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## MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 8 November 2024 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

Present: J W Berresford, M Beer, Ms R Bennett, M Buckler, M Chaplin, Prof J Dugdale, C Farrell, C Greaves, L Grooby, B Hanley, L Hartshorne, I Huddleston, D Murphy, A Nash, C O'Leary, K Potter, V Priestley, K Richardson, K Rustidge, Dr R Swetnam, S Thompson, Y Witter and B Woods

Apologies for absence: P Brady, A Gregory, A Hart, Mrs G Heath and J Wharmby.

### **89/24 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2024**

The minutes of the last meeting of the National Park Authority held on 27 September 2024 were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to paragraph 2 in Minute No 84/24 to read Sheffield Hunter Centre Archaeological Society instead of Sheffield Centre Archaeological Society.

The Authority Solicitor confirmed that the Authority does own the intellectual property code for the work discussed under Minute No 84/24 and she would circulate an email to Members to confirm the details.

The Chair confirmed that the Aerial Photography Conference referred to in paragraph 2 of Minute No 84/24 will take place in March 2025.

### **90/24 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

### **91/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

### **92/24 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### Item 10

Cllr Chaplin declared a prejudicial interest in this item as he is a Member of Sheffield City Council.

## 93/24 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

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

- Along with the Deputy Chair he had attended the Buxton Town Team Sustainable Travel Conference
- The Chair had attended the Derbyshire Archaeological Advisory Committee where the principal issue discussed was the publication of the Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire and the Peak District (ACID) magazine which faced funding constraints from Derbyshire County Council and some crowd funding had been set up to help with the publication costs
- The Chair had attended the Natural England 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at the Houses of Parliament where he spoke to Steve Reed (Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)
- The Chair had attended the National Parks England board meeting
- The Chair had attended the weekly Chairs and Vice-Chairs briefings with the Chief Executive
- The Chair had attended the National Parks Partnership AGM.

The Chair reminded Members about the email previously circulated to them regarding the consultation on "Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings". Consultation responses should be submitted up to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and Members were encouraged to individually submit their responses.

## 94/24 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (PM)

The Chief Executive mentioned there had been a meeting between National Parks England, Steve Reeds and the Special Advisory Team. It was noted that it is unlikely that information will be received regarding what the core grant shall be for the next year until January 2025.

The following points were noted:

- The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (LURA) had a new duty for public bodies to further National Park purposes. The guidance from government has been slow in publication but hopefully will be available by Christmas 2024.
- The increase in the employer national insurance contribution is likely to cost the Peak District National Park an extra £220,000. Currently it is unclear if there is any dispensation for National Park Authorities.
- The five National Park missions tie-in with the five missions of the Government.

### RESOLVED:

1. To note the report.

## 95/24 AUTHORITY PROGRESS REPORT - MID-YEAR (DECILE 3) 24-25

The Data Strategy & Performance Officer introduced the report.

It was noted that 'the negative impact of users' had been moved into the red risk box of the Corporate Risk Register and it was clarified that this was due to the increased scrutiny around this issue and the challenge of collecting evidence and finding workable solutions within the National Park.

The unsuccessful recruitment for the Grant Development and Bid-Writing Officer was mentioned. Whilst the recruitment process is re-run some of the allocated salary shall be used to hire a consultant who will help apply for some of the larger grants for the Landscape Connections Development.

There was a suggestion that the delivery aim objective D showing a medium term balanced budget should probably be amber rather than green and this would be clarified with the Finance Manager.

There was a question regarding the delivery of net income targets which is tracking slightly below budget and the reasons for this were explained. Some areas are above budget e.g. income from carparks whereas some income is below e.g. number of planning applications received is lower and also the pre-app advice service was suspended for a while (now re-instated) hence no income was generated from this service.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the digital Authority Progress Plan Report (Decile 3) 2024/25**
- 2. To review the Corporate risk register summary (Decile 3) 2024/25 provided in Appendix 1 of the report and the status of risks accepted.**

**96/24 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE**

The Policy & Communities Team Manager introduced the report.

Some minor amendments have been made to the document to reflect the new timetable for the Local Plan Review.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the updated Local Development Scheme at Appendix 1 of the report.**

**97/24 SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (BJT)**

The Head of Planning introduced the report.

Recommendation 3 was amended to read the following:

“That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and Chair of Planning Committee to finalise and approve the Mitigation Delivery Plan on behalf of the Authority”.

The recommendations as set out in the report, with the above amendment to recommendation 3, were moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To note the summary of the terms of the new Sheffield Plan Local Authorities Statement of Common Ground outlined in the report.**
- 2. To note the continuing work of officers to sign up to the Sheffield Plan Local Authorities Statement of Common Ground on behalf of the Peak District National Park Authority.**
- 3. To delegate authority to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and Chair of Planning Committee to finalise and approve the Mitigation Delivery Plan on behalf of the Authority.**

**98/24 BOARDROOM APPRENTICE PROGRAMME**

The Customer and Democratic Services Manager introduced the report which requested Members to consider the opportunity for the Authority to become a Host Board as part of the Boardroom Apprentice programme. It was noted that provision of a Board Buddy (mentor) was a requirement of the scheme and if Members were minded to support the proposals then it was suggested that a member of the Programmes and Resources Committee would be best placed to support the Apprentice. If no volunteer comes forward then the scheme would not be viable.

There is no expectation that any Boardroom Apprentice would be eligible to become a Member at the end of their 12 month apprenticeship.

It was clarified that the apprentice would be able to speak at meetings but unable to vote.

*11.00am Cllr Hartshorne joined the meeting.*

The Members were supportive of this initiative. The recruitment and selection procedure were clarified and the initiative would be promoted through our media channels. Any successful applicant would be subject to the Authority's Member Code of Conduct.

The recommendations as set out in the report with an amendment to recommendation 3 to read "That a Member from the Programmes and Resources Committee is appointed as a Board Buddy to mentor any matched Apprentice", were moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the application to become a Host Board for a Boardroom Apprentice for 2025 be agreed.**
- 2. To agree to support any matched Apprentice by inviting them to attend meetings of the Authority and the Programmes and Resources Committee as a non-voting member. This is subject to satisfactory completion of a Memorandum of Understanding, signing up to the Members Code of Conduct, compliance with Standing Orders and completion of a register of interests.**

3. **That a Member from the Programme and Resources Committee is appointed as a Board Buddy to mentor any matched Apprentice.**
4. **That any matched Apprentice would be eligible to claim for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme when attending meetings of the Authority, Programmes and Resources Committee and any training or other events as necessary is agreed.**

**99/24 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF PROGRAMMES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Programmes and Resources Committee had not met since the last Authority Meeting and therefore there was no update at this meeting.

**100/24 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE - VERBAL UPDATE**

In the absence of the Chair of Planning Committee the Vice-Chair gave a verbal update on the work of the committee.

There has been one planning committee meeting since the last full Authority meeting which had only one planning application on the agenda.

The number of new planning applications has dropped possibly due to uncertainties surrounding the intentions of the new government and partly due to the complexities of the new nature recovery requirement.

The main focus was the quarterly enforcement report. The committee has requested to be informed annually about the number of outstanding and unresolved complaints.

There were no questions from Members.

**101/24 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES - NONE SUBMITTED**

No reports had been submitted.

*The meeting ended at 11.14am.*