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## MINUTES

Meeting:	<b>National Park Authority</b>
Date:	Friday 4 February 2022 at 10.00 am
Venue:	The Palace Hotel, Buxton, SK17 6AG
Chair:	Cllr A McCloy
Present:	Mr J W Berresford, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr C Furness, Cllr C Greaves, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr D Murphy, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Miss L Slack, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping, Cllr D Taylor, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods
Apologies for absence:	Cllr W Armitage, Cllr P Brady, Ms A Harling, Cllr S. Saeed, Mrs C Waller and Cllr J Wharmby.

### **4/22 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### Item 10

All Members had received an email from Robert Largan, MP

Cllr Woods declared a personal interest as Glossop was in her ward

Cllr McCloy had received an email from Ann Robinson, CPRE

Mr Helliwell declared a personal interest as he would be affected by the proposal

Cllr Priestley declared a personal interest as she knew the speaker as a member of the High Peak Conservative Association

### **5/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 12TH NOVEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the last meeting of the National Park Authority on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

### **6/22 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

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## **7/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

One member of the public was present to make a representation to the Committee.

## **8/22 CHAIR'S BRIEFING**

The Chair provided a verbal update to the Authority.

- We understand that Cllr Armitage was due to be making his way back home to recuperate following his recent illness.
- Cllr Woods was welcomed back following her recent operation.
- The Chair thanked Members for a productive Forum last week to discuss the Landscape Review, and also for the follow up emails he had received. The Chair together with the CEO will be speaking to other Local Authorities and key stake holders and will be working through a draft response to DEFRA which will be shared with Members.
- The Chair reported on the sad news that John Thompson, former Chair of the Peak District Local Access Forum had recently passed away. John spent 40 years working for the Authority, starting as a Planning Trainee in 1966, retiring in 2007 as Director of Recreation, having also spent a brief spot as interim CEO. John was a kind man, who achieved results through dialogue and made a huge contribution to the work of the Authority. He will be sorely missed, and our condolences go out to his family.
- Former Authority Member, Penny Anderson has published a book on Wildlife of the Peak District.
- The Chair reported that this would be the last Authority Meeting for the CEO, Sarah Fowler before she leaves the Authority for her new role as CEO with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. There will be a leaving event taking place in the Board Room at Aldern House on the 21<sup>st</sup> February at 1.30. It will be a hybrid affair, so while Members are welcome to attend in person, it will also be held virtually so Members could watch the proceedings and speak directly to Sarah if they wished.

**Cllr Richardson joined the meeting at 10:10**

## **9/22 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (SLF)**

Members noted the Chief Executive's report that included updates to Members on key items since the previous Authority meeting.

**RESOLVED:-**

**To note the report.**

## **10/22 2022/23 REVENUE BUDGET, 2022/23 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 TO 2025/26 (JW)**

The Head of Finance informed Members of an amendment to paragraph 30 of the report which should have read "The reduction in reserves of £320k" not £295k as stated in the report. She then went on to highlight some key points in the report for the Members attention.

Members asked whether the energy price rises would have an impact on the budget. The Head of Finance reported that she has not been made aware of any changes from the Property Team, but that she would speak to them.

Members also asked whether the Covid Reserves could now be redistributed. The Head of Finance reported that this would be discussed at the May Authority meeting when she would be bringing a report on the 2021/22 outturn position.

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

**RESOLVED:-**

1. **To approve the Authority's annual budget for the 2022/23 financial year as shown in Appendix 1a of the report.**
2. **Members noted the Authority's capital programme for 2022/23 as shown in Appendix 2 of the report.**
3. **Members noted the RMM approved projects for investment up to £335k as shown in Appendix 3 of the report.**
4. **Members noted the Medium Term Financial Position (MTFP) of the Authority in the period up to March 2026 and the timetable as shown in Appendix 4 of the report.**
5. **Members noted the position of the Authority's Reserves.**

**11/22 EXTERNAL AUDIT (MAZARS): 2020/21 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT (JW)**

Mr Mark Surridge of Mazars, the Authority's External Auditors, attended the meeting to present the report and to answer any questions from Members.

Mr Mark Surridge reported that there had been a change in the code of audit practice for this year and that no risk or actual significant weaknesses had been found in the Authority's value for money arrangements. A positive assurance was given that the financial planning was performing well.

The Chair thanked Mark Surridge for his report.

A motion to support the recommendations as set out in the report was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:-**

1. **To note the 2020/21 Annual Audit Report as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**
2. **To note the Addendum to Audit Completion Report as set out in Appendix 2 of the report and the receipt of an unqualified audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts 2020/21.**

**12/22 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT BLOCK 1 2021/22 (JW)**

The report was introduced by Mr Ian Morton from Veritau (Internal Auditor), who reported that two of the three areas that were audited had been given a substantial assurance with no action points, whilst one area had received a reasonable assurance and that the agreed action points had already been responded to.

Officers were thanked for their work and assistance during the Audit process as the work had to be all done remotely again. In particular the Auditor was reliant on the Finance Staff providing hard copies of some of the information needed to complete the audits.

Mr Morton informed Members that the Visitor Centres were due to be audited in the second block and that will probably be carried out, in the main, remotely.

The Chair congratulated Officers on a positive set of audits..

A motion to support the recommendations as set out in the report 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 2021/22 IT Access Controls & User Awareness, Main Accounting and Risk Management (in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report) be received and the agreed actions considered.**

**13/22 A57 LINK ROADS SCHEME (TN)**

The Transport Policy Planner introduced the report and gave a presentation to Members regarding the A57 Link Road Scheme which was in the north-west, and wholly outside of the National Park boundary at the western end of the Longdendale Valley. The primary aim of the scheme was to relieve congestion and the effects of road traffic on the residents of Mottram and Woolley Bridge, although it was predicted that the scheme could substantially increase traffic flows in other areas such as in the National Park.

The scheme includes two link roads: -

- The Mottram Moor Link Road – 50mph, dual carriageway linking the M67 with A57 at the eastern end of Mottram Moor
- The A57 Link Road – 30mph, single carriageway, linking Mottram Moor with Glossopdale.

The Examination into the A57 Link Roads commenced in November of 2021 and the initial Public Hearings was due to take place next week from 8<sup>th</sup> February – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022. There was an extra week set aside in April for a further round of hearings if required.

The Peak District National Park Authority submitted its Local Impact Report to the Planning Inspector on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

The Transport Policy Planner informed Members that the Authority has already submitted 2 holding objections to the proposed scheme, both of which are still in place, on the basis that the consultation materials lacked sufficient details on future traffic flows to be able to assess the impact on the National Park.

The following spoke under the Public Participation at Meetings Scheme:-

Mr Robert Lorgan, MP

Members discussed whether the report could be deferred to allow for further discussion and a site visit, but were informed that this was not ideal due to the time scales set by

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the Planning Inspector. It was agreed that it was important that the Authority attended the Hearing to have our voice heard on supporting the delivery of the National Park Authority's two statutory purposes.

A motion to support the recommendations as set out in the report was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That Members endorse the submitted Local Impact Report at Appendix 1 as set out in the report.**
- 2. That Members support Officer attendance at the Public Hearing Meetings.**
- 3. That Members formalise the current holding objection to a full objection on the basis of the unacceptable impacts of the scheme on the Special Qualities of the National Park.**

**14/22 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES - NONE SUBMITTED**

No Outside Bodies Reports had been submitted.

The meeting ended at 12.15 pm