



MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 10 November 2023 at 11.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: Mr K Smith

Present: Mr J W Berresford, Cllr M Beer, Cllr M Buckler, Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr P G Fryer, Cllr C Greaves, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Cllr B Hanley, Cllr L Hartshorne, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr D Murphy, Cllr A Nash, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Miss L Slack, Dr R Swetnam, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods

Apologies for absence: Cllr P Brady, Cllr N Gourlay, Ms A Harling, Cllr A Hart, Cllr C O'Leary, Mr S Thompson and Cllr J Wharmby.

88/23 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 10

Cllr Priestley declared an interest as the current Member Champion for Natural Environment, Farming & Biodiversity.

89/23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

The minutes of the last National Park Authority Meeting held on 29 September 2023 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment.

Minute Number 84/23 – Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review Letter

Where it states “The Democratic Services Manager” it should state “The Customer & Democratic Support Manager”.

90/23 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

91/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

92/23 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

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

- Attended the funeral of Paul Hamblin, former Executive Director of NPE on October 3rd on behalf of the Authority.
- Attended the Parishes Day on October 7th which was well worth attending and urged Members to consider attending in the future.
- Attended Board Meeting of National Parks England.
- Attended Members workshops on People & Finance and Planning.
- Attended Hartington Village Trail 10th Anniversary which is a fine example of a Thriving Community.
- Met with Jayne Butler the new Executive Director of National Parks England.
- Joined a Questions & Answers session with DEFRA on Teams regarding the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.
- Attended a meeting of the Derbyshire Archaeology Society regarding the ACID magazine.
- Along with the Chief Executive met with DCC (Cllr Barry Lewis & Cllr Caroline Renwick) regarding sustainable transport.
- Local Plan meetings regarding housing provision and development.
- Met with Chief Executive of Chesterfield Borough Council regarding transport.
- Met with Council of Europe Assessors regarding renewal of diploma.
- Met with the Peakland Environmental Farmers Group.
- Met with Hope Valley Climate Action Group.

93/23 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (PM)

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

Members questioned the commitment to Race To Zero and what the next steps are. The next steps are for the collective of the National Parks to sign up and then the agreement can be signed. These next steps are to be taken at National Parks collective level and the new UK Director of Communications will be in role in January 2024 when one of their initial tasks will be to take this forward in terms of national communications.

Members queried the level of Member involvement regarding the National Park Management Plan and this was clarified that it will be at stakeholder level. The initial indication is that the Chair and Deputy Chair may be involved with other Member representatives as required depending on the agenda. It was noted that consultation may take place in the form of a conference that would be open to Members.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

94/23 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY (A91941/SG)

Simon Geikie, the Senior Strategy and Performance Officer presented the report to Members which had been reviewed and revised following the Authority organisational changes.

One additional amendment was made to the presented document to include the "Monitoring Officer" in the list of roles documented on Page 18, just above paragraph 6.

Members asked for clarification on some items of Appendix 1 and what the responsibilities regarding the tone, influence and culture should be for risk going forward. It was noted that the register comes to Members twice a year for further scrutiny and for officers to share the technical detail with Members.

The process of cascading risks and the escalation process was explained along with the process of quarterly reporting.

The recommendation as amended was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

That Members formally approved the updated Risk Management Policy.

95/23 AUTHORITY PROGRESS REPORT - MID YEAR (DECILE1) 23-24 (EF)

This Authority Progress Plan Report was introduced by Simon Geikie the Senior Strategy and Performance Officer, who updated Members on progress over the first six months of the five year Authority Plan. An overview of the objectives and key actions were given. This report and progress made is available online.

Members asked about the annual grant from DEFRA and the Chief Executive has an annual grant meeting with DEFRA and shall be asking DEFRA for at least an increase in the budget in line with inflation.

It was acknowledged by Members that the Authority Plan is achievable but not as aspirational as it could be due to the way DEFRA performance manage the Authority. It was noted that we could do so much more if there was more funding available. The team were thanked for the new ways of reporting which was seen as an improvement on previous reporting styles. A single visual “dashboard” to summarise the status of all indicators and actions in one place is in preparation and anticipated for the next presentation of the report at the end of the year.

Congratulations were extended from the Members to the Head of Planning and Planning Team for getting the service back on track.

The Chair noted the status of IT projects. In the Authority Plan IT projects appear to be on track and yet there is a high risk associated with IT projects in the corporate risk register. It was confirmed that the risk in the register was due to external factors delaying the commissioning of the ASSURE planning system. The IT Team are taking all possible steps to manage the situation, hence a good performance report, but the risk remains high in terms of it’s potential impact on our operations.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the digital Authority Progress Plan Report (decile 1) is reviewed and any actions to address issues agreed.**
- 2. That the Corporate risk register (Mid Year) is reviewed and the status of risks accepted.**

96/23 SOUTH YORKSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (BJT)

Brian Taylor, the Head of Planning, presented this report to Members to seek Authority approval to become joint signatory to the Joint Regional Statement of Common Ground prepared for the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

This initiative is an example of joint working across our boundaries and across joint Authorities. It was acknowledged that there were a number of points made in the document that are now a little out of date and this would be fed back to the co-ordinator by the Head of Planning. It was felt that all these opportunities should be grasped as they come forward from other Authorities.

A motion to approve the recommendations was proposed, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority approves the Statement (in Appendix 1 of the report) and that the Chair of the Authority signs it.

Ms Slack left the meeting at 12pm

Cllr Woods left the meeting at 12.05pm

Cllr Heath left the meeting at 12.06pm

97/23 MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES (SLF)

This report was presented to the Members by Rhodri Thomas, Team Manager for Land and Nature. The purpose of the report was to appoint the Member Champion for Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Farming as a representative for the Authority, to the Board of the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Steering Group of the Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and to any other body or event requiring Member involvement within the context of nature recovery.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. To appoint the Member Champion for Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Farming to:**
 - the Board of the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
 - the Steering Group of the Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy**
- 2. To delegate appointment of the Member Champion for Natural Environment, Biodiversity and Farming to any other body or event requiring Member involvement within the context of nature recovery to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority.**
- 3. That attendance at meetings of these bodies and/or events are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme**

98/23 ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (RC)

This report was presented to the Members by the Customer and Democratic Support Manager. The report set out the Member learning and development framework and the proposals for the next annual programme of Member learning and development events. The report also proposed a review of the current tools used in the learning and development framework, the events programme and the individual target hours for learning and development.

One area of learning that needed to be added into the Essential Learning & Development section for the Members was the online Data Security Training - there were some Members who had yet to complete this essential training and the Chair reminded members of the need to complete it.

Three new Members had recently attended the 3 day National Induction Training for National Park Authority Members and thoroughly recommended it to other new Members. They had found it was useful and most informative.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. To agree the Member learning and development framework (Appendix 1 of the report) and the events programme for January to December 2024 (Appendix 2 of the report).**
- 2. To continue to record Member learning and development activities in terms of hours and include personal learning and development by Members outside of events organised by the Authority, with the target of 20 hours per Member in every 12 months.**
- 3. To review the tools used by Members in the learning and development framework, the learning and development events programme and target hours for learning and development.**

99/23 AMENDMENT TO PART 7 OF STANDING ORDERS - DELEGATION OF POWERS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE(S) (RC)

The Customer & Democratic Support Manager presented the report to Members which requested an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation to the Chief Executive in the Authority's Standing Orders. The amendment requested was to enable the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, to make amendments to Standing Orders and Authority Policies to reflect approved changes in job titles and changes in legislation provided those changes did not have a significant effect on operational matters.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. To amend the Scheme of Delegation to the Chief Executive set out in Part 7 of Standing Orders to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority, to amend Standing Orders and Authority Policies to reflect any approved changes in job titles and**

changes to legislation if those changes do not have a significant effect on operational matters.

2. The Standing Orders are otherwise confirmed

The meeting ended at 12.15pm