
MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 28 November 2025 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

Present: Prof J Dugdale, N Adams, M Beer, R Bennett, P Brady, M Chaplin, H Corran, C Farrell, C Greaves, L Hartshorne, C Kelly, S Mabbott, A Martin, A Nash, C O'Leary, V Priestley, K Richardson, K Rustidge, M Smith, Dr R Swetnam and Y Witter

Apologies for absence: M Buckler, B Hanley, A Hart, I Huddlestone, K Potter and S Thompson.

103/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2025

The following amendment was made to the minutes:

97/25 Boardroom Apprentice Programme

Point 5 Should read "That any matched Apprentice would be eligible to claim for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme when attending meetings of the Authority, Resources Committee **and Planning Committee** and any training or other events as necessary is agreed.

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 26 September 2025, with the above amendment, were approved as a correct record.

104/25 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

105/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

106/25 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was declared:

Item 14 – MFFP Report

V Priestley declared a prejudicial interest due to holding the office of Chair of MFFP.

107/25 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

The Chair provided the following verbal update to Members regarding his attendance in addition to the weekly briefing meetings with the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, and attendance at the Planning Committees, Planning Committee Site Visits and the Resources Committee. The Chair also attended the Local Plan Steering Group, the Governance Working Group and the Climate Change Training Day: -

- Local Plan Briefing
- Steel Rail Plan Initiative
- 11 October – attended, spoke at and took part in Peak Park Parishes Day at Aldern House and the Chair extended thanks to all members of staff who were involved in planning and organising the day.
- 16 October – the Chair participated in the Tourism Charter meeting with key stake-holders.
- 20 October – the Chair attended the National Park England Board meeting.
- 22 October – the Chair had a short meeting with Gareth Radcliffe who is the next National Parks UK Chair.
- 5 November – the Chair attended the National Parks Partnership AGM who appointed a new Chair – Sue Albion and a new Chief Executive – Kath Hawkins.
- 10 November – the Chair along with the CEO attended a meeting to develop the NPUK agenda for the meeting on 3 December.
- 19 November – the Chair, along with the CEO, attended the Regional Mayor's Peak Partnership Summit at Bakewell Town Hall.
- 27 November – the Chair and the Vice-Chair attended the Peak Cluster webinar regarding a proposed new pipeline with connections from the Hope Valley and other areas heading out through Cheshire and The Wirral to the Irish Sea. Members requested a Member Briefing on this to explore the impact on the National Park and the region. More information is available here: www.peakcluster.co.uk
- The Chair noted the email from the Authority Solicitor regarding Members need to remain partial and open-minded when taking part in discussion.

10:06am N Adams attended the meeting.

108/25 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive delivered the following updates to his report:

- The CEO had been on a visit to Abney Moor which could be a potential site to visit for the next members tour.
- There is still no update from DEFRA regarding the grant for the next 3 years.
- There were no massive impacts from the recent Budget but still analysing what it will mean for the PNDPA.
- There is potential for regional mayors to influence the visitor profile and there is a consultation document to read through.
- The Peak Park Summit raised some good points regarding what is required to manage the visitor pressure on the area.

- There is an exciting year ahead planned with regard to the parks 75th anniversary and a members event is scheduled. The CEO was commended on his engagement with all the different groups. The 75th anniversary is a good way of communicating the nature of the National Park and hopefully the celebrations shall be cost neutral. 4 national parks have contributed to the funding of the report from Andrew McCloy, and the branding will not cost much apart from the re-branding of the vehicles. The 75th calendar is self-funding and selling well already and there is a small budget from existing funds to allow for staff and volunteers to come together in the summer.
- There was discussion regarding imposing a tourist levy for visitors to the national park and how this would be collected for the Peak District. The tourist levy would be a tax on overnight stays which the accommodation provider would collect and forward to the Mayor. It was acknowledged that this would be difficult to impose for any visitor whose accommodation is just outside of the national park and would also not be able to be collected from day trippers. It is hoped that the cost of administering this levy is not more than the income generated from the levy.
- The Buxton Festival is an opportunity to raise awareness about the Peak District National Park and is there potential to work with the Peak District Foundation for the 75th celebrations?
- It was questioned as to whether there would be some engagement from Mayor with the local communities who are affected by the visitors to the national park.

109/25 CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

The Corporate Property Team Manager presented the report which details the environmental performance data for the 2024/25 financial year and progress towards the Authority's goal of becoming zero carbon by 2050. The additional appendix relating to the Land Based Emissions was written by Faith Johnson from the Environmental Quality Mark Community Interest Company, who attended the meeting to answer questions.

The following areas were discussed: -

- It was clarified that the report follows national guidelines and covers some emissions on our land but does not relate to visitors to our sites as this data is covered elsewhere. This report is about the Authorities own carbon emissions and not about all of the emissions across the National Park which is covered in the Management Plan.
- It was mentioned that the carbon tool was excellent and it appears that much of the emissions in the Peak District National Park relate to animals on the land. Members questioned tenancy agreements and the kind of farming allowed on our land and would this report and its conclusions be factored into future tenancy agreements as part of the bigger picture. Regarding the Warslow Estate the old tenancies are not successional so there is an opportunity to look at this when tenancies are renewed.
- Is this information being benchmarked against other managed estates for example Chatsworth or the National Trust? Benchmarking has been done through FiPL applications and also a study encompassing five National Trust Farmers has taken place. There is potential for benchmarking in the future and it was suggested that the Holkham Hall Estate has done much work in this area and could be a good source of information.

- Members asked how the report accounts for ruminant emissions and caution was advised with using these models as different measures can be applied. The figure in the report is a tool to help management of the land. There was a DEFRA report which showed the difference in the tools and there is work being done to regularise the tools used.
- Hopefully next year will be able to look at these three emissions points:
 1. Goods and services purchased by the Authority
 2. Employee Commuting
 3. Home Working

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

RESOLVED:

1. **That Members take note of the information provided within Appendix 1 and recognize it as a reflection of the carbon emissions of the Authority's operations.**

110/25 AUTHORITY PLAN MID YEAR REPORT

The Data Strategy & Performance Officer presented the report for Members to review the digital Progress Report of the Authority Plan. The report also provides Members with an update of the Corporate Risk Register 25/26 for review and approval.

There were no further updates to the report.

Members discussed the report:

- There was clarification that there is prioritisation of which trees and property are high risk and that the risk is managed and is appropriate.
- Context was provided regarding the 120 planning breaches which had been resolved in the past year, more information on this is reported to the Planning Committee.
- Page 63 of the corporate risk register was mentioned and there was a query regarding the comment “Local Plan review developing policy around recreational hubs to support development which increases capacity of visitor infrastructure”.
- In section 3.2 of the report there is reference to a delay in the maintenance of footpaths, it was confirmed that the required action should be achieved by the end of the year.

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

RESOLVED:

1. **The digital Authority Progress Plan Report (Decile 5) 2025/26 is approved.**
2. **The Corporate risk register summary (Decile 5) 2025/26 provided in Appendix 1 is reviewed and the status of risks accepted.**

111/25 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

The Authority Solicitor presented the report which provides Members with information about complaints, statutory information requests and data handling for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

There were no further updates to this report.

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

RESOLVED:

1. **That the complaint, information request and data handling statistics detailed within this report and the appendices be noted.**

112/25 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Authority Solicitor presented the report which was seeking Members' approval of the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.

There were no further updates to the report.

- It was clarified that the annual governance statement had been audited by external auditors
- The timelines for progress for the new standing orders constitution coming to the Governance Review Working Group (GRWG) were discussed and when Members would be seeing this for approval - draft coming to January 2026 GRWG and then aiming to take it to next Authority meeting in February 2026.

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

RESOLVED:

1. **To approve the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 appended at Appendix 1 for sign off by the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Authority.**
2. **To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, following consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to make minor changes to the Code of Corporate Governance following publication of the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25.**

113/25 INTERNAL AUDIT BLOCK 1 REPORT

The Finance Manager presented the report which gives Members the Internal Auditors recommendations for block one of the 2025/26 audit and the agreed actions for consideration.

It was noted that the title of the report was incorrect and should be “**Internal Audit Report Block 1 2025/26**” (instead of Block 2).

The Members discussed the report and the following points were made:

- On page 115 of the report relating to Runbooks and Training the risk is significant. The concerns have been recognised by the IT Team and are already being addressed.
- The Service Risk Register was discussed and the new structure pulls through risk action into service level planning and is embedded into the system for the next service planning stage.
- A “run group” are written down and tested procedures to cover different types of incidents and will document and test the procedures and will ensure that training is in place and details the resourcing and the time spent. It includes the Standard Operation Procedures for recovery.
- This is a public document and much progress has been made in mitigating the risk. Members requested that they receive training in the Risk Register so that informed decisions can be taken.

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 two areas covered under Block 1 for 2025/26 Risk Management and IT Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery (in appendices 1 and 2 respectively) be received and the proposed actions agreed.**

114/25 EXTERNAL AUDIT - 2024/25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS' REPORTS

The Finance Manager and Jennifer Norman, Audit Manager at Forviz Mazars, presented the report which is to seek approval for audited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 and for Members to consider the External Auditors' Audit Completion Report 2024/25 and External Audit Annual Report for 2024/25.

At the publication of the report the pension update had not been received, this update has now been received and no changes are necessary to the figures. It was noted that this is the earliest that this audit completion report has been brought to the Authority the deadline being February 2026. No significant control regulations have been raised.

The following points from Members were discussed:

- Congratulations to the Finance Team and the external Auditors for the early completion of the reports.
- Page 127 of the report shows the net position in the pension fund as at 31/03/2025 which is invested on behalf of the Authority by Derbyshire County Council and details a significant increase in the value on the previous year.
- There was concern that recommendation 3 was rather passive and should there be a follow-up report from officers to show that work has

been completed? – this process is already in place as part of the External Audit.

- There is a requirement of officers to implement the requirements of the external report – the responsibility lies with the Auditors and the controls they have in place over the 12 months.
- The Finance Manager will provide a mid-year report back to Authority.

The recommendations as set out in the report with an additional recommendation (number 6) were proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. **To approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 at Appendix 1.**
2. **To delegate authority to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority to update the Statement of Accounts with the pension valuation figures when received, prior to publication of the audited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25.**
3. **To consider and note the External Auditor's Audit Completion Report (ACR) 2024/25 at Appendix 2.**
4. **To consider and note the External Audit Annual report (AAR) 2024/25 at Appendix 3.**
5. **To note that the Statement of Accounts & associated Letter of Representation, will be signed by the Chair of the Authority and by the Chief Financial Officer, once the external audit has been completed, provided that the overall opinion in the audit report remains unqualified.**
6. **That the Chief Financial Officer will bring back a mid-year report to Full Authority to report on progress with the actions required in the Audit Completion Report (ACR).**

11:31am *The meeting adjourned for a 10 minute break and reconvened at 11:41am*

115/25 MFFP REPORT AMP 8

The Business Development Manager, Moors for the Future Project (MFFP), presented the report which was requesting approval to enter into agreements with the water companies Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water and accept funding to carry out peatland restoration activities through Asset Management Period 8 (AMP8), 2025-30.

This report would normally go to the Resources Committee however due to the timescale it has been brought to the Authority meeting.

11:44am N Adams re-joined the meeting.

Members raised the following points:

- The recommendations were queried as originally the Audit, Budget and Risk Monitoring Group were responsible for monitoring this project, the monitoring will now be done by the Resources Committee.
- MFFP report annually to the Resources Committee. Over and above this annual monitoring general reports shall be required and monitored by the Resources Committee.
- Sphagnum moss was mentioned and there is an accessible sphagnum laboratory. The planting of the moss was discussed, over 8 million plugs have been planted incorporating 11 species and monitoring shows the success rate over 2 years has been over 90%. Planting is completed following good practice planting specification and areas are targeted where research shows it shall be successful.
- More funding has been received than expected and is for a 5 year period.

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

RESOLVED:

1. **That the Authority supports the development and establishment of partnering agreements and associated contracts between PDNPA and Severn Trent Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water (Water Company partners) for the delivery of AMP 8 habitat restoration aspirations (capital works) and associated research and communications outcomes *up to a maximum value of £25 million between 2025-2030*. Approval of the terms of the funding from the Water Company partners is delegated to the Head of Assets and Enterprise in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the Finance Manager / Chief Finance Officer (or such other person appointed under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972).**
2. **That authority be delegated to the Authority Solicitor to enter into and determine the terms and conditions of all legal documentation arising from the implementation of recommendation 1, subject to compliance with the Authority's Standing Orders and in the best interest of the Authority.**
3. **That the Projects be monitored by the Resources Committee or such other group as may be appointed with this same remit.**

116/25 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Resources Committee gave an update on the business of the last Resources Committee held on 14 November 2025. The following topics had been discussed at this meeting:

- Introducing charging at 4 toilet sites at 50p per use, payment by card only.
- Reserves – the Finance Manager was given the authority to re-organise the reserves
- Part B Item – United Utilities Contract
- Part B Item – IT Contract

- Part B Item – Finance Report

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

117/25 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave an update on the business of the last two planning Committees held on 10 October 2025 and 7 November 2025.

- One theme coming out of these planning committees has been the building and barn conversion in the interest of conservation and the conflict with policy in making these into housing.
- There was a major application for a development of 42 affordable houses on the edge of Bakewell which provides an important asset for those needing affordable housing despite there being some concern from the committee on the nature and details of the development.
- It was suggested that there is a difference of emphasis between how some Members view the barns and what is recommended by Officers, each application is dealt with on their individual merit.

RESOLVED:

To note the report

118/25 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

1) Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee

The Chair of the Authority added to point 1 of the report regarding S.245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 which is just one element of the amendments. Representation have been made to government regarding the nuclear report.

2) Peak District Local Access Forum

Members were encouraged to look at the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) report – Outdoors for All. the link is provided in the report.

3) Hope Valley Partnership

No further update to the report.

RESOLVED:

To note these three reports.

119/25 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 19 and 20 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).

120/25 CONFIDENTIAL - PROPERTY LEASE

121/25 CONFIDENTIAL – CAPITAL SPEND APPROVAL

The meeting ended at 12.48 pm