



MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 11 July 2025 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

Present: N Adams, M Beer, R Bennett, P Brady, M Buckler, C Farrell, C Greaves, A Gregory, B Hanley, A Hart, L Hartshorne, I Huddleston, Kelly, Mabbott, A Nash, K Potter, V Priestley, K Richardson, K Rustidge, Dr R Swetnam, S Thompson, J Wharmby, Y Witter and A Martin

Apologies for absence: M Chaplin, Prof J Dugdale and C O'Leary.

69/25 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

Mr Phil Mulligan CEO, presided over the appointment of the Chair for 2025/26.

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 2026.

Mr Ken Smith then took the Chair and welcomed the new Members to the Authority.

70/25 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

One Member, Prof Janet Dugdale 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 Prof Janet Dugdale as Deputy Chair of the Authority for a term expiring at the Annual General Meeting in July 2026.

71/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 9 MAY 2025 AND 20 JUNE 2025

There was an amendment to agenda item 59/25 to the spelling of the name Jane Butler to Jayne Butler.

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority Meeting held on 9 May 2025, with the above amendment, were approved as a correct record.

The minutes of the National Park Authority (Special Meeting) held on 20 June 2025 were approved as a correct record.

72/25 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

73/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

74/25 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 13

Both R Swetnam and A Gregory declared an interest in this item as they are both Trustees for the Peak District National Park Foundation.

There were no other declarations of interest.

75/25 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 implemented for the newly formed Resources Committee.

Recommendation 1 as set out in the report was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

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 with an additional place on the Resources Committee to accommodate the Chair of the Authority as required.

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 the Resources Committee

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

As there was only one Member, Andy Nash 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.

The vacancy not taken up by the appointed Member of Cheshire East Council was filled by Melandra Smith from Derbyshire County Council.

The appointment was proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Resources Committee

As 6 Secretary of State Members (this included Parish Members), had expressed interests for the 8 places on the Resources Committee, (including 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 two holding vacancies for the Secretary of State Members pending the completion of the recruitment process by DEFRA.

There were 4 vacancies for Local Authority Members and Charlotte Farrell, Charlotte Kelly, Nick Adams and Simon Mabbott were appointed to these. These appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Local Joint Committee

Ken Rustidge was appointed to the vacant Local Authority Member place. This appointment was proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Appeals Panel

Bill Hanley was appointed to the vacant Secretary of State Member place. The appointment was proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Investigatory & Disciplinary Committee

Ken Rustidge and Matthew Buckler were appointed to the vacant Local Authority Member places.

Rachel Bennett and Yvonne Witter were appointed to the vacant Secretary of State Member places.

The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Due Diligence Panel

Janet Dugdale was appointed as Member and Rachel Bennett appointed as Deputy following a show of hands.

Governance Review Working Group

As there were already expressions of interest from 3 Local Authority Members for the Governance Review Working Group, Ken Rustidge was appointed to the vacant Local Authority Member place. This appointment was proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

There were 7 expressions of interest from Secretary of State Members for 4 places on the Governance Review Working Group. Martin Beer withdrew his interest as a Secretary of State Member. A ballot was then held to decide which of the remaining 6 candidates, who had expressed an interest, and had been proposed and seconded, would fill the roles. Following the ballot the Member with the least votes was removed so 5 candidates remained for 4 places. A second ballot was held and the successful candidates were Virginia Priestley, Patrick Brady, Ken Smith and Simon Thompson.

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

Bill Hanley
Andy Nash
Kath Potter
Charlotte Farrell.

The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Member Appointments Process Panel

Charlotte Farrell (reserve) was appointed to the Local Authority Member vacancy and Rachel Bennett (reserve) was appointed to the Secretary of State vacancy. The appointments were proposed, seconded and appointed by a show of hands.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

These were 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 18th July which Member was to be the deputy or reserve.

Campaign for National Parks - Matt Buckler (member), Simon Thompson and Ken Rustidge both as Deputies.

East Midlands Council – Janet Dugdale and Bill Hanley

Europarc – Andy Nash

Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee – Ken Smith

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Mike Chaplin as Member

Peak District National Park Foundation – Janet Dugdale, Ken Rustidge, Kath Potter, Ruth Swetnam, and Charlotte Kelly.

National Parks England – Chair of the Authority

National Parks Partnerships LLP – Annual Meeting – Chair of the Authority

Derwent Valley Community Rail Partnership – Simon Mabbott

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, Martin Beer as Deputy and Matt Buckler as Reserve.

Peak District Partnership – Patrick Brady withdrew his nomination and therefore Ken Rustidge was appointed Member, and Andy Nash as Deputy.

Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership – Charlotte Kelly as Member with a vacancy for Deputy.

Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Board & Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group – Janet Dugdale

Land Managers Forum – Rachel Bennett, Nick Adams, Lee Hartshorne 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 Rachel Bennett.

Stanage Forum Steering Group – Bill Hanley and Ginny Priestley

Recommendations 2 – 6 as set out in the report were proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. To appoint Patrick Brady as Chair and Virginia Priestley as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee

2. To appoint Charles Greaves as Chair and Andy Nash as Vice Chair of the Resources Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2026

3. To appoint the following Members to the Planning Committee and the Resources Committee until the annual Authority Meeting in July 2026.

Planning Committee

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

Resources Committee

Chair – Charles Greaves
Vice Chair – Andy Nash
Chris O’Leary
Ken Rustidge
Ken Smith
Simon Mabbott
Janet Dugdale
Andrew Gregory
Ruth Swetnam
Simon Thompson
Yvonne Witter
Charlotte Farrell
Nick Adams
Charlotte Kelly

4) To appoint the following until the annual Authority meeting in July 2026:

a) 5 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members to the Local Joint Committee. [Section B (iii)]

Ian Huddleston – LA
Mike Chaplin - LA
Ken Richardson – LA
Ken Rustidge – LA
Jean Wharmby - LA

Martin Beer – SoS
Kath Potter - SoS
Virginia Priestley - SoS
Ken Smith - SoS

b) 5 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members to the Appeals Panel. [Section B (iv)]

Mike Chaplin – LA
Charlotte Farrell – LA
Ian Huddleston – LA
Andy Nash – LA
Jean Wharmby - LA

Martin Beer - SoS
Patrick Brady - SoS
Bill Hanley - SoS
Dr Ruth Swetnam - SoS

c) 3 Local Authority Members and 3 Secretary of State Members to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee [Section B (v)]

Ken Richardson – LA
Ken Rustidge – LA
Matthew Buckler – LA

Virginia Priestley - SoS
Rachel Bennett - SoS
Yvonne Witter - SoS

d) 1 Member and 1 Deputy to the Due Diligence Panel. [Section C (i)]

Prof Janet Dugdale

Rachel Bennett

e) 8 Members (4 Local Authority Members and 4 Secretary of State Members) to the Governance Review Working Group. [Section C (ii)]

Simon Mabbott- LA
Charles Greaves – LA
Ken Richardson – LA
Ken Rustidge – LA

Patrick Brady – SoS
Prof Janet Dugdale – SoS
Ken Smith – SoS
Simon Thompson - SoS

f) The Chair & Vice Chair of Planning Committee, Chair of Authority and 6 other Members to the Local Plan Review Member Steering Group. [Section C (iii)]

Patrick Brady
Ken Smith
Martin Beer
Charlotte Farrell
Andy Nash

Virginia Priestley
Kath Potter
Matthew Buckler
Bill Hanley

g) 4 Members (2 Local Authority Members, 2 Secretary of State Members) and 2 Reserve Members to the Member Appointments Process Panel [Section C (iv)]

Ken Richardson (LA)
Ken Rustidge (LA)
Charlotte Farrell (LA) - reserve

Dr Ruth Swetnam (SoS)
Yvonne Witter (SoS)
Rachel Bennett (SoS)-reserve

5) . To appoint Members to the 18 Outside Bodies set out below until the annual Authority meeting in July 2026.

Campaign for National Parks - Matt Buckler (member), Simon Thompson and Ken Rustidge both as Deputies.

East Midlands Council – Janet Dugdale and Bill Hanley

Europarc – Andy Nash

Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee – Ken Smith

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Mike Chaplin as Member

Peak District National Park Foundation – Janet Dugdale, Ken Rustidge, Kath Potter, Ruth Swetnam, and Charlotte Kelly.

National Parks England – Chair of the Authority

National Parks Partnerships LLP – Annual Meeting – Chair of the Authority

Derwent Valley Community Rail Partnership – Simon Mabbott

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, Martin Beer as Deputy and Matt Buckler as Reserve.

Peak District Partnership – Patrick Brady withdrew his nomination and therefore Ken Rustidge was appointed Member, and Andy Nash as Deputy.

Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership – Charlotte Kelly as Member with a vacancy for Deputy.

Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Board & Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group – Janet Dugdale

Land Managers Forum – Rachel Bennett, Nick Adams, Lee Hartshorne 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 Rachel Bennett.

Stanage Forum Steering Group – Bill Hanley and Ginny Priestley

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

76/25 MEMBER ANNUAL ATTENDANCE REPORT 2024/2025

It was noted that the report included a paragraph (para 11) explaining that there had been two additional special meetings called within 2025/25. Statutory notice was given for these meeting however it was appreciated that it is not always possible for Members to re-arrange their calendars to accommodate these additional meetings. Therefore, in Appendix 1 to this report the additional meetings had been separated out.

However there was a request from one Member for the report in Appendix 1 to be redesigned in the future to better reflect any changes to meetings. The Authority Solicitor agreed to discuss this further with the Member outside of the meeting.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the annual return of the Members' attendance for 2024/25 at meetings of the Authority, Standing Committees and Essential Member Training as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**

77/25 ANNUAL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025/2026

Prior to the meeting Members have mentioned that there was a Resources Committee scheduled for October 2025 half-term as well also October 2026 half-term. It was explained that these meetings have been scheduled to work with statutory time limits and other meetings in the schedule and if they were to be moved it would have a domino effect on other meetings.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2026 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**

10:56am The meeting was adjourned at 10:56am and reconvened at 11:11am. Kath Potter left the meeting during this time.

78/25 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:

- Overview of partnership progress
- Tourism charter
- Celebrating 75th anniversary of legislation
- Peak District providing leadership across family of National Parks
- Hosted National Landscape Association
- Hosted NPP visits with potential funders
- Hosting UK chairs and CEO forum
- English Agriculture & Rural Development Officer Group
- All Park Transport Officer Group
- Access Officer Group
- Historic Environment Officer Group
- Joint Information Officer Group
- Climate Change Officer Group
- UK Comms Unit
- The work of the Planning Department
- Local Plan
- Grindon Limekiln
- People of the Peak
- Archaeological Research Framework
- Landscapes Unlocked image archive project
- Castleton Area Management
- Active Travel Plan

- Parishes Forum, Business Peak District
- Members Planning Tour
- Dale Cottage, Knowle House, Pump Farm
- Accessible Improvements
- Car Park Improvements
- Cressbrook Bridge Opening
- Tree Works on the Trails
- Visitor Services
- Cycle Hire
- Moors for the Future Partnership
- Farming in Protected Landscapes
- Minninglow Grange
- Upper Booth Farm
- Hayfield Farmers
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Nature Recovery Plan
- Morridge Hill Country
- Championing National Parks for Everyone
- Peak District Youth Impact Collective
- Peak District Ambassador Schools
- Engagement News
- Diverse Communities
- Health & Wellbeing
- Ranger Guided Walks
- Landscape Connections NLHF Bid
- White Peak Landscape Recovery
- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Landscape & Engagement
- Landscape Observatory
- Fire Officer Group (FOG) Training
- Pennine Way 60th Celebration and Access for All
- Defra Access Visit – Accessible Castleton
- Engagement and Employee Engagement
- Training Academy
- Volunteer and Peak Park Conservation Volunteers (PPCV)
- Governance Working Group, Boardroom Apprentice, Digitisation Project Progress, Pride Logo
- Peak District National Park Foundation

Members thanked the CEO and all Members of staff, past and present for their work over the years.

79/25 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) For Members to note the report**

80/25 PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION REPORT

Roisin Joyce, Foundation Director was thanked for her work.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the annual financial and operational report on the Peak District National Park Foundation for 2024-25 and the Foundation's plans for 2025-26**
- 2) To authorise applications for acceptance grants from the Peak District National Park Foundation, subject to approval of the relevant Head of Service and compliance with Standing Orders in all respects, except for Standing Order 7.C-2 (or any subsequent equivalent reference) in respect of each individual grant.**
- 3) To delegate authority to the Authority Solicitor to enter into and determine the terms and conditions of any Grant Agreements arising from recommendation 2 in the best interests of the Authority.**

81/25 TARGETS AND OUTCOME FRAMEWORK

Simon Geikie, Strategy and Performance Manager, presented the report adding context and background on the history of the targets and how they came about.

The detail of this report will be available alongside the National Park Management Plan Annual Report in May each year.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To approve the targets, as set out in Appendix 1, being incorporated into the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28.**
- 2) To delegate authority to the Head of Resources to amend and update Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework targets as further baseline and partner data becomes available.**

82/25 FINANCIAL OUTTURN

Sinead Butler, presented the report and answered Members questions and comments.

It was mentioned that this report needs to be scrutinised in detail by a sub-committee which has more time available. It was felt that this was not a good use of the entire Authorities time to go through this report. Perhaps the Governance Committee should review the arrangements and whether it should

be reviewed by a sub-committee. This would be taken to the Governance Review Group to review the current working practice.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To consider and note the draft Revenue and Capital Outturn positions, Variance Analysis report for 2024/25 and reserve movements (Appendices A, B and D).**
- 2) That the specific reserve appropriations for Revenue and Capital of £1.1m shown in Appendix C be approved.**
- 3) To consider and note the renaming of the Aldern House Reserve to the Corporate Operational Reserve and the creation of the Warslow Revenue Reserve.**

83/25 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT BLOCK 2 2024/25

Sinead Butler presented the report. Thomas Absalom from Veritau was in attendance.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Internal Audit reports for the three areas covered under Block 2 for 2024/25 Income, Volunteering & Reserves (in appendices 1-3 respectively) be received and the proposed actions agreed.**

84/25 INTERNAL AUDIT 2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT

Sinead Butler and Thomas Absalom were in attendance for the report.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To consider and note the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2024/25 from the Internal Auditors at Appendix 2.**
- 2) To consider and note the quality assurance and development arrangements and the confirmation that the internal audit service conforms to relevant professional standards at Appendix 2.**
- 3) To approve the updated Internal Audit Charter at Appendix 3.**

85/25 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE - VERBAL UPDATE

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the recent work of the Planning Committee.

86/25 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF P&R COMMITTEE - VERBAL UPDATE

The last meeting of the Programmes and Resources Committee had been cancelled and therefore there was no update to give.

87/25 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

1) Local Access Forum

There was nothing to add to the report already circulated and no Member questions.

2) Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee

The report of the grants, item 2, does underline the integrated partnership work and the success.

A proposal to note both the Local Access Forum Report and the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee Report was proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

To note both these reports.

The meeting ended at 12.28 pm