
MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 22 May 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

Present: Prof J Dugdale, M Beer, R Bennett, P Brady, M Buckler, M Chaplin, C Farrell, C Greaves, I Huddleston, A Martin, A Nash, K Rustidge, M Smith, Dr R Swetnam, S Thompson and Y Witter

Apologies for absence: H Corran, B Hanley, L Hartshorne, C Kelly, V Priestley and J Wharmby.

34/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2026

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 27 March 2026 were approved as a correct record.

35/26 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

36/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

37/26 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

38/26 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

The Chair provided the following verbal update to Members:

- Attended 6 briefing sessions with the Deputy Chair and the Chief Executive
- Attended one Resource Committee on 24 April
- Attended 2 Planning Committees in April and May and 1 Site Visit
- Attended 1 Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting on 14 April
- Attended 2 National Park England's Director's monthly briefing sessions with the Chair and the Executive Director of National Parks England (NPE) and is seeking to circulate the monthly NPE newsletter to update Members on NPE initiatives

- 2 Local Plan Steering Group Meetings on 31 March and 15 May, the latter of which was to agree the contents of the Draft Plan that was being brought to Members Forum later on today
- The Chair with the Chief Executive planted a sapling from the Sycamore Gap tree on 17 April
- Also on 17 April with the Head of Planning and Conservation the Chair had met with Lord Deben regarding the sustainability elements in the proposed new town at Adlington to consider open space provision within any settlement to mitigate potential future impact on the National Park
- On 23 April met with a Planning Inspectorate Inspector alongside the Chair of Planning/Chair of the Local Plan Steering Group and Officers. Early opinion on the Draft Local Plan was given with advice on some areas such as housing
- Attended the Bakewell Conversation Panel on 20 May with the Head of Planning and Conservation which included the County Council, District Council and local Police which had been called by the Bakewell Mayor. The meeting was well attended.

Clarification was given by the Chair to Members that the meeting with the Planning Inspectorate had not been with the Inspector who would be undertaking the review of the Local Plan.

10:10 The Monitoring Officer joined the meeting

39/26 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive presented their report to Members which included the following updates since the report was published:

- There had been 5 Member vacancies. 2 Local Authority appointments had been confirmed but details were not received in time to have attended today's meeting, with a further notification still to be received. The Parish Forum needed to go through their process to appoint their Parish Member, with the Secretary of State recruitment due to happen in the summer through to autumn.
- The Chief Executive highlighted the positive progress on funding news under section 2.8.1. and provided some updates on the 75th anniversary including:
 - Commemorative ales called '75' were being launched later in the year
 - Northern Rail were naming a train 'Peak District 75' to be launched from Manchester Piccadilly
 - The open top sightseer bus service starting on Saturday 23 May would carry the 75th logo
 - The Minister with responsibility for National Parks would be attending the report launch being held at Aldern House in the summer, which had been commissioned by the 4 National Parks commemorating their 75th anniversary in 2026.

Comments and questions from Members:

- The increase in car park capacity and associated revenue was welcomed.
- Mary Creagh was advised as the Minister for Nature at DEFRA who would be attending the report launch in the summer.
- The issue of wildfires in the Peak District had been mentioned in several reports. The PDNPA don't have enforcement powers, but High Peak Borough Council were considering delegation of powers to the National Park Authority. Training and resource capacity would need to be considered if this was the case.
- A recent report from the University of Leeds on the impact of large-scale fires on communities in and around the National Park had been published.

- The Peak District Fire Operations Group (FOG) co-ordinated wildfire response through partnership working. Communications were less co-ordinated where organisations and groups had different focuses.
- The most common cause of fires on upland areas was mainly through human activity.
- More restrictions were now in place for controlled burns. Land owners had different views on how best to manage moorland areas.
- It had been observed that although there were high quality toilet facilities at Millers Dale, paper was being dropped on the floor as there was no bin provided.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

10:20 Cllr K Rustidge left the meeting

40/26 PERFORMANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN AND CORPORATE RISK

The Senior Strategy and Performance Officer presented their report for Members to review the digital Progress report of the Authority Plan and to provide Members with the year-end update of the FY25/26 and start of FY 26/27 Corporate Risk Register.

There were no updates since the report was circulated.

The following areas were discussed: -

- Some risk factors are not within the control of the Authority. How were these mitigated and what capacity did the Authority have to manage those risks. Some risks are grouped together and the level of capacity to manage is indicated. Risk management was through advocacy, engagement and data sharing. Controls and mitigation are set out in the appendix to the report.
- National infrastructure proposals could present a long-term risk which the Senior Strategy and Performance Officer would log for consideration on the Risk Register.

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

Resolved that:

- 1. The digital Authority Progress Plan Report (Decile 6) 2025/26 is approved.**
- 2. The Performance and Business Plan, which includes the year end (25/26) and proposed (26/27) Corporate Risk Registers, is approved.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Head of Resources to complete the details of the Performance and Business Plan (detailed in 3.3) to allow for full publication by the statutory deadline of 30th June 2025.**

41/26 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

The Landscape Observatory Senior Officer presented their report to approve the digital Progress Report for year three of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28. The online report was a central repository as an evidence base for the National Park Management Plan which would build over the 5-year period. Year 1 and year 2 of the Plan were available.

Updates from partners have been received and were included in the report.

Three more actions had been moved to 'achieved'.

Three actions were no longer available due to recent reallocation of resources at the Authority.

The following areas were discussed: -

- What was the forecast on achieving all the actions set out in the Management Plan. The NPMP included details on lots of actions, and relied on partners achieving their outcomes, which was difficult to monitor. A new way of doing this was being discussed.
- The report didn't include details of why targets might not be achieved and why they have been set. There was a time lag with some of the national data. Further details could be included. The NPMP was in a transition phase from the previous Management Plan.
- Targets within the National Park Authority's control were being tracked well and being achieved. The report could explain the gap between those and the targets not within the National Park's control could be given more explanation.
- Progress was being made in the current difficult economic climate on ambitious targets. Recognition was given to the work of the team and partners.
- The targets that were no longer active were on –
 - Landscape & Nature Recovery where the work had been superseded
 - Welcoming Place where Peak District Proud communications had moved over to the Tourism Charter, and the mapping and monitoring of underserved communities carried out by the Engagement Team, which had been reduced through the recent organisation restructure.
- No amendments to the Plan were put forward by members, therefore the second recommendation that any required amendments be delegate to the Head of Resources was not needed.
- The recommendation as set out in the report, with the second Recommendation removed, was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

Resolved that:

1. The National Park Management Plan Progress Report 2025/26 is approved.

42/26 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

The Finance Manager presented the report to provide our Internal Auditors, Veritau, with evidence of risk management, governance and internal control across the organisation. There were no updates since the report was circulated.

The Internal Auditor presented the Internal Audit Work Programme for 2026/27.

The following areas were discussed:

- Under Contract Procedure notes the Monitoring Officer clarified that off-contract spend was where officers might fail to comply with procurement processes and contract procedure rules. A variation on contract spend up to a certain percentage was allowed.

- The internal audit process was carried out on a cyclical basis where topics were reviewed every 3 to 4 years, with some areas picked up on an ad hoc basis. Details of when topics were last audited could be provided in a future report.

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

Resolved:

That the Internal Audit Plan for 2026/27 be approved.

43/26 A57 SNAKE PASS ROAD SAFETY SCHEME

The Transport Policy Planner with 2 representatives from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) presented the report to seek a decision from Members on whether to support the DCC Safer Roads Scheme on the A57 Snake Pass. This would include the introduction of speed cameras and additional infrastructure, markings on the highway, signage, and crash barriers. The proposed elements of the scheme would have a significant visual impact on the landscape.

There were no updates since the report was circulated.

The Traffic and Road Safety Commissioner from DCC gave a presentation setting out the justification for the scheme, and what measures would be undertaken to reduce the impact of the scheme. The Department of Transport had given approval for the scheme, which was the first of its kind in England, where data indicated that a combination of measures would be needed to reduce the number of accidents on the A57.

The following areas were discussed:

- There was a particular issue with left hand loss of control on bends for motorcyclists, but there was a multi-user collision history that needed to be addressed.
- Other road schemes could put more pressure on the A57, although there was no information available to advise this would be the case.
- The average speed cameras along the road management scheme of the A57 would be procured and managed by Derbyshire County Council whilst the works are taking place. Management and enforcement of the route once the infrastructure was in place going westbound would be done by the Sheffield Road Safety Partnership, and anything going eastbound would be done by the Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership.
- To reduce the visibility impact the signs would be masked. Signs would be sited within a 100m of the camera locations to make drivers aware they are in a monitored speed zone.
- Collision data on costs of dealing with accidents came from the Road Safety Foundation. Information had been gathered from networks across the county as well as nationally and internationally. This had provided information on cost savings from installing cameras, signs and road markings.
- A blended solution of measures was proposed to be the most effective way of reducing accidents and injuries.
- Signage would be masked by natural landscape features, with visibility from drivers on the road, but blended into the wider landscape. Average speed would be monitored along the whole route.
- The signage and markings would be kept to a minimum, but could achieve significant improvements to road safety.

- Would the measures displace traffic onto other roads where there is an alternative route from Sheffield to Ladybower via the Hope Valley. This could put traffic through residential areas where traffic problems already existed. The DCC Road Safety representatives could report to a future committee with displacement information from other schemes in Derbyshire.
- Cameras were sited at regular intervals along the route so that drivers are aware their speed is being monitored, with fewer needed than is typical, as there were only one or two roads joining the A57 where further cameras would be needed on joining the main road.
- Speed reduction would reduce noise and pollution.
- DCC had a large highway network to maintain and were looking at a framework to manage the network in regards to managing sites with a programme of road marking replacement, sign cleaning and vegetation clearance.

The recommendation as set out in the report, with an amendment to the second Recommendation to replace 'Authority' with 'Peak District National Park', was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

Resolved that:

- 1. That Members agree to support the delivery of the Scheme by Derbyshire County Council .**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Conservation to agree minor amendments to the Scheme resulting from operational requirements in the best interests of the Peak District National Park.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 and recommenced at 11:55am

44/26 MEMBERS TRAINING FOR FORTHCOMING YEAR

The Head of Resources presented the report for Members to approve the Member Training and Development programme for 2026-27.

There were no changes to the report since it was circulated.

The following areas were discussed:

- Training could be carried out as a hybrid session where it was appropriate, but it wouldn't be suitable for all training.
- The training programme set out that Members would not be able to participate at committee, including voting, until all compulsory training had been completed. This was queried by some Members. The Authority Solicitor to check Standing Orders on whether, by appointment to the Authority, Members could fully participate in Authority meetings even if training had not been completed. This will be explored as part of reviewing the Constitution.

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

- 1. The 2026-27 programme of Member training and development events, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, is approved.**
- 2. To confirm that in person attendance at training and development events are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.**

45/26 NEW MEMBER APPOINTMENT APPROVAL

No report presented at this current time.

46/26 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chair of Planning Committee presented their report.

- There had been two Planning Committee meetings since the last Authority meeting
- Applications of interest:
 - Downsizing of a barn to create a new dwelling, which was refused
 - A local resident had provided 4 new affordable homes
 - Complex application for a Listed Building to install a solar array on a garage roof. The Peak District National Park's Cultural Heritage Team advised the panels should be installed in the garden. After a site visit it had been decided that the array could be installed on the garage roof with revised scheme to minimise the impact
 - The Annual Enforcement report advised that 218 cases were resolved in the year 2025/26 and that longstanding Enforcement cases had dropped to 336.

The report was noted.

47/26 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Chair of Resources Committee presented their report.

Resources Committee had met in April with the following items:

- The staff sickness rate had reduced to 4.1 through extra support for staff
- The Safeguarding Policy and Action Plan had been presented.
- The Access and Rights of Way Officer had provided an update on Access for All. This project was highlighted in the recent Countryfile programme with a piece on bike and tramper hire at the Parsley Hay site. A further 3 years funding had been secured from DEFRA of £350k/year. A report on risk management of the project had been presented under the restricted section of the meeting.

The report was noted.

48/26 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

The Outside Body Report on the Peak District National Park Foundation highlighted the following:

- Five new trustees had been appointed
- The 3-year donor funding was coming to an end
- Income had risen above £1 million
- An Earthraise campaign had raised £23k towards a Native Tree Nursery for the National Park

The report was noted.

There was a verbal update provided on the Campaign for National Park's recent report which had mentioned the Peak District National Park in relation to the size of its board, which had the largest membership amongst National Parks. A fuller report to follow at a future meeting.

A meeting was scheduled on 9 June 2026 between the Campaign for National Parks and National Parks England, to which one of the PDNPA's Members had been invited. PDNPA had commented on the CNP report.

DEFRA funded research through the University of Gloucester had looked into soft governance, with a report due shortly.

The Office for Environmental Protection were also producing a report on governance.

49/26 FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

There were no updates to the report since it was circulated.

The Peak District National Park Foundation's Fundraising and Grants Manager provided Members with the annual and operational report on the Foundation for 2025-26. Just over £925 had been raised in the last year from a mix of donations from individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, corporate partnerships and a small amount from Gift Aid. The return on investment for every pound donated was around £4.25.

Projects highlighted:

- People of the Peak
- Landscape Trees
- Landscapes Unlocked

The following areas were discussed:

The Foundation would aim to continue broadening their supporter base to be more sustainable and not dependent on a small number of high value relationships. The ambition in the 5-year grant period from PDNP had been to hit a £1 million of income which has almost been reached 2 years early.

Work could still be done on the supply of projects for the Foundation to raise funds for. Opportunities and ideas were needed from other people and organisations.

How can the authority help more.

The funding from the National Park Authority was reducing. The Foundation was made up of a small team but had achieved a lot. The team were just finalising their first Communication Strategy in order to grow their social media audience and carry out some broader market research, including surveying around public awareness of the Foundation in order to track that growth in coming years.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, 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 2025-26 and the Foundation's plans for 2026-27.

50/26 MFFP BUSINESS/DELIVERY PLAN 2026/27

The Moors for the Future Partnership (MFFP) Manager presented the report to introduce the MFFP Business and Delivery Plan for 2026/27.

There were no updates to the report since it was circulated.

The Moors for the Future Partnership (MFFP) Manager presented the report to introduce the MFFP Business and Delivery Plan for 2026/27.

There were no updates to the report since it was circulated.

The following areas were discussed:

- MFFP was recognised as an exemplar of nature-based solutions and delivery. Members were encouraged to watch the short film about the Goyt Valley fire in 2025 'After the Smoke Clears'
- Farmers and land managers were involved where possible in project delivery. MFFP worked with local firms and contractors. A significant amount of the £6 million delivery would go into the local economy.
- MFFP recognised the succession of skills needed and were taking on some apprentices for the first time.

Resolved that:

- 1. The Moors for the Future Partnership Business/Delivery Plan 2026/27 is noted.**

Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to continue past 3 hours, taking the meeting after 1pm.

51/26 INCORPORATING BIODIVERSITY DUTY INTO THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-28

The Head of Planning and Conversation presented the report to approve the incorporation of the biodiversity duty and reporting into the 2023-2028 Peak District National Park Management Plan (NPMP). This was a requirement of DEFRA and not a decision item.

There were no updates to the report since it was circulated.

There was a duty in the Environment Act 2021 requiring all public authorities must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies and objectives, and act to deliver those policies and achieve those objectives. All granted planning permissions were required to deliver at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). There was an expectation from DEFRA that reporting biodiversity duty should take place.

The following areas were discussed:

- BNG wouldn't deliver nature recovery because of the level of development in the National Park. Placing flagstones on the footpath over Kinder Scout had been positively impactful for nature recovery, but resulted in the loss of irreplaceable habitat, which was covered by BNG legislation.
- The government was looking into the BNG requirements on development and thresholds had been increased.

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

Resolved:

- 1. To note the Biodiversity Duty Statement, as set out in appendix 1, as incorporated into the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28.**
- 2. To note the Biodiversity Net Gain Report, as set out in appendix 2, as incorporated into the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2023-28.**

52/26 RETIREMENT OF CHAIR

The Chair's three-year term would finish at the end of June 2026. Ken Smith was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Authority Member, Janet Dugdale. Ken had been with the Authority as an officer for 35 years before taking up a role as a Member, with the last three years as Chair of the Authority. He was a national expert in Cultural Heritage and had been committed to the organisation throughout this time.

53/26 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 16, 17 and 18 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).

The draft motion as set out above was proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

13:17 The meeting broke for lunch and recommenced at 13:55

Part B Confidential Items

54/26 Morridge Hill Country Project

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

55/26 Exempt Minutes from 27 March 2026

The exempt minutes from the Authority Meeting on Friday 27 March 2026 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 2.17 pm