



MINUTES

Meeting:	National Park Authority
Date:	Friday 20 May 2022 at 10.00 am
Venue:	Aldern House
Chair:	Cllr A McCloy
Present:	Mr J W Berresford, Cllr W Armitage, Cllr P Brady, 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 D Murphy, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Miss L Slack, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping, Cllr D Taylor, Cllr J Wharmby, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods.
Apologies for absence:	Ms A Harling, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr C McLaren and Cllr K Richardson.

29/22 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

30/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2022

The minutes of the last meeting of the last Authority meeting held on 18th March 2022 were approved as a correct record.

31/22 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

32/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present to make representations to the Committee.

33/22 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

The Chair of the Authority gave a short verbal update which included the following:

- The Authority's 70th anniversary celebrations had been affected by the COVID pandemic but had ended positively with a Peak District National Park Foundation celebration event at Buxton, which showcased the work of the National Park.
- The Chair's participation in the 70th Birthday Bash Challenge walk at Kinder Scout had raised £2300.

- Members represented the Authority at the event marking the 90th Anniversary of the Mass Trespass
- The Authority's response to the Landscape Review had been submitted.
- Successful interviews had taken place for a new Secretary of State Member. and the formal appointment was anticipated in advance of the Authority AGM

The Chair offered his thanks to Robert Helliwell for the commitment, expertise, and humour that he had shown during a decade of service, as this was his last Authority meeting before his term as Secretary of State Member expired.

It was also noted that Mr Hamid would be stepping down as Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee in 2022 and thanks were offered to him for the work he had done in steering the Committee since its formation.

34/22 INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

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

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

35/22 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2021/21 (MM)

The Chair advised that Dianne Jeffery, the Independent Chair of the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

The report, which provided Members with monitoring information for the end of the fourth year of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23, was introduced by the Head of Information and Performance Management.

Members discussed and made comments on the report and plan. These included:

- That Moors for the Future had had one of its most successful delivery years
- On Area 2. Page 24 food production should be mentioned as its importance had grown during the period under review, due to world events.
- Intention 2.2 Page 25- acknowledgment of biodiversity and ecosystem services should be made
- There is a need to be more vocal about the management of grouse moors in the light of the disappearance of 2 male hen harriers at Upper Derwent.
- Intention 6.2 page 31- The Authority should look at the need for affordable housing across the Park rather than on a parish basis

Officers offered the following clarifications in response to questions:

- Heads of Service are given detailed information to enable them to incorporate climate change vulnerability in their service plans
- That Covid had had an impact on delivery in some areas.

The recommendation to approve the report was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2021/22.**
- 2. That any necessary changes to the proposed wording of the Annual Monitoring Report are delegated to the Interim Chief Executive.**

36/22 EXTERNAL AUDIT - 2021-22 AUDIT STRATEGY (JW)

Members considered the 2021/22 External Audit strategy from Mazars. Mark Surridge of Mazars was present to introduce the report and answer any questions around the Strategy which summarised Mazars audit approach, highlighted significant audit risks and areas of key judgements. He confirmed that there were no areas of concern around the Authority and advised that evaluations of land and buildings are a standard approach to check compliance with guidance and not a reflection on Authority Officers.

A motion to approve the recommendation was proposed and seconded.

Members requested clarification as to whether the increased level of fees was common to all Authorities and were advised that this was the case due to additional work caused by changes to standards.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the approach being taken by the External Auditors as set out in the 2020/21 External Audit Strategy Memorandum**

37/22 OUTTURN 2021/22 AND SLIPPAGE REQUEST (JW)

The report, which informed Members of the outturn for 2021/22 and sought approval of the requested appropriations to and from reserves, was introduced by the Head of Finance.

Officers also confirmed following Member questions around the reserves that:

- The reserve for post Covid working arrangements would be targeted at Health and Wellbeing and any costs arising from the blended working pilot.
- Income had risen across all car parks and a strategy for enforcing charges was in place.
- The Minerals & Legal reserve enables the Authority to make decisions as a Minerals Planning Authority and to follow up those decisions as necessary.
- A set of principles would be created for the drawing down of monies from the newly created Authority Delivery Plan Support reserve by the Head of Finance..
- The Covid reserve was set up to cover times of uncertainty and has not been called on and £356K is proposed to be apportioned to 3 separate corporate priority reserves, the Restructuring reserve, the Authority Delivery Plan Support reserve and the ICT reserve.
- The “restricted reserve” related to two bequests
- That having specified rather than a general reserves provided clarity to DEFRA.

A motion to approved the recommendations was moved and seconded and a vote was taken and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To note the outturn, and to approve the slippage requests and the specific reserve appropriations shown in Appendix C attached to the report.**
- 2. To approve the new proposed reserves shown in Appendix C, attached to the report with delegated Authority given to the Chief Executive Officer to agree the principles for expenditure from the new Authority Delivery Plan Reserve**

The meeting adjourned for a short break at 11.05 and reconvened at 11.15.

38/22 2021/22 YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT, 2021/22 PERFORMANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN AND 2022/23 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER (A91941/EF)

The report, which provided Members with a set of performance monitoring information for review and approval for the third year of the 2019-2024 Corporate Strategy, was presented by the Head of Information and Performance Management.

Members discussed the report and the following points were raised which required further consideration by Officers:

- KPI 2b- That the final sentence in the Issues Arising column be removed.
- With regards to Birds of Prey, that given the loss of two Hen Harriers and an emerging trend of egg theft, the Birds of Prey initiative will be reviewed to see what other steps can be taken.
- That Managers and Members need to ensure that they show their appreciation to staff who have worked very hard during the pandemic and maintained their professionalism.
- That delays in determining planning applications came with a reputational risk and so it was important that this was closely monitored.

Cllr Chapman left the meeting at 12.00.

A motion to support the recommendation, with the second recommendation amended to extend the delegation to cover “any necessary amendments in light of the changes to the emerging Defra Grant Funding Agreement in consultation with the Chair of the Authority” was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Q4 and year end performance report, given in Appendix 1 of the report, had been reviewed and any actions to address issues agreed.**
- 2. To approve the Performance and Business Plan content in Appendix 2a and 2b of the report with completion of details and any necessary amendments in light of the changes to the emerging Defra Grant Funding Agreement delegated to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to allow publication by the statutory deadline of 30 June.**

3. That the 2021/22 year end corporate risk register given in Appendix 3 of the report had been reviewed and the status of risks accepted.
4. That the start of year 2022/23 corporate risk register given in Appendix 4 of the report had been reviewed and the proposed risks agreed.
5. To note the status of complaints, Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations requests, given in Appendix 5 of the report.

39/22 MEMBERSHIP OF THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS PANEL (RC)

The report, which noted the membership of the Member Appointment Process Panel and confirmed that the Panel will look at expressions of interest for annual appointments at the Authority AGM in the context of the appointment principles, was introduced by the Democratic Services Manager.

Cllr Armitage had agreed to continue as reserve Member, so recommendation 2 as set out in the report, was no longer necessary.

A motion to approve the recommendations, omitting recommendation 2 as set out in the report, was moved and seconded and a vote was taken and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. To confirm the Members appointed to the Member Appointment Process Panel at the annual Authority meeting in July 2021 as Cllr B Woods, Cllr K Richardson, Ms Y Witter and Cllr P Tapping, with Cllr W Armitage as reserve Local Authority Member and Cllr V Priestley as reserve Secretary of State Member.
2. To confirm that the Panel will look at expressions of interest in the context of the appointment principles set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

40/22 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW MEMBER STEERING GROUP HELD ON 21ST FEBRUARY AND 21ST MARCH 2022

Members resolved to note the minutes of the Steering Group.

41/22 FEEDBACK FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Members noted the report from the Cultural Heritage and Landscapes Member Champion meeting with professional staff. It was raised that in point 4 of the report the text should read "country based" rather than "city based".

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

42/22 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 16 and 17 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) and paragraph 1 “information relating to any individual”.

43/22 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2022

The exempt minutes of the meeting hold on the 18th March 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

SUMMARY

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

44/16 Appointment of Chief Executive (TR)

The meeting ended at 12.35 pm