A.6101/BJT)**

Members considered a report recommending that the Authority adopt the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy setting out a 15 year strategic vision and objectives for developments within the National Park. The Core Strategy had been prepared in accordance with provisions in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It was noted that the Strategy had been considered by a Planning Inspector who had confirmed that the plan was sound and recommended changes which had been incorporated into the document presented for approval. Members were advised that at this stage the legislation did not permit the Authority to make any further changes beyond those recommended by the Inspector.

In accordance with the Authority's public participation scheme Mr John King of Friends of the Peak District and Mr John Youatt addressed the meeting on issues relating to the approach to renewable energy as set out in policy CC2. Members discussed and noted the issues raised by both speakers, but concluded that, in light of the risks around delaying approval of the Core Strategy, no further changes should be made at this stage. Members asked that the concerns of both speakers be taken into consideration in

drawing up supplementary guidance to support the implementation of the Policy.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **To adopt the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.**
2. **To put in place appropriate arrangements in place to meet the regulatory requirements for adoption.**
3. **To delegate any minor changes needed to Supplementary Planning Guidance, before and after their publication to the Director of Development Planning in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.**
4. **To acknowledge the significant achievement in bringing it to this stage, and thank the officers and members involved for their hard work.**

**56/11 AUTHORITY RESPONSE ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (A.6101/BJT)**

Members considered a report providing details of the key issues to be forwarded to the English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA) to be included in a response to the Government's consultation of the proposed National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It was also proposed that this could be used by the Director of Development Planning to prepare a response on behalf of the Authority.

While it was acknowledged that ENPAA should prepare a response on behalf of all English National Parks, Members were of the view that, in light of the impact of the proposals, the Authority should also submit a separate response. Members asked the Chief Executive and the Chair to make local MPs aware of the Authority's representations during their scheduled meetings.

Members sought clarification on how constituent authorities had responded to the consultation and noted that officers were in ongoing dialogue with them about the impact of proposals. Members were asked to advise the Chair of the Authority and the Director of Development Planning if they had any comments on the content of the Appendix.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **To endorse the key issues as set out in appendix 1 that had been sent to ENPAA in response to the Government consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework.**
2. **To delegate authority to the Director of Development Planning, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Planning Committee, to finalise an additional response from the Authority.**
3. **To ask the Chair of the Authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee, to write to significant people of influence in Government expressing concerns on omissions in the proposed National Planning Policy Framework.**

**CORPORATE RESOURCES**

**57/11 OUTCOME OF NATIONAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS (A.111/RMM)**

Members considered a report providing details of the outcome of the national review of the governance arrangements for National Park Authorities. Members were asked to agree initial action to be taken in response, and to provide a steer on the proposals to include the Peak District in a pilot of carrying out direct elections to appoint a proportion of Authority Members.

The Chief Executive provided an update on discussions with Defra since the proposals had been published confirming the Government's commitment to carrying out a pilot of direct elections, identifying the categories of Members to which direct elections may apply and advising on the proposed timescales for implementation.

Individual Members highlighted the concerns they had on the principle of direct elections and noted that the Authority rejected the proposal when responding to the consultation in 2008. It was however acknowledged that as there were considerable risks from not being engaged in the development of the proposals the Authority should continue to engage with Defra on this issue.

While Paragraph 9 of the report highlighted initial proposals to respond to the outcome of the review, Paragraph 15 of the report asked Members to agree a preferred option in relation to the number and category of members that direct elections should apply to. Members considered each of the 6 options in turn and recorded the number of votes cast in favour of each option. The majority of Members supported option 1 and did not support proposals to agree a second preference. 4 Members abstained from voting on a preference. Cllr. C Furness and Prof. J Herbert asked that their vote in support of Option 1 be recorded.

In light of the strong feelings held by Members on the issue of Direct Elections it was suggested that further representations should be made to the relevant Government Minister.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To agree the initial action proposed in paragraph 9 of the report in response to the outcome of the national governance review.**
- 2. To advise Defra that the Authority's preferred approach would be for direct elections to apply to all parish and local authority members as set out in Option 1.**
- 3. To ask the Chair of the Authority, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to progress discussions on direct elections, in accordance with the steer given, with a report back to the Authority on feedback from Defra.**
- 4. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to respond to other consultations arising out of the national proposals, seeking advice from the Strategic Advisory Group and reporting back to the Authority.**
- 5. To ask the Chair of the Authority to write to the Minister to seek a face to face meeting involving all Members, if held in Bakewell, or a representative delegation of Members, if held in London, to discuss direct elections.**

The meeting adjourned at 1.20pm and reconvened at 1.50pm

Chair: Clr A Favell

Present: Mr P Ancell, Miss P Beswick, Clr Mrs J Bragg, Clr G Claff, Mr R

Clarke, Clr C Furness, Clr Mrs N Hawkins, Prof J Herbert, Clr H Laws, Ms S Leckie, Clr A McCloy, Mr G D Nickolds, Mr C Pennell, Clr G Purdy, Clr P Raynes, and Clr Mrs L C Roberts.

**58/11 CAPITAL STRATEGY PRINCIPLES (A.13321/PN)**

Members considered a report asking for approval of a set of principles to be used to guide the Authority's approach to budgeting for capital expenditure.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the key principles and working assumptions outlined in paragraphs 8 and 9 be approved.**
- 2. That approval for expenditure of up to £250,000 from the Capital Fund be approved for environmental improvements on the Authority's property, as outlined in paragraph 10, with individual projects subject to the approval of the Director of Operations and Head of Finance, or Resource Management Team, in accordance with officers' delegated authorities.**
- 3. That approval for expenditure of up to £213,000 for minor/urgent improvement works from the Capital Fund as outlined in paragraph 10 be approved, subject to Resource Management Team approval.**
- 4. That borrowing powers are able to be used in support of capital expenditure for delegated projects under £100,000, in line with the principles and assumptions approved in recommendation 1, subject to the Authorised Limit and an annual analysis (within the prudential code report) from the Chief Finance Officer of any such decisions. All projects over £100,000 would still be reported to committee for approval as normal.**
- 5. That any other proposals for use of the Capital Fund outlined in Working Assumption Number 4 in paragraph 9, except for those in resolutions 2 and 3 above, are the subject of a further report to committee for approval.**

**59/11 MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (A.111/JS)**

Members considered a report setting out proposals for the next annual programme of Member learning and business events to cover the period from October 2011 to October 2012. The report also set out proposals on adopting a new approach to recoding performance in Member Learning and Development and a mechanism for Local Authority members to use their learning and development plans from constituent authorities as a tool to inform learning and development for their work with the Authority.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the proposed member learning and business events programme for October 2011 to October 2012 be agreed.**
- 2. That the new approach to recoding performance in Member Learning and Development as set out in paragraph 10 be adopted.**

**60/11 DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FORUM (A.1155/RC)**

Members considered proposals to appoint a member to represent the Authority on the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder Engagement Forum.

It was noted that requests for Member representation on similar bodies in other Counties would be considered as they were received.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That Mr Geoff Nickolds, Member representative for Recreation, be appointed to the Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder Engagement Forum.**
- 2. That attendance at meetings be an approved duty for the purpose of the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances.**

**61/11 PART A MINUTES OF URGENT BUSINESS ITEMS SUB-COMMITTEE - 20 SEPTEMBER 2011**

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of the part A minutes of the Urgent Business Items Sub-Committee. The Director of Development Planning provided an update on action taken following the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Part A Minutes of the meeting of the Urgent Business Items Sub-Committee held on 20 September 2011 be received.**

**62/11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraph 3 "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, (including the Authority holding that information)" and Paragraph 5 "Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings".

**63/11 EXEMPT MINUTES OF URGENT BUSINESS ITEMS SUB-COMMITTEE - 20 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Part B Minutes of the meeting of the Urgent Business Items Sub-Committee held on 20 September 2011 be received.

The meeting ended at 2.50pm.