
MINUTES

Meeting:	National Park Authority
Date:	Friday 5 July 2024 at 2.00 pm
Venue:	Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell
Chair:	Mr K Smith
Present:	Cllr M Beer, Ms R Bennett, Cllr P Brady, Cllr M Buckler, Cllr M Chaplin, Prof J Dugdale, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr C Greaves, Cllr A Gregory, Cllr B Hanley, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr D Murphy, Cllr A Nash, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Cllr K Rustidge, Dr R Swetnam, Mr S Thompson, Cllr J Wharmby, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods
Apologies for absence:	Mr J W Berresford, Cllr L Grooby, Cllr L Hartshorne and Cllr C O'Leary.

47/24 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

Mr Phil Mulligan CEO, presided over the appointment of the Chair for 2024/25.

One Member, Mr Ken Smith had expressed an interest in the role of Chair of the Authority and had provided a written statement, circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. No further expressions were made.

The nomination was proposed and seconded, and as there was only one candidate the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Following the vote, Mr Ken Smith was appointed Chair of the Authority and took the Chair.

RESOLVED:

To appoint Mr Ken Smith as Chair of the Authority for a term expiring at the Annual General Meeting in July 2025.

48/24 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

One Member, Mr James Berresford had expressed an interest in the role of Deputy Chair of the Authority and had provided a written statement, circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. No further expressions were made.

The nomination was proposed and seconded and as there was only one candidate the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

RESOLVED:

To appoint Mr James Berresford as Deputy Chair of the Authority for a term expiring at the Annual General Meeting in July 2025.

49/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 17TH MAY 2024

The minutes of the of the National Park Authority Meeting held on the 17th May 2024 were approved as a correct record.

50/24 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

51/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

52/24 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

53/24 REPORT OF THE MEMBER APPOINTMENT PROCESS PANEL

Membership of the two Standing Committees had been prepared in accordance with the previous Authority decision that Committee sizes be fixed to 15 with half of the Authority Membership appointed to each Committee. According to the proportionality requirements in the Environment Act there should be 8 Local Authority Members on each committee and 7 Members appointed by the Secretary of State (this includes Parish Members). However, for the previous 5 years the size of the Programmes and Resources Committee has been increased by 1 to 16 so that the Chair of the Authority can be appointed to both Committees. Ken Smith, as Chair of the Authority, had requested that this increase was continued.

The meeting then considered the report of the Member Appointments Process Panel and considered each of the appointments set out in the recommendations of the report. In most cases the appointments were moved, seconded and approved in accordance with the expressions of interest in the report, any changes to the report are identified below.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee

As there was only one Member, Patrick Brady who had expressed an interest in the role of Chair of Planning Committee, the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Patrick Brady withdrew his interest in the role of Vice Chair of Planning, so as there was only one Member, Virginia Priestley who had expressed an interest in the role of Vice Chair of Planning Committee, the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee

As there was only one Member, Janet Dugdale who had expressed an interest in the role of Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee, the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

As there was only one Member, Charles Greaves who had expressed an interest in the role of Vice Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee, the voting was carried out by a show of hands.

Planning Committee

As 7 Secretary of State Members (including Parish Members) had expressed interests in the 7 places available on the Planning Committee, these were proposed and seconded and confirmed by a show of hands.

Jean Wharmby withdrew her interest in the Derbyshire County Council place on Planning Committee and asked that she be considered for the vacancy not taken up by the appointed Member of Cheshire East Council. Dermot Murphy was then confirmed as the Derbyshire County Council Member on Planning Committee by a show of hands.

There were 4 candidates for the 3 places for the Metropolitan/NE Derbyshire District Council Members. A ballot was then held to decide which of the 4 candidates, who had expressed an interest, and had been proposed and seconded, would fill the roles. Following the ballot, Mike Chaplin, Lee Hartshorne and Ken Richardson were appointed.

A ballot was then taken to decide which of the two Members, who had expressed an interest and had been proposed and seconded (Ken Rustidge and Jean Wharmby) in filling the vacancy not taken up by Cheshire East Council. Following the ballot, Jean Wharmby was appointed. Therefore, the vacancies on Planning Committee for Local Authority Members were appointed as follows with the remaining places filled as set out in the report:

Cheshire East Council place: Jean Wharmby

Derbyshire CC: Dermot Murphy

Metropolitan District/NE Derbyshire: Lee Hartshorne, Mike Chaplin, Ken Richardson.

Programmes and Resources Committee

As 6 Secretary of State Members (this included Parish Members), had expressed interests for the 7 places on the Programmes & Resources Committee, together with the extra place for the Chair of the Authority, these were proposed and seconded and confirmed by a show of hands. It was agreed that there will be a holding vacancy for a Secretary of State Member, due to the recent resignation of a Member, pending the completion of the recruitment process by DEFRA.

There was 1 vacancy for a Local Authority Member and Ken Rustidge was appointed to this.. The appointment were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Local Joint Committee

Dermot Murphy and Jean Wharmby were appointed to the vacant Local Authority Members places. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Appeals Panel

Janet Dugdale and Andrew Gregory withdrew their interests. The following were appointed to the vacant Local Authority Member places: Andrew Hart, Dermot Murphy, Jean Wharmby and Charlotte Farrell. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Investigatory & Disciplinary Committee

Andy Nash was appointed to the vacant Local Authority Member place and Andrew Gregory was appointed to the vacant Secretary of State place. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Audit, Budget and Project Risk Monitoring Group

The membership of this new group is based on appointments made earlier in the meeting, together with places for 3 other Members. Andy Nash withdrew his interest in the Group. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Janet Dugdale, Chair of Programmes & Resources
Charles Greaves – Vice Chair of Programmes & Resources
Simon Thompson
Ken Richardson
Yvonne Witter

Due Diligence Panel

James Berresford and Janet Dugdale were appointed as Member and Deputy respectively following a show of hands.

Governance Review Working Group

As there were already expressions of interest from 4 Local Authority Members for the Governance Review Working Group, these were confirmed by a show of hands and it was agreed to carry the remaining vacancy. Martin Beer withdrew his interest as a Secretary of State Member so James Berresford, Patrick Brady, Janet Dugdale and Ken Smith were proposed, seconded and confirmed by a show of hands.

Local Plan Review Member Steering Group

The membership of this group was based on appointments made earlier in the meeting, together with places for 6 other Members. Therefore, the vacancies were appointed as follows:

Patrick Brady, Chair of Planning Committee
Virginia Priestley – Vice Chair of Planning Committee
Ken Smith – Authority Chair
Martin Beer
Matt Buckler
Charlotte Farrell
Bill Hanley
Andy Nash

It was agreed that there would be holding vacancy for this group. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Member Appointments Process Panel

Ken Rustidge was appointed to the Local Authority Member vacancy and Andrew Gregory was appointed to the Secretary of State vacancy. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Appointments to Outside Bodies – all agreed by a show of hands. Where there was a deputy or reserve, the Members appointed were asked to let Democratic Support know by 12th July which Member was to be the deputy or reserve.

Campaign for National Parks - Matt Buckler, Janet Dugdale and Rachel Bennett.

East Midlands Council – James Berresford as Member with a vacancy for deputy.

Europarc – Rachel Bennett

Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee – Ken Smith

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Mike Chaplin as Member and Ken Richardson as Deputy

Peak District National Park Foundation – Martin Beer, James Berresford, Andrew Gregory, Virginia Priestley and Ruth Swetnam

Derwent Valley Community Rail Partnership – no Member appointed.

High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership – Martin Beer as Member and Bill Hanley as Deputy

Moors for the Future Partnership Group – Virginia Priestley as Member and Ruth Swetnam & Andrew Gregory as Deputies.

Peak District Partnership – Patrick Brady

Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership – Andrew Hart as Member with a vacancy for Deputy

Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Board & Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group – Virginia Priestley

Land Managers Forum – Ken Rustidge, Rachel Bennett, Bill Hanley and Charlotte Farrell

Peak District Local Access Forum – Martin Beer as Member and Andy Nash as Deputy

Peak District Local Nature Partnership – Matt Buckler and Ruth Swetnam

Stanage Forum Steering Group – Charlotte Farrell

RESOLVED:

- 1. To confirm the Authority's previous decision to set the size of the two Standing Committees to 15, with 8 Local Authority Members and 7 Secretary of State Members and allocate Local Authority places on Planning Committee as set out in Section B (i) of Appendix 1 of the report with an additional place on the**

Programmes and Resources Committee to accommodate the Chair of the Authority.

2. To appoint Patrick Brady as Chair and Virginia Priestley as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee and Janet Dugdale as Chair and Charles Greaves as Vice Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025

3. To appoint the following Members to the Planning Committee and the Programmes and Resources Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025.

Planning Committee

**Chair – Patrick Brady
Vice Chair – Virginia Priestley
Jean Wharmby
Dermot Murphy
Matt Buckler
Ian Huddleston
Andrew Hart
Lee Hartshorne
Ken Richardson
Mike Chaplin
Kath Potter
Bill Hanley
Martin Beer
Rachel Bennett
Ken Smith**

Programmes & Resources Committee

**Chair – Janet Dugdale
Vice Chair – Charles Greaves
Gill Heath
Becki Woods
Ken Rustidge
Andy Nash
James Berresford
Linda Grooby
Andrew Gregory
Ruth Swetnam
Simon Thompson
Yvonne Witter
Charlotte Farrell
Ken Smith
Chris O’Leary
Vacancy**

4a. To appoint the following Members until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025 to the Local Joint Committee.

**Mike Chaplin
Ian Huddleston
Ken Richardson
Dermot Murphy
Jean Wharmby**

**Martin Beer
Kath Potter
Virginia Priestley
Ken Smith**

b) To appoint the following Members to the Appeals Panel until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025.

**Mike Chaplin
Andrew Hart
Dermot Murphy
Jean Wharmby
Charlotte Farrell**

**Martin Beer
James Berresford
Patrick Brady
Ruth Swetnam**

c) To appoint the following Members to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025.

**Ken Richardson
Becki Woods
Andy Nash**

**Virginia Priestley
Yvonne Witter
Andrew Gregory**

d) To appoint the following Members to the Audit, Budget and Project Risk Monitoring Group until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025.

Chair and Vice Chair of Programmes & Resources Committee Janet Dugdale and Charles Greaves and 3 other Members.

**Simon Thompson
Ken Richardson
Yvonne Witter**

e) To appoint the following Members to the Due Diligence Panel until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025

James Berresford – Member

Janet Dugdale – Deputy

f) To appoint the following Members to the Governance Review Working Group until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025.

**Charles Greaves
Ken Richardson
Becki Woods
Vacancy**

**James Berresford
Patrick Brady
Janet Dugdale
Ken Smith**

g) To appoint the following Members to the Local Plan Review Member Steering Group until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025.

Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee Patrick Brady and Virginia Priestley, Chair of the Authority Ken Smith and 6 other Members.

**Matt Buckler
Martin Beer
Andy Nash**

**Bill Hanley
Charlotte Farrell
Vacancy**

h) To appoint the following Members to the Member Appointments Process Panel

**Ken Richardson
Becki Woods
Ken Rustidge – Reserve**

**Ruth Swetnam
Yvonne Witter
Andrew Gregory - Reserve**

5. To appoint Members to the 18 Outside Bodies set out in Section D of Appendix 1 of the report until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2025.

6. To confirm that all these appointments are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.

54/24 ANNUAL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025 (KH)

Ken Smith reported that the calendar of meetings had been agreed by the Governance Review Working Group, and Members were asked to note that there would only be 1 Authority Meeting in July 2025.

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

RESOLVED:

To approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2025 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

55/24 MEMBER ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT (2023/24/KH)

Members noted that the figures for attendance at meetings was positive. Patrick Brady asked that his essential member training figures be amended to read attending 4 out of 4 sessions rather than 5 out of 5 as he had attended the Planning Training session twice, the second time as an observer as Chair of Planning Committee.

RESOLVED:

To note the annual return of the Members' attendance for 2023/24 at meetings of the Authority, Standing Committees and Essential Member Training as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 3pm and reconvened at 3.15pm. Dermot Murphy, Ken Rustidge, Andrew Hart and Patrick Brady left the meeting during this time

56/24 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

57/24 SERVICES SHOWCASE PRESENTATION

Phil Mulligan, CEO presented a show reel to Members showing a snapshot on some of the things that had been achieved over the year, highlighting the following:

- Members to receive the 1st Year Performance report of the Management Plan at the Authority Meeting at the end of July. Online version and reporting format now available for members of the public to access.
- It has been a challenging time for Planning as there was a risk of being put into "special measures" but this has now been turned around with 97% of the vacancies now filled as well as the appointment of 4 new apprentices in the Planning Team. A lot of work on pay has taken place which has had an effect on vacancies. Pre-app advice has restarted and the performance on speed of determination has improved to over the 70% threshold of determining applications within 8 weeks.

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- 2 high profile enforcement cases were dealt with over the year at Cressbrook and Wagers Flat which went well. A new online enforcement reporting portal has been set up so members of the public can report possible breaches of planning, which will save lots of time in getting on top of new things that have been reported as well as help address the backlog.
 - Community Planners working on the preparation of the new Local Plan and progress is going well. At the stage where we will be going out to consultation soon with our options and issues.
 - A Joint Housing Working Group has been set up with Derbyshire Dales to get a better understanding of the affordable housing needs in the area. Members visited the affordable housing at Bradwell Springs, as part of the recent Member Annual Tour. The scheme was commended at a recent planning excellence awards.
 - The Planning Team are working with Peak Cluster, a project aimed at capturing carbon emissions from the cement and lime industries in Derbyshire and Cheshire. The goal is to have the pipelines operational by 2030 to take the carbon out into the Irish Sea.
 - Planners influenced STW in a major rethink on their decision to expand the reservoirs in the Upper Derwent.
 - Heritage Team have been working on Ecton Mine which is now off the "at risk" register. The project was FiPL funded and a celebration is planned to mark its success.
 - The works on the new agricultural buildings at Pump Farm are now nearly complete, and will soon be occupied by a tenant.
 - Millers Dale change place is now open. Currently installing a temporary bike hire operation in the Goods Shed with accessible cycle hire options. EV charging points also installed in the car park.
 - Hoping to have a new bridge installed at Cressbrook as the current one has been closed for years.
 - Consultants who have been looking at options for visitor centres and cycle hire have just submitted their findings and recommendations. These are being worked through with a view to coming back to Members to agree how we proceed.
 - A "User Pressure Group" is being established to inform our position on managing the issues to do with tourism and visitor pressures.
 - Authority continues to welcome a wide range of volunteers to work with us and an engagement programme for school visits, and Brunts Barn has been adapted to make it more accessible.
 - MFFP continue to do an impressive programme of works. Not just restoration of moorland but scientific research and community engagement.

- Co-working space has been created in the old CEO Office, which should provide a flexible and useful space for local business and community groups to come in and use.
- The Fires Operation Group (FOG) hosted a joint training exercise with the Fires Service, Land Managers, National Trust and the RSPB on Stanage Edge which involved a simulated mock wildfire incident. Two Wildfire Engagement Officers have been appointed (with funding from United Utilities) to engage with the public coming into the National Park around the risks of wildfires, especially from wild camping and associated bonfires and bbqs.
- On the verge of hearing if the Authority has had the Council of Europe Award Diploma renewed.
- All staff are being asked to take part in a volunteering day as part of their corporate objectives.
- CEO Roadshows have gone down well and provided an opportunity for members of the public to have their say. More roadshows to follow and engagement with the new MP's is planned following the recent General Election.

Ken Smith thanked Phil for his presentation on behalf of all Members.

58/24 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES - NONE SUBMITTED

No reports were submitted.

59/24 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 15 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (3) 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)".

60/24 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE 17TH MAY 2024

The confidential minutes of the National Park Authority Meeting held on the 17th May 2024 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 4.00 pm