



MINUTES

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| Meeting: | National Park Authority |
| Date: | Friday 11 November 2022 at 10.00 am |
| Venue: | Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell |
| Chair: | Cllr A McCloy |
| Present: | Mr J W Berresford, Cllr W Armitage, Cllr P Brady, Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr C Furness, Cllr C Greaves, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Mr Z Hamid, Ms A Harling, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, 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 J Wharmby and Ms Y Witter |
| Apologies for absence: | Cllr D Chapman, Cllr D Taylor and Cllr B Woods. |

83/22 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

84/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THE 2 SEPTEMBER 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 2nd September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

85/22 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

86/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present to make representations to the meeting.

87/22 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

The Chair of the Authority provided a verbal update to Members on the following:

- That he intended to speak to Members regarding the updated funding situation for National Parks at the Members Forum following this committee.
- There had been a rapid turnover of personnel at ministerial level at DEFRA recently, but Trudy Harrison MP was now the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and that he had written to her in his capacity as Chair of National Parks England.

That he had attended several events including:

- The “One Team” celebration at Aldern House
- Annual Parishes Day event
- A meeting at Chatsworth regarding Whole Estate Planning
- A meeting with Friends of the Peak District (Council for the Protection of Rural England), with the Chief Executive
- A briefing with Derbyshire County Council leader Cllr Barry Lewis about the East Midlands combined authority.

The Chair also advised Members of the passing away of Peter Townsend, who had formerly been the principal Officer at Losehill Hall and of Michael Dower, a former National Park Officer.

88/22 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive’s report gave updates to Members on the following:-

- The CEO had been getting to know the National Park by visiting cycle hire and visitor centres, meeting various staff members and volunteers, as well as spending time with Teams in Aldern House and at Edale.
- He had been working with Officers and Members to complete the National Park Management Plan.
- Preparations were underway on the budget for the next financial year.
- He had attended the National Parks UK Conference in Exmoor at the end of September.
- A successful bid had been made by the Moors for the Future Partnership in an application to the National Peatland Grant Scheme, with an award of over £1 million which would be used to restore 35,000 hectares of degraded peat in England.

A short video, which had been produced by the National Parks UK conference organisers, giving a brief summary of the event was shown to Members.

Cllr Chaplin joined the meeting at 10.16.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

89/22 2022/23 QUARTER 2 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT (A91941/EF)

The Head of Information & Performance Management introduced the report to provide Members with monitoring information for the period up to the end of Quarter 2 2022/23 (April to September 2022) to review performance against the third year of the Authority’s 2019-24 Corporate Strategy.

Mr Berresford left the meeting during consideration of the item at 10:25am.

Members had the following queries:

KPI 2b - the Landscape Strategy states the importance of field barns in the White Peak landscape and the desirability of their conservation, but it does not specify how this should be achieved.

It was suggested that this indicator could be amber rather than red due to the qualifying comments at the end of it.

KPI 14 - regarding volunteering hours, Members asked how the given value had been arrived at. The Head of Engagement advised that this was via the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) values which give different values to different types of volunteering.

KPI 11 - The Chair congratulated the Mosaic Partnership on its successful HLF bid.

KPI 15 – Members suggested that as well as focussing on creating thriving communities via Planning, more engagement could take place with Communities and not only through Parish Councils.

KPIs 18-20 – Members enquired how many staff vacancies the Authority had at the moment and were advised by the CEO that currently there was an 18% turnover rate which was twice what the figure had been previously. Some vacancies were proving difficult to fill and there were various reasons for this. The Authority was working to ameliorate the reasons that were within its own control. Members commented that neighbouring authorities were experiencing the same issues.

Regarding the Corporate Risk Register, the following information was provided by Officers in response to queries from Members:

- the highest risk areas had been inspected and assessed for Ash Die Back and that work was ongoing in lower risk areas.
- the wording of the section regarding the impact of Covid may need to be adjusted to make it clearer.
- Planning Service performance standards, the national standard for the determination of minor applications (which make up most of the Authority's case load) was that 70% should be determined within 8 weeks. The Authority's percentage was currently around 60%. Several actions were being taken to tackle this.
- Conversations had been taking place between the Head of Planning and the Planning Advisory Service on how the two organisations can work together to improve the situation regarding determination rates.
- An action plan was also emerging from the Planning Service Review.
- New staff had been recruited and would be starting in the New Year.

Members requested that Planning, Monitoring & Enforcement be noted and that if improvements were not seen to be occurring that it would need to be reflected in the serve risk register.

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the performance report up to the end of Quarter 2, given in Appendix 1, of the report, is reviewed and any actions to address issues agreed.**
- 2. That the corporate risk register up to the end of Quarter 2, given in Appendix 2 of the report is reviewed and the status of risks accepted.**

3. **That the status of complaints, Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations requests, given in Appendix 3 of the report, are noted.**

90/22 ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBER LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Democratic Services Manager (the 'DSM') introduced the report which set out the Member Learning and Development Framework and the proposals for the next annual programme of Member learning and development events for January to December 2023. The DSM reported that although the Member Learning Champion, Cllr Becki Woods, had sent her apologies for this meeting, she had been consulted on the report and had commented that she wished to encourage all Members to have a Personal Development Plan, to support the Buddy system and to attend the UK National Parks Member induction.

Two Members Cllr Greaves and Miss Slack, had just returned from the UK National Parks Member induction event and confirmed that it had been very useful, having offered many opportunities to learn about other National Parks and their approach.

Members expressed concern that the training programme should not cause an undue burden on Officers, there was a suggestion that a standard approach across National Parks could be beneficial, and that this could be done via increased online training. The Essential Planning Training was considered to have been very useful, but several sessions had to be held to ensure all Members could attend. Officers confirmed that learning from internal staff briefings would be used to standardise planning training in the coming year to reduce the burden on Officers.

Members agreed that although there was no specific sanction in place for Members who do not attend training, training labelled as "essential" should be considered as just that and that a good level of training was necessary to equip Members with the skills to carry out their role.

The recommendations, as set out in the report, were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. **To agree the Member Learning and Development Framework (Appendix 1 of the report) and the events programme for January to December 2023 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.**
2. **To continue to record Member learning and development activities in terms of hours and include personal learning and development by Members outside of events organised by the Authority, with the target of 20 hours per Member in every 12 months.**

91/22 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: CLLR A MCCLOY - REPORT ON UK NATIONAL PARKS CONFERENCE

RESOLVED

To note the report

92/22 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 11 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).

93/22 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2022

The confidential minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on the 2nd September 22, were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 11.15 am