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## MINUTES

Meeting:	<b>National Park Authority</b>
Date:	Friday 14 February 2025 at 10.00 am
Venue:	Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell
Chair:	K Smith
Present:	J W Berresford, M Beer, R Bennett, P Brady, M Buckler, M Chaplin, B Hanley, A Hart, L Hartshorne, I Huddleston, D Murphy, A Nash, K Potter, V Priestley, K Richardson, K Rustidge and J Wharmby
Apologies for absence:	Prof J Dugdale, C Farrell, C Greaves, A Gregory, L Grooby, G Heath, C O'Leary, Dr R Swetnam, S Thompson, Y Witter, B Woods and A Martin.

### **23/25 URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **24/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no requests for public participation.

### **25/25 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Member declarations of interest.

### **26/25 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24**

The Authority Solicitor & Monitoring Officer introduced the report and stated that the special meeting had been necessary to allow the External Auditors to sign off the Authority's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and annual accounts by 28<sup>th</sup> February.

The AGS is the Authority's framework to demonstrate sound, good governance which is reviewed annually to check it is fit for purpose. The External Audit have not found any matters of concern so there were no amendments to propose.

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

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**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 for sign off by the Chief Executive and the Chair of the Authority as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. To authorise 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.**

**27/25 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2023/24 - STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND EXTERNAL AUDITORS' REPORTS**

Members considered the report on the audited Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 and the External Auditor's Audit Completion Report 2023/24 and the External Audit Annual Report for 2022/23 and 2023/24. The report had also been presented to Members at the Authority meeting on 7 February 2025.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 at Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. To consider and note the External Auditor's Audit Completion Report (ACR) 2023/24 at Appendix 2 of the report.**
- 3. To consider and note the External Audit Annual report (AAR) 2023/24 at Appendix 3 of the report.**
- 4. To consider and note the External Audit Annual report (AAR) 2022/23 at Appendix 4 of the report.**
- 5. To note that the Statement of Accounts & associated Letter of representation, needs to be signed by the Chair and by the Chief Finance Officer, once the external audit has been completed, provided that the overall opinion in the audit report remains unqualified.**

The meeting ended at 10.06 am