



MINUTES

Meeting:	National Park Authority
Date:	Friday 22 July 2022 at 10.00 am
Venue:	Aldern House
Chair:	Cllr A McCloy
Present:	Mr J W Berresford, Cllr W Armitage, Cllr P Brady, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr C Furness, Cllr C Greaves, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr D Murphy, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Miss L Slack, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping, Cllr D Taylor, Cllr J Wharmby, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods
Apologies for absence:	Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr A Gregory, Ms A Harling, Cllr A Hart and Cllr I Huddleston.

57/22 ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

58/22 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

59/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

60/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair of the Authority provided a verbal update to Members on the following:

- "One Team Celebration Day" is being held at Aldern House on the 8th September for all Officers, Members, Casuals and Volunteers to come together to demonstrate and showcase the work that we do to others. As part of the event, there will be exhibits and Information Stalls.
- There have been a number of fires in the Peak District National Park this week due to the extreme weather conditions, a number of which were possibly started by camping stoves and disposable bbqs. The Chair thanked the Ranger Service, Field Services and Volunteers for supporting the Fire Service to reach some of the fire sites, due to the inaccessibility of some of the locations, and in helping to put out the fires.

Hopefully the change in the weather conditions will help, but it was a reminder to all just how fragile the Peak District National Park was at the moment.

- The Peak District National Park Authority has won a highly commended award from the RTPI East Midlands for an affordable housing project in Bakewell for 30 100% affordable homes on the edge of grounds at Lady Manners School. Thanks to the Planning Department, colleagues and partners who were instrumental in delivering the project and in particular to the case officer Senior Planner Andrea Needham,
- Groups based in the Peak District had won 2 of the 3 Protector Awards presented by the Campaign for National Parks (CNP). These are annual awards given by the CNP to celebrate the contribution of individuals and groups to National Parks.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Chris Maloney (aka Keeper of the Peak) who has developed an online community for mountain bikers to promote responsible riding as well as practical work on the ground.

The New Prospectives Award was presented to a group called the Health, Wealth and Oneness Group, who bring groups out from the urban areas of Nottingham to the Peak District so opening the National Park up to new audiences.

The final award was awarded to "Fix the Fells", which is a Lake District based project which the National Park and National Trust are leading on to look at footpath restoration.

Congratulations to all groups.

61/22 INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Members noted the Interim Chief Executive's report that included updates to Members on key items since the previous Authority meeting, in particular the news that the Authority had achieved Silver in the latest Investors in People Assessment.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

62/22 INTERNAL AUDIT BLOCK 2 2021/22

Mr Ian Morton from the Internal Auditors, Veritau was welcomed to the meeting then presented his report and the agreed actions for consideration.

Ian Morton reported that no major concerns had been detected in the 3 audits contained within Block 2, and that generally all had good procedures in place. Managers had responded to actions that had been highlighted in the Business Continuity Audit which had received the highest level of Substantial Assurance.

The Interim CEO reported that the Business Continuity Plan ('BCP') had been implemented recently due to the extreme weather conditions, and that the process worked well, but that the BCP was constantly kept under review and that a post covid review would take place with any lessons to be learnt shared with Members.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Audit Reports for the three areas covered under Block 2 for 2021/22 Business Continuity, Visitor Centres and Income and Debtors (in appendices 1-3 of the report respectively) be received and the agreed actions accepted.

63/22 INTERNAL AUDIT 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT

Mr Ian Morton, of Veritau the Authority's Internal Auditors presented the Report and informed Members that there were no significant control weaknesses and that 5 areas out of the 6 that were audited received the highest assurance, Substantial Assurance with 1 area receiving a Reasonable Assurance.

Mr Morton reported that the planned Data Security Audit had not been carried out as many staff were working remotely due to covid, however this piece of work would be rolled forward into the next audit year 2022/23. In previous years no serious issues had been identified, and where there were items that needed to be addressed, the issues had been rectified. It was felt these audits had a value and should form part of future audit plans.

On being asked about Officer learning and development the Interim CEO informed Members that regular training for staff is carried out and this continued throughout lockdown albeit by virtual and on-line delivery platforms.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

To note and accept the 2021/22 Annual Report from the Internal Auditors as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

64/22 INTERNAL AUDIT 2022/23 ANNUAL PLAN

The Head of Finance introduced the report and explained the purpose of the Internal Audit Plan which was ensure that the internal controls operated by the Authority are reviewed and monitored during the course of the year, and updated in response to any changes in risks faced by the Authority. The Plan also lists those areas of work that will be looked at in 2022/23.

Ian Morton added that he had met with the Interim CEO and the Head of Finance to discuss the proposed items that will be going on the Internal Audit Plan which was agreed by Management Team. Items proposed for the Plan were set out in Appendix A of the report but would include Payroll and the Planning Service.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

To approve the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan.

65/22 PROGRAMMES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROGRAMME PLAN 2022-23

The Interim Chief Executive introduced the report to Members which was to approve the programme themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee for 2022/23 and onwards, which aligned to the emerging National Park Management Plan rather than the National Parks England's Delivery Plan. Future reports to the Committee would be based on the themes to enable a fuller discussion around what the Authority have been working on and enable Members to build and develop a wider understanding of the work being pursued under the themes. One theme would be focussed on at a meeting but if there was business that needed to be discussed outside of that theme it would be added to the agenda.

The four themes agreed were:-

- Climate Change
- Landscape and Nature Recovery
- A Welcoming Place
- Thriving Communities

The Chair of Programmes and Resources confirmed that working in line with the National Park's England delivery mechanisms had worked well, but it was felt aligning with the 4 aims of the evolving National Park Management Plan would enable greater alliance with the Management Plan and how that was taken forward, enabling Members to develop a greater understanding of the 4 themes.

Members were concerned that the subject matter was so wide and asked whether there would be resources available to address those issues. The review of the NPMP was currently continuing with focused objectives for the next 5 years being drafted with partners and stakeholders together with a suite of actions for delivery. As this works continues the ongoing review of the medium term financial plan will identify implications on resources with options regarding cost reduction plans to be implemented from 2023/24 developed and shared with Members at the forthcoming autumn workshops and being brought to Members for discussion later in the year.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the four programme themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee from 2022-23 as Climate Change, Landscape and Nature Recovery, A Welcoming Place and Thriving Communities.

66/22 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW MEMBER STEERING GROUP MEETINGS HELD ON 25TH APRIL 2022 ,16TH MAY 2022, AND 20TH JUNE 2022.

Members asked for care to be taken when drafting future consultation surveys as there had been feedback that some Parish Councils had had difficulty responding to some recent questions which the Interim Chief Executive confirmed that this would be relayed to the relevant Officers.

RESOLVED:

Members resolved to note the minutes of the Steering Group.

67/22 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND AGM & BOARD MEETING

The Chair had submitted a feedback report on the National Parks England AGM & Board Meeting held on the 9th June 2022, and that there would be an opportunity for a fuller discussion at the Members' Forum which would follow after the Authority Meeting.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

The meeting ended at 10.40 am