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## MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 19 February 2021 at 10.00 am

Venue: Webex - Virtual Meeting

Chair: Cllr A McCloy

Present: Mr J W Berresford, Cllr W Armitage, Cllr J Atkin, Cllr P Brady, Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr C Furness, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Mr Z Hamid, Ms A Harling, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr B Lewis, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Miss L Slack, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping, Cllr R Walker, Mrs C Waller, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods

Apologies for absence: Cllr G D Wharmby.

### **1/21 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### Item 7

The Chair declared a personal interest on behalf of all Members, as the National Park Authority was the site owner.

It was noted that all Members had received an email from Mr John Youatt.

Cllr Furness declared a personal interest as he had received several emails from residents of Foolow.

### **2/21 MINUTES OF MEETINGS ON 13 NOVEMBER & 4 DECEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the last meetings of the National Park Authority held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November and the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved as a correct record.

### **3/21 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

### **4/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Seven members of the public had given notice to make representations to the meeting.

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## **5/21 CHAIR'S BRIEFING**

The Chair reported that he had been advised by the Government that its formal response to the "Landscapes Review Final Report" was due shortly. Once this had been received, the Chair suggested Members convene to discuss their reaction. This would take place at a Member's Forum following the date of the announcement from Government.

The Chair had submitted two reports from outside bodies, which were included on the agenda.

The Chair reported that he had had a successful meeting with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chief Executive of Derbyshire Dales District Council and had covered several issues including Climate Change, investment in the Hope Valley Explorer bus service, the Authority's consultation on the definition of Thriving and Sustainable Communities, a strategic approach to housing and working together on plans for the easing of lockdown.

## **6/21 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

Members noted the Chief Executive's Report that included updates to Members on key items since the previous Authority meeting, including:

- National Parks England Delivery Plans
- New public facing website for National Parks UK
- New All Party Parliamentary Group for the Peak District National Park
- The Authority's Parishes Bulletin 38
- Updated Corporate Strategy
- New Management Team Structure

### **RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

## **7/21 BROSTERFIELD - INVESTIGATION INTO REMAINING OPTIONS FOR THE SITE**

The report was introduced by the Corporate Property Officer, who outlined the main points of the report and its recommendations.

There was a correction, in the section of the report on Risk Management, it stated "The risk of the community being able to raise sufficient funds", should read "being unable".

The following spoke under the public participation at meetings scheme:

- Philip Haslam, Objector – telephone call
- Katie Edwards, Objector – audio recording
- Mr John Youatt, Objector– telephone call
- Mrs Fallows, Objector – video recording
- Mr and Mrs Palmer, Objector– statement read out by Democratic Services
- Mr David Martin, Objector – statement read out by Democratic Services
- Mr Simon Wills, Foolow Parish Meeting, Objector – telephone call

Members discussed whether the two recommendations stated in the report were mutually exclusive or whether the two processes could run concurrently.

A motion was proposed and seconded, to agree to sell the site to the Foolow Community at an agreed price, on the understanding that the sale be completed by February 2022, if the deadline was not met, the site would be sold on the open market.

Officers confirmed that the community had been asked to provide a detailed funding plan, but insufficient information had been provided by the community. It was noted that more detailed information had now been offered by speakers.

Officers also confirmed that a formal indication of support for any community funding bids required a mandate from this meeting.

A further addition to the motion was suggested, that the Foolow Community be asked to provide a detailed business plan to be considered in advance of the May Authority meeting which would be required for the purchase to proceed.

The motion as amended and as proposed below was approved by the mover and seconder .

- Business plan to be completed by May 2021, and submitted in time to be presented at the Authority meeting on the 21 May 2021
- Funding certainty to be in place by November 2021
- Contracts to be exchanged by February 2022

If any of these gateway milestones are not met then the Authority will revert to selling the site on the open market.

The motion was voted on and carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**To agree to sell the site to the Foolow Community at an agreed price with exchange of contracts by 28 February 2022. The following gateway reviews will need to be passed by the Foolow Community proposals:**

- **A robust business plan to be submitted by an agreed date. The Plan will be assessed by Officers and if not deemed sufficient a report will be brought to the Authority meeting on the 21 May 2021.**
- **Evidence that funding is in place to purchase the site is submitted by 1 November 2021. The evidence to be evaluated by Officers and if not deemed sufficient a report will be brought to a future Authority meeting.**

**If either of these gateway reviews are not passed then the Authority will revert to selling the site on the open market.**

*The meeting adjourned for a short break at 11.55 and returned at 12.05*

#### **8/21 BUDGET 2021/22 (JW)**

The Head of Finance introduced the report firstly advising that the report contained the following errors:

- The total amount in reserves at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was £6.409 Million.
- The estimate for the end of the next financial year is £5.176 Million
- This gives a usage figure of £1.234 million

- The Legal and Minerals reserve is estimated to be £500,000 at the end of 2021/22

A corrected copy of the report would be forwarded to Members after the meeting.

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved, seconded voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **To approve Authority's annual budget for the 2021/22 financial year as shown in Appendix 1 of the report.**
2. **To note the savings in Appendix 2 of the report that have been made to balance the 2021/22 revenue budget.**
3. **To note that the Authority's revenue budget may need to be adjusted once the National Park Grant (NPG) for 2021/22 and details of the Farming in Protected Landscapes proposals are known, and authority to undertake any necessary modifications and acceptance of further funding is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Law.**
4. **To note the medium term financial position of the Authority in the period up to March 2025.**
5. **To note the position of the Capital Strategy and Reserves.**

**9/21 EXTERNAL AUDIT – 2019/20 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER (A1362/ JW)**

The report was introduced by Mark Surridge of Mazars, who confirmed that the Authority had a "clean bill of health" and that there were no matters to raise.

The Chair congratulated Officers for a positive report.

A motion to support the recommendations was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

**That the 2019/20 Annual Audit Letter as considered be acknowledged.**

**10/21 OUTSIDE BODY FEEDBACK REPORTS**

The Chair submitted feedback reports on meetings of the National Parks UK Chairs Forum on the 2 December 2020, and the National Parks England Board on 28 January 2021.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the reports.**

**11/21 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100 (A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:**

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**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item Nos. 12 and 13 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt information under S100 (A) (4) 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).**

**12/21 EXEMPT MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER AND 4 DECEMBER 2020**

The confidential minutes of the meetings of the National Park Authority held on 13 November and 4 December 2020 were approved as a correct record.

The following item was considered under Part B:

13/21 National Parks Partnership Subscription (SLF)

The meeting ended at 12.54 pm