
MINUTES

Meeting:	National Park Authority
Date:	Friday 29 September 2023 at 11.00 am
Venue:	Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell
Chair:	Mr K Smith
Present:	Mr J W Berresford, Cllr M Beer, Cllr P Brady, Cllr M Buckler, Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr P G Fryer, Cllr N Gourlay, Cllr C Greaves, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Cllr B Hanley, Ms A Harling, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr A Nash, Cllr C O'Leary, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Miss L Slack, Dr R Swetnam, Mr S Thompson, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods
Apologies for absence:	Cllr A Hart, Cllr L Hartshorne, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr D Murphy and Cllr J Wharmby.

75/23 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

76/23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 7TH AND 28TH JULY 2023

The minutes of the last National Park Authority Meetings held on the 7th and 28th July 2023 were approved as correct records.

77/23 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

78/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Five members of the public were present to make representations to the Meeting.

79/23 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

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

- The advert for the recruitment for a Head of Resources was sent out at the end of August, with interviews to take place on the 18th October.
- Suzanne Fletcher had been interviewed and appointed as Head of Landscape and Engagement.

- He had attended the Chatsworth Country Fair with the Deputy Chair on the 1st September.
- Together with the Deputy Chair he had undertaken the CEO staff appraisal on the 5th September.
- Attended a Cultural Landscape Meeting which reviewed progress on various issues and included a presentation on artificial intelligence in the countryside, which could be a possible future topic for a Member Forum.
- Participated in the Members Annual Tour on the 15th September to the Warslow Estate, which looked at issues and activities on the estate. Thanks to Officers and staff involved with organising the day in particular Suzanne Fletcher, Chris Manby and the Moors for the Future Staff.
- Attended a meeting at Aldern House with Councillors from Derbyshire Dales. A Member/Officer Working Party will take this forward on the issues raised.
- Assisted with interviews on the 28th September for the Head of Assets & Enterprise and an appointment offer has been made.
- Attending the funeral of Paul Hamblin, Executive Director of NPE on October 3rd on behalf of the Authority. Paul was very supportive of National Parks and our condolences go to his family.

80/23 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (PM)

The Chief Executive's report gave an update to Members on recent meetings with stakeholders, partners and other organisations.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

81/23 DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SAFER ROADS SCHEMES (A5004 LONG HILL AND A5012 VIA GELLIA TN)

The Transport Policy Planner presented the report to Members to inform them on the proposed Derbyshire County Council Safer Roads Scheme on the A5004 Long Hill and the A5012 Via Gellia, and whether to formalise or withdraw the current holding objections to each scheme which had been submitted by Officers to both schemes, and which are still in existence.

The Transport Policy Planner introduced the report and informed Members that the A5004 Long Hill Scheme holding objection could be lifted as the remedial works proposed could be accommodated in the landscape with minimal impact but the A5012 holding objection would remain as it couldn't be successfully mitigated.

The following spoke under the public participation at meetings scheme:

- Mr Robin Heath, Whitehall Centre
- Mr Kevin Parkes & Mr Gary Thompson – Derbyshire County Council, Highways

Members agreed that a solution to reducing the speed by road users was needed, but it was considered that a more detailed discussion was needed. Members were concerned that cameras and the associated infrastructure would be obtrusive and that the proposed urbanisation in the landscape would be significant as well as the negative effects on dark skies. There was also concern that by introducing restrictions onto these 2 roads the

problems would move to other roads, so we should look at other ways of working more with the Police and enforcement, and be more proactive than reactive.

A motion to amend recommendation 1 to formalise the holding objection on the A5004 Long Hill Scheme on the basis of objections to proposals regarding Old Road near to the Whitehall Residential Centre, and to amend recommendation 3 to note ongoing negotiations between officers and representatives of Derbyshire County Council and the Department for Transport on the A5004 Long Hill and A5012 Via Gellia schemes, in order to try and reach a mutually agreeable solution, was proposed, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Members approve formally objecting to the A5004 Long Hill scheme on the basis of objections to proposals regarding Old Road and to negotiate what can be done.**
- 2. That Members approve formally objecting to the A5012 Via Gellia scheme on the basis that the treatments at Grange Mill cannot be sufficiently mitigated.**
- 3. That Members note ongoing negotiations between officers and representatives of Derbyshire County Council and the Department for Transport on the A5004 Long Hill and A5012 Via Gellia schemes, in order to try and reach a mutually agreeable solution. That if an agreeable solution can be found, Members approve delegating removing the formal objections to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair.**

Cllr Chaplin left the meeting at 12:05pm

82/23 PROGRAMMES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROGRAMME PLAN FOR 2023-24 (EF)

The Interim Head of Resources introduced the report to Members which was to review and approve the programme themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee (P&R) for 2023-24. It was agreed by Members in July 2022 that the programme themes would be aligned with the four emerging National Park Management Plan Aims, which were Climate Change, Landscape & Nature Recovery, A Welcoming Place and Thriving Communities.

The Interim Head of Resources reported that there had been good progress across the four themes over the past year, so the proposal was that the approach would continue whereby the 4 programme themes would be presented to the Programmes & Resources Committee over the next year 2023/24.

The following spoke under the public participation at meetings scheme:

- Mr Roger Savory- spoke with regard to enforcement issues at Cressbrook Dale. The Chair had to stop him part way through his speaking allocation as the speech was not relevant to the issues in the report. The Chair stated that allocation for speaking on the enforcement issues at Cressbrook Dale would be available at the Planning Committee.

- Ms Clare Gamble – spoke with regard to Cressbrook Dale linked to the report in the context of nature recovery
- Mr John Oxspring – spoke with regard to Cressbrook Dale linked to the report in the context of nature recovery

Members queried if public speakers were asked what they are going to speak on when they are giving notice to speak. It was noted that for Planning Committee speakers are asked to confirm if they are speaking in support or against an application but not for other items. The current public participation scheme states that speeches should be relevant to the report being considered.

Members noted that the Climate Change theme had already been discussed at the last Programmes & Resources Committee in September, and the Thriving Communities theme would look at the progress that had been made on delivering objectives.

Cllr Brady, Chair of Planning Committee, stated that the Authority's public participation scheme needed to be reviewed as it was currently too restrictive.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Members agreed the four programme themes aligned with the National Park Management Plan aims and the forward work plan for the Programmes and Resources Committee meetings for 2023-24:

- Climate Change (1st September 2023)
- Landscape and Nature Recovery (1st December 2023)
- Welcoming Place (19th January 2024)
- Thriving communities (26 April 2024)

83/23 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER (PM)

The Chief Executive introduced the report to Members to appoint the Customer and Democratic Support Manager as Interim Monitoring Officer from the 1st October 2023 until the new Authority Solicitor starts, when they then become the Monitoring Officer which will hopefully be in 3 months time.

The Democratic Services Manager was previously appointed as the interim Monitoring Officer but due to the agreed organisational changes the Democratic Services Manager post had been disestablished. The appointment of the temp appointment of Monitoring Officer ensures that the Authority continues to operate within required legislation.

Members asked whether a further report would be brought to Authority in due course to make the new Authority Solicitor the Monitoring Officer when they start, but the CEO reported that this would not be necessary as the Authority had already agreed it as part of the organisational changes.

RESOLVED:

To appoint the Customer and Democratic Support Manager as interim Monitoring Officer from 1 October 2023 until the new Authority Solicitor becomes the Monitoring Officer following further implementation of the organisational changes.

84/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REVIEW LETTER 2022/23 (JO)

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the report which provided details of the Local Government and Social Care (the Ombudsman) Annual Review of complaints for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of updates for members of the public on planning and enforcement issues so they are aware of how things are progressing. The CEO stated that communications were made but it was not always possible to do this due to legal proceedings, but that we do assure them that things are progressing.

An amendment to the recommendation was moved and seconded to include that a report be made to a future meeting on the operation of the public participation scheme at formal meetings of the Authority. This was agreed.

The recommendation as amended was moved, seconded put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2022/23 at Appendix 1 of the report.

2. That a report on the operation of the public participation at meetings scheme be brought to a future Authority meeting.

85/23 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES - NONE RECEIVED

No reports had been received.

86/23 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 13 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).

87/23 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE 28TH JULY 2023

The exempt minutes of the last National Park Authority Meeting held on the 28th July 2023, were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm