
MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 19 March 2021 at 10.00 am

Venue: Webex - Virtual Meeting

Chair: Cllr A McCloy

Present: Mr J W Berresford, Cllr J Atkin, Cllr W Armitage, 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 C McLaren, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping, Cllr R Walker, Mrs C Waller, Cllr G D Wharmby, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods

Apologies for absence: Cllr B Lewis and Miss L Slack.

13/21a Roll Call of Members Present, Apologies for Absence and Members' Declarations of Interest

The Chair advised that Cllr Chapman would be late to the meeting.

Item 8

Mr Hamid declared that he was one of the Member appointees to the board of the Peak District National Park Foundation.

14/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2021

The minutes of the National Park Authority meeting held on the 19 February 2021 were approved as a correct record.

15/21 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

16/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public had given notice to make representations to the Committee.

17/21 AUTHORITY CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported the following :

- The Peak District National Park Foundation had exceeded its fund raising target of £70,000 to mark the 70th anniversary of the National Park, and had raised £130,000. The Foundation had paid out over £100,000 in grants to a variety of good causes.
The Chair offered his thanks to all Officers involved, and in particular Sarah Slowther, Fundraising Development Manager.
- The Moors for the Future Partnership had been announced as the runner up in the Peak Protector Awards, organised by the Campaign for Rural England. The Chair offered his congratulations to the MFFP Team.
- The government had announced that the Hope Valley railway line will receive an investment of £137 million, to improve its services. Work will begin in 2022 and be finished in 2023.
- The government had not yet made an announcement with regards to its response to the Landscape Review

18/21 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:

- Roadmap to cautiously ease lockdown restrictions
- Meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for National Parks
- Parishes Bulletin 39

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

19/21 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT BLOCK 1 2020/21

The report was introduced by Ian Morton (Internal Auditor), Veritau, who confirmed that the Authority had received the highest level of Substantial Assurance and that there were no formal findings or management actions required. The three areas audited were, Payroll, Information Governance and Creditors. It was noted that the work had been carried out remotely and Mr Morton thanked the staff involved.

The Chair congratulated Officers on a positive report.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Internal Audit reports for the three areas covered under Block 1 for 2020/21 (in appendices 1 to 3 of the report – Payroll, Information Governance and Creditors be received and the Substantial Assurance opinion with the requirement of no management actions noted.**

20/21 COMMERCIAL STRATEGY 2019-24 (AKB)

The report was introduced by the former Director of Commercial Development and Engagement, who underlined that as well as being a strategy for the Authority it was also

a strategy for the place, i.e. the National Park. He thanked the Officers who had contributed to the Strategy.

In response to Member's queries, Officers advised:

- The term "excluding charges" on page 45 of the report referred to internal visitor services back office charges.
- Following the launch in July 2020, online sales had remained strong throughout the pandemic. The Director did not have figures to hand but confirmed that they would be provided by the Visitor Experience Development Manager.
- Regarding Pillar 3 and the target of diversification of the portfolio, the Authority will aim to generate income, to support for example net zero with nature projects
- The list of skills gaps and challenges will be addressed through training and support for existing staff and consideration of future capacity/capability needed will form part of the medium term financial plan .

An amendment to the Strategy, in "Core Principles" to include cultural heritage in the definition of ecosystem services was requested and agreed.

A motion to approve the recommendation was moved and seconded.

Members asked how the strategy will be monitored and were advised that it will be reported on via the KPIs in the Corporate Strategy.

The motion was voted on and carried.

RESOLVED

To endorse and confirm the Commercial Strategy with responsibility for delivery delegated to the Heads of Engagement and Asset Management in consultation with the Head of Finance.

21/21 CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER TASK GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

The report was introduced by the Head of Information and Performance Management and Professor Haddock-Fraser, the Chair of the Task Group.

Members agreed that the Group had developed an in depth understanding of the issues, and thanks and congratulations were offered to members of the Group and the Officers supporting it.

A motion to approve the recommendation was proposed.

The motion was seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the achievements of the Climate Change Member Task Group to date and that the current members of the group are: Cllr Chapman, Cllr Farrell, Cllr Furness, Prof Haddock-Fraser, Ms Slack and Mr Smith.**
- 2. To approve the updated terms of reference for the Climate Change Member Steering Group at Appendix 1 of the report.**

3. **To approve the Climate Change Member Steering Group's priorities for 2021/22.**
4. **To confirm that attendance at meetings of the Steering Group is an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowances.**

The meeting adjourned for a short break at 11.30 and reconvened at 11.40. It was noted that Cllr Hart would have to leave at 12 noon and Cllr Woods at 12.30.

22/21 SOUTH WEST PEAK LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP (SWPLP) RESTORATION OF TWO FIELD BARNES

The report was introduced by the South West Peak Landscape Partnership Programme Manager

It was noted that the matter had come to Members due to the amount of the grant to be offered exceeding the delegation threshold.

A motion to approve the recommendation was moved.

Members requested clarification of the meaning of "provisional sums" and were advised that these are contingencies on quotes from contractors and have been scrutinised.

The motion to approve the recommendation was seconded.

Members asked what provisions had been made to ensure that the barns were used for agriculture and not converted for residential use. Officers confirmed that it is a requirement of the grant that the barn is maintained in low key agricultural use for a minimum of 10 years. The project is monitored by the SWPLP Cultural Heritage Officer and the build is managed by a Conservation Architect. No grant payment will be made until each stage of the process is signed off by the Conservation Architect.

The motion was voted on and carried.

RESOLVED

To approve the offer and payment of the SWPLP grants for the restoration of the two field barns Hobcroft Barn (£74,675) and Cundy Green Barn (£33,660).

23/21 DERBYSHIRE STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK MEMBER UPDATE

The report was introduced by the Head of Planning

Members discussed where the decisions regarding strategic cooperation between authorities are taken, and were advised that this takes place at the D2N2 Board for Economic Prosperity. The Chair of the Authority is not a part of this Board at present but will explore with the Head of Planning whether the Authority should have a representative on this Board.

A motion to support the recommendation was proposed and seconded.

Members requested clarification of how the National Park Authority engages with other local authorities outside Derbyshire on strategic planning cooperation, and were advised that there are formal mechanisms for this non statutory process at local plan level and via statements of common ground.

The motion was voted on and carried.

RESOLVED

1. **To note the progress made in developing the Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) to date as set out in Appendix 1 of the report**
2. **To endorse the continued participation of Planning Officers in developing the Strategic Planning Framework.**

24/21 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 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)”

SUMMARY

The following item was considered in the exempt part of the meeting:

25/21 Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2021

25/14 Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2021

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm