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## MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 2 September 2022 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, DE45 1AE

Chair: Cllr A McCloy

Present: Mr J W Berresford, Cllr W Armitage, Cllr P Brady, Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr C Furness, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Miss L Slack, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping, Cllr D Taylor, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods

Apologies for absence: Cllr C Farrell, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr D Murphy and Cllr J Wharmby.

### **68/22 ROLL CALL AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

#### Item 9

A declaration of a prejudicial interest on behalf of all Members was made by the Chair of the Authority, confirming that whilst they had a prejudicial interest in the report on Members' allowances the Members' Code of Conduct allowed them to attend, speak, and vote on the matter.

### **69/22 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 22 July 2022 were approved as a correct record.

### **70/22 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

### **71/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present to make representations to the meeting.

### **72/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair of the Authority welcomed Phil Mulligan to the meeting as an observer prior to taking on the role of Chief Executive on Monday 5 September 2022.

Members were reminded of the One Team celebration which was taking place on 8 September and the Chair invited them all to attend, he also reminded them of the Member Workshop taking place on 16 September which would be followed by a trip on a Hydrogen Bus arranged by the Peak Resort Team which was planned to take place in the afternoon.

**73/22 INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (AMC)**

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

Item 7 on the agenda was moved to the end of the Part A agenda to better link it to the Item on the Access Funding in Part B of the agenda.

**74/22 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (AM)**

The report was introduced by the Policy & Communities Team Manager who confirmed that approval was needed to publish the revised Local Development Scheme on the Authority's website.

Publication of the information was a legal requirement and it was last published in 2016. Approval was being sought for the revised Scheme, which described the current suite of development plan documents and outlines a broad timetable for their review. This tied in with the Authority currently undertaking a review of its Local Development Plan which will result in combining the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies into one Local Plan.

Members thanked the team for a clear and helpful document. A request to amend Part 9 of the report Local Development Scheme document 'Management Process' to identify the role of Members and Officers in the process was requested and accepted.

It was highlighted that discussions would take place in the Local Plan Steering Group to work through the issues and options papers to be presented to Authority in February 2023. A consultation platform had been purchased to help with the wider consultation process, the platform also included a link to GIS to aid understanding of locations.

A motion to approve the recommendations as set out in the report was moved.

Notes regarding the Local Development Scheme Document:

- Paragraph 3.3 would be amended to clarify the relevance of the Core Strategy as it states that it was last analysed in 2013.
- Paragraph 3.16, clarification was requested regarding the number of communities across the National Park that were and had benefited from assistance with Neighbourhood Plans as the number listed and stated did not match up.

Financial support for the work was still being received to enable Officers to continue the work.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the Local Plan Development Scheme (Appendix 1 of the report) subject to the bullet points in the preamble above, for publication on the Authority's website.**
- 2. To note the timetable for the review of the Local Plan as set out in the Local Plan Development Scheme and at paragraph 6 of the report.**

**75/22 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES (AMC)**

The report of the Independent Person appointed to carry out a review of the Authority's Members' Allowances Scheme was introduced by the said Independent Person and report author, Dr Declan Hall. The report included feedback from the interviews he carried out with Members along with the results of surveys completed by Members.

Dr Hall confirmed that due to a lack of legal powers of the Authority no recommendation could be made regarding an allowance for the care of Members' dependents while undertaking duties for the Authority.

Members thanked Dr Hall for the detailed report and noted that the suggested increase to the allowance was not in line with inflation. Dr Hall explained that the rate of inflation at the time of the report was too high to be a considered factor when setting the increase.

The Chair of the Authority was asked if National Parks England were discussing the possibility of introducing a dependent carers allowance for National Park Authority Members and also consideration for allowing tax allowance on mileage claims to assist Members who had to travel long distances to attend meeting. The Chair confirmed that a request for an amendment to secondary legislation was being put to Defra as it may assist in attracting a more diverse range of Members to the Authority moving forwards.

A motion to approve the recommendations as set out in the report, and with support for the work by National Parks England in approaching Defra regarding the ability to introduce a carers allowance and allow tax allowance on mileage claims, was moved and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To note the findings of the Independent Review of Members Allowances produced by Dr Declan Hall and set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. To accept the following recommendations as set out in the Independent Review Report at Appendix 1:**
  - a) To increase the Basic Allowance paid to all Members to £2,568 subject to any applicable indexation for 2022/23.**
  - b) To continue paying an additional Special Responsibility Allowance to the following six positions of responsibility at the rates indicated:**
    - i. Chair of the Authority at a multiple of 2.6 times the recommended Basic Allowance**
    - ii. Deputy Chair of the Authority at 50% of the allowance paid to the Chair of the Authority**

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- iii. **Chair of Planning Committee at 50% of the allowance paid to the Chair of the Authority**
  - iv. **Vice Chair of Planning Committee at 60% of the allowance paid to the Chair of Planning Committee**
  - v. **Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee at 40% of the allowance paid to the Chair of the Authority**
  - vi. **Vice Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee at 50% of the allowance paid to the Chair of Programmes and Resources Committee.**
- c) **To confirm that no additional Special Responsibility Allowance is paid to:**
- i. **All Members of Planning Committee**
  - ii. **Member Champions.**
- d) **To continue the allowance paid to Co-optees at 25% of the Basic Allowance.**
- e) **To continue the allowance paid to the Independent Persons at 50% of the Basic Allowance.**
- f) **To maintain the existing travel rates so that they continue to match the rates paid to employees, subject to the inclusion of a statement in the Members Allowances Scheme to state that claims made for travel by hybrid/electric vehicles are also payable at HMRC rates, currently 45p per mile.**
- g) **To maintain the existing subsistence rates so that they continue to match the rates paid to employees.**
- h) **To note that the Authority does not have the statutory power to set or pay an allowance to contribute to the cost of care for Members' Dependents while they are engaged on Authority business and also that the Authority does not have the power to vary the amount of Basic Allowance paid to Members based on attendance at Meetings.**
- i) **To index the approved payments set out in the Authority's Members' Allowances Scheme as follows:**
- i. **Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, Co-optees' Allowance and Independent Persons annual remuneration are indexed to the annual percentage salary increase for local government employees (at spinal column 43 or the equivalent level if the spinal column points are revised), to be applied from the same year that applies to employees.**
  - ii. **Travel Allowances including Mileage Rates, and Subsistence Allowances indexed to the same rate that is applicable to employees, except the Passenger Supplement Mileage rate.**
- j) **To apply these indices for four years from date of the first application of the relevant indices to the Basic Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances on 1st April 2023 to the end of the financial year 2027.**

**3. To confirm that any changes to the Scheme will be effective from 1st April 2023 and not backdated.**

**76/22 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE INVESTIGATORY AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (RC)**

Appointment of Members to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee (the 'IDC') would normally take place at the Authority AGM but it was unfortunately omitted from the meeting on 1 July 2022 hence the item to this meeting. Members were reminded that those who were appointed to the Appeals Panel were not eligible to be appointed to the IDC.

The following Members were nominated:

Cllr Gill Heath  
Miss Lydia Slack  
Cllr Peter Tapping  
Ms Yvonne Witter  
Cllr Chris Furness  
Cllr William Armitage

A motion to approve the recommendations and confirm those named above as Members of the Investigatory & Disciplinary Committee, was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To appoint Cllrs Gill Heath, Chris Furness, William Armitage, Pete Tapping, Miss Lydia Slack and Ms Yvonne Witter (three Local Authority Members and three Secretary of State Members) to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee until the annual Authority meeting in July 2023.**
- 2. To confirm that attendance at any meeting of the Investigatory & Disciplinary Committee was an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.**

**77/22 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER (JMC)**

The Head of Law highlighted the importance of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review letter as it was an important third-party indicator relied upon by both Internal and External Audit when considering the internal control and governance mechanism's in place at the Authority. The report provided complaint statistics and showed benchmark figures received and determined by the Ombudsman for National Park Authorities and provided an average marker of performance. During 2021/22 the Ombudsman carried out no detailed investigations and did not uphold any detailed investigations against the Authority during this period..

The recommendation to note the report was moved, seconded put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2021/22 at Appendix 1 of the report.**

**78/22 OUTSIDE BODY AND CONFERENCE FEEDBACK REPORT**

The Chair thanked Mr Ken Smith for his feedback on the meeting he had with Officers on 3 August in his role as Cultural Heritage and Landscapes Member Champion.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

**79/22 ACCESS FUNDING (SAS)**

It was agreed that a detailed discussion of this item would take place during discussion of item 15 of the Agenda.

A motion to note the contents of the report was moved, seconded, put the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the contents of the report regarding the current position on Access Funding.**

**80/22 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of agenda items 14 and 15 to avoid 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).**

**SUMMARY**

The following items were considered in the exempt part of the meeting:

- 81/16 Access Funding (SAS)
- 82/16 National Parks Partnerships Briefing (TM)

*Cllr C Furness left the meeting at 11.50am.*