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## MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 9 May 2025 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

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

Apologies for absence: R Bennett, A Gregory and A Hart.

### **43/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

On behalf of all Members, the Chair passed on their best wishes to Cllr Hart for a speedy recovery following his recent operation.

### **44/25 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2025**

The minutes of the last meeting of the National Park Authority Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 were approved as a correct record.

### **45/25 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

### **46/25 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Member declarations of interest.

### **47/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

### **48/25 CHAIR'S BRIEFING**

The Chair provided the following verbal update to Members in addition to the weekly briefing meetings with the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, and attendance at the Planning and P& R Committees.

- Attended a National Parks Partnership AGM at the end of March to discuss the alterations to the banking arrangements and authorizing particular users of credit cards.
- Interviewed at the beginning of April as part of the assessment for the Investments in People Programme. The results of the assessment are not known yet, but the Authority is hoping to maintain at least the position as a silver award holder.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> April, together with the Deputy Chair, held an introductory meeting with Dan Smart the Business Transformation Manager.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> April with the CEO, attended a National Parks England Meeting organised by the South Downs National Park.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April, attended a Youth Impact Collective Workshop. The 9<sup>th</sup> being an online session, then the 26<sup>th</sup> being a face to face workshop at Aldern House, which was also attended by a number of Members.
- Attended a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April with the CEO and Victoria Peel (Executive Support Officer) to discuss the Authority's input into the Secretary of State appointments recruitment campaign, and to finalise arrangements for the subsequent conference of National Parks Chairs and Chief Executives, which was held at Aldern House.

The Secretary of State appointments advert is now live on the DEFRA website for our two vacancies, and the closing date is quite soon. The Chair & CEO have already had conversations with a number of interested people, so we are anticipating a good number of applications. The interview dates have yet to be agreed, but possibly late June/early July, which will mean that they will possibly not be appointed in time for the Authority AGM on the 11<sup>th</sup> July.

- On the 24<sup>th</sup> April, together with the CEO, attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the creation of the Pennine Way in Hawes in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, this was also attended by a number of Rangers from the Peak District, and ex Rangers that came together as part of the celebration.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup> April, together with the CEO, attended and spoke at a meeting attended by 20 DEFRA officials at Castleton Visitor Centre. The majority of the attendees were those that are involved with the Access for All initiatives and FiPL.
- On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May together with the Chairs and CEO's of the 15 UK National Parks, visited Cressbrook Bridge, Mam Tor and Chatsworth with presentations on AI, National Issues, and National Parks Partnership Branding.

## **49/25 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT (PM)**

The Chief Executive delivered the following updates to his report:

- The Investment In People award has been confirmed and the CEO will be informing staff at the All Staff Briefing which is on the 21<sup>st</sup> May.
- The brochure for new Members has now been produced, and following the recent Council elections, we will have some new Members from our local authorities. The brochure will help the new Members see what's involved in being on the Authority.
- Sustainable Hayfield have held a series of talks and the CEO presented at one of these with over 70 attendees, with a chance to talk about nature and climate and the work that the Authority does.
- Awaiting the consultants report on the Youth Voice and Youth Impact Collective, and on how we take that forward.

- Paul Hamblin Award was presented to Sue Smith for her access work. Paul was fundamental in creating National Parks England, who tragically died very young, so his family created an award in his name. There is a video clip by Tony Gates, CEO of Northumberland National Park talking about Paul, and it shows David Butterworth from the Yorkshire Dales National Park who nominated Sue for the award, presenting it to her, so all Members are encouraged to watch it.
- Visited Horseshoe Quarry to look at a FiPL funded access project. The former quarry, owned by the British Mountaineering Council, is popular with climbers, so the path has been smoothed and accessible gates have been installed. The work was done by the CMPT, with funding from FiPL.

Members thanked both the Chair and the CEO for their reports, and asked whether the Authority was getting traction with DEFRA and the MP's, and were they listening and understanding?

It was reported that it was useful having the recent DEFRA visit, which provided an opportunity to talk informally to people who did have positions of influence, and to reiterate what the impacts of decision making were having on the National Parks. It was important to keep on engaging with them and making our case for funding allocation. National Parks need to be more creative and extra capital funding has been made available to help with nature recovery or income generation.

Members noted that the Authority was seen as a trusted partner, so we could be confident that the endeavours we were putting into trying to get traction worked, as we are successful in getting FiPL funding as well as the Landscape Observatory Funding, so it showed we did have a good track record in the monies that we did receive.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

#### **50/25 TOURISM CHARTER**

Phil Mulligan, CEO presented the report and reminded Members that the Charter was reworked after the Forum discussion, so the recommendation was to adopt the Charter and to get partners to sign up to it, together with the action plan.

Members asked why the National Parks England report on Regenerative Tourism in UK National Parks was not referenced as that report had a different feel and emphasis to the Tourism Charter. The CEO reported that the Authority's' Tourism Charter had a different emphasis as it was about managing visitor pressure, whereas Regenerative Tourism was based in the concept of tourists actively participating in improving the environment of the place they visit.

Members asked what the next steps would be? How would we get partners to sign up to it and would we be getting the Parish Councils involved? The CEO reported that he would be happy to take the Charter to the Parishes to sign up to through the Parishes Forum and to every meeting he attended as the next steps were really important.

Although the Charter was welcomed by Members which made good points, there was concern around some of the wording and it was considered more work was needed to get the message across to key partners who have just changed political control following the local elections to get their support. The CEO reported that the Charter was to reach out to as many people as possible as there were those that wanted more tourism within

the Park and those who wanted less so it was trying to find a balance to get people engaged and on board, taking into account the National Park purposes which should be the centerpiece of the Charter.

When asked if an update could be brought to a future Authority Meeting, the CEO agreed that this would be done at an appropriate time.

The CEO thanked Members for their feedback and agreed that he could tweak some of the wording but was concerned that this could mean the risk of not passing the Charter, to then bring it back to Members and delaying getting on with it.

The Chair agreed that tweaking of some of the words could be done to reflect some of the comments that Members had made by way of a second recommendation, to allow for delegation to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Authority to agree the document.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That approval be given to adopt the Tourism Charter, as set out in appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. That Authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to review the presentation of the document as agreed.**

**51/25 ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN**

This item was brought forward on the agenda.

The Head of Planning reminded Members that this item was discussed at the Member Forum in March, where he explained the consultation process to that point and the intention to bring a final plan back to Members for adoption, including our proposed routes which would form part of the high level strategic network for active travel.

The Officer also informed Members of a small correction to 2.6 of the report which should have read "Walking, Wheeling Cycling and Horse Riding."

The Officer then handed over to the Transport Policy Planner and Access & Rights Way Officer who then gave a presentation to Members on the year long project using Active Travel England money to produce an Active Travel Plan for this area.

Members thanked the Officers for their presentation, and the amount of work that had gone into the project, looking at our ambitions and working with partners to implement active travel throughout the National Park.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That subject to recommendation 2 below, the Peak District Walking, Wheeling, Cycling and Horse-Riding Infrastructure Plan, be adopted by the Authority and thereafter published
2. That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, for further additions and amendments and any specific feedback received from Active Travel England to finalise the Plan.
3. That progress reports and future updates on active travel and the Plan be reported to future meetings of the Authority.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:30 and reconvened at 11:40*

**52/25 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2025-26**

The Finance Manager and Stuart Cutts, Assistant Director-Audit Assurance at Veritau, were present to answer any questions or queries.

Members asked for clarification regarding the internal audit plan of works that was prepared on the basis of a risk assessment, and whether it was the same as the risk register that was in the corporate strategy, and how did it come about in deciding what the priorities were, and there was some concern on the amount of work on the work programme for the year.

The Officer confirmed that the risk assessment came about following conversations with Stuart from the Auditors, the Finance Manager and the Monitoring Officer throughout the year regarding areas that was felt needed attention as the Finance team is small and we view the Internal Auditors as supplementary to the team. As regards to work prioritisation, 35 days are allocated each year to finalising the audit with Stuart, but they have restructured the 2025/26 plan for next year so it is not as onerous, alongside year end..

Members asked whether the Authority liaised with the External Auditors on what the Authority was going to focus on with the Internal Auditor and also whether the Internal Auditor was asked to look at the reserve appropriation? The Officer reported that the reserve appropriation had been completed by the Internal Audit on the 24/25 plan and that that report would be presented to Members in July. As regards to External Audit, the External Auditor confirmed that mandatory risk controls is a mandatory risk on all audits and it wasn't something that was particularly lacking at the Authority.

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

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26 be approved.**

**53/25 EXTERNAL AUDIT - 2024/25 AUDIT STRATEGY**

Jennie Norman, Audit Manager at Mazars, was present to answer any questions or queries.

Members queried the fees charged by the External Auditor and asked whether they audited any other of the National Parks? Jennie confirmed that they do indeed audit other National Parks eg. Loch Lomond, and various others and as they are a public sector team they are always looking at sharing knowledge. As for the fees, these are not set by the Auditors but by the PSAA

Members were concerned on the 150% increase in the fees in the Audit Service Contract in 2023/24? Jennie confirmed that there was an exceptional backlog in Local Government audit which had built up principally from 2019 onwards, and reached its peak in the 23/24 year. The government then brought in measures to clear the backlog, so that is why the fees were much higher in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

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

**RESOLVED:**

**That the 2024/25 External Audit Strategy Memorandum for the 2024/25 Statement of Financial accounts be noted.**

**54/25 ESTABLISHING RESOURCES COMMITTEE & MINOR ADDITIONS TO PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Members were informed of a minor amendment to item 5d on page 83 of the report which should have read “making on sound decisions”.

Members then queried as to whether it was acceptable that Finance and Audit could be combined into a single meeting as they are usually separate committees, and this is seen as best practice because the role of audit is to provide assurance that the financial management system is working and was it compliant with CIPFA rules?

The Authority Solicitor & Monitoring Officer informed Members that approval of the budget and the capital programme are specifically reserved to the Full Authority and that was in the Terms of Reference and it was that Committee that scrutinised those finances.

The Head of Resources confirmed that there is a group of Members that sit on the Audit, Budget and Project Risk Monitoring Group which is not a Committee. The only difference is that the Authority is pulling that group of Members into a Committee process so that it is all full and open and transparent, so there will be no difference, it is just putting it into a different system of working.

The Chair asked both the Internal and External Auditors whether there was or wasn't a problem with Members sitting on both Committees and was there anything from their perspective that caused concern? The Auditors asked to reserve judgement on this as they would need to look into the CIPFA guidance further and report back.

The Chair of P&R confirmed that the recommendations and the amendments was to ensure we have better Member scrutiny in key areas and not wasting everybody's time by having more meetings than was needed for both Officers and Members. The programmes element of the P&R Committee was to ensure that it was aligned to the four management aims and that they're things that all Members should know about. The Governance Working Group worked with Officers to come up with a set of proposals to put a more coherent resource into the Resources Committee, which will mean that there

will be a greater number of people to scrutinise the finance and audit elements before bringing a recommendation to be approved by Full Authority.

Members agreed to support the recommendation, and to look at this again if the Auditors come back to Officers after checking the CIPFA guidance.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Resources Committee Terms of Reference in Appendix 1 are approved.**
- 2. That the Resources (Hearing) Sub-Committee Terms of Reference at Appendix 2 are approved.**
- 3. That the Planning Committee Terms of Reference at Appendix 3 are approved.**
- 4. That the matters specifically reserved to be exercised by a meeting of the full Authority at Appendix 4 are approved.**
- 5. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to make the required amendments to Standing Orders to bring recommendations 1, 2 and 3 above into effect.**
- 6. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to allocate Members to the Resources (Hearing) Sub-Committee as and when required.**
- 7. That dates for the Resources Committee meetings, at Appendix 5, and appointments to the Resources Committee will be made at the July 2025 Annual General Meeting are noted.**
- 8. That the proposal to convene additional Member Forum meetings to be held virtually as required throughout the year is agreed.**

**55/25 MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT 2025-26**

The Head of Resources was present to answer any questions or queries.

There was some concern that Members would not be able to participate at Committees if they had not completed the training first, but could take part in a Full Authority meeting which didn't make sense, and should this rule be the subject of a committee resolution?

It was confirmed that the report should be clear and read all Authority and Committee meetings. It was essential that all new Members completed the training to ensure they can participate fully in meetings, understand the role of the Authority and its code of conduct and procedures, and this could not be done if a Member had not gone through the training. Members agreed that it was important that any Member that sits on the Planning Committee, must first undergo the planning training before they can participate in the Planning Committee, to ensure that the right issues are addressed when reviewing a planning application.

The Officer informed Members that the Training Development Framework was approved at the Authority Meeting on the 26 July 2024, to ensure that the Authority is following best practice and making robust decisions at all committees.

It was noted that for new Members the training is very useful and important and helps Members to understand how they contribute and what the boundaries are. Being a Member on the Authority is a privileged position so it is important that all Members are trained to ensure correct decision making.

The CEO reported that he had recently had a call with East Midlands Councils (EMC) where this item was discussed. The EMC are keen on all newly elected Councillors to complete the training which only takes half a day to complete, before they start making decisions, so he supported the training being compulsory for the Full Authority as well as Committees, because the Members are making important decisions.

Members asked that where a date of a meeting has changed and a Member then cannot attend as they have already arranged other things, then this did not count as showing as a non attendance as it was not the fault of the Member. The Authority Solicitor & Monitoring Officer confirmed that it has been agreed that the Authority would provide two sets of training statistics for Members, one of which would explain those meetings that were not scheduled so it was clear.

Members asked whether it was possible for the Member computer training to be added to a future Forum agenda? The Chair confirmed that he would discuss this with the CEO and Officers to see if this was possible.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. The 2025-26 programme of Member training and development events, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, is approved.**
- 2. To confirm that in person attendance at training and development events are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances as set out in Schedule 2 of the Members' Allowances Scheme.**

**56/25 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT 2024-25**

The Data, Strategy & Performance Officer and Strategy & Performance Manager were present to answer any questions from Members.

Members commended Officers on the work that had gone into the progress report, but given the much reduced Engagement Team and new administrations in Derbyshire County Council etc how is the Authority going to manage all this change?

The Officer confirmed that there have been a lot of changes and this would impact on how we work as an Authority and with our Partners through the National Park Management Plan (NPMP). The Officer reported that the recent NPMP delivery group discussed the challenges to delivery and that the group are very engaged in discussing how we address this as a partnership.

Members asked how the Authority tracked individual action points and aims that we have set ourselves, and whether we are actually going to achieve the higher level objectives

and aims, and whether they should be put on the Risk Register in the short term, as there is clearly a risk that the Authority is not going to deliver the high level objectives. The Officer reported that one of the things that had been found with the Risk Register was that it covers a combination of three different sets of risks: risk to the place (the National Park), Management Plan delivery risks and organisational risks. The Officers are looking at allocating time into this in the coming year to support better risk communication and management.

Members were concerned that the Management Plan report makes it appear that the Authority is comfortably delivering on all aspects of the plan. The Government could review and decide that the Authority didn't need any further resources, so not having the high level risks could prove funding was needed. The CEO responded that the funding was at risk because we were not delivering and not because we are, and if we are honest about what we are not delivering on then why would the Government then put money into National Parks. It's about making the case and showing what we are delivering.

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. The National Park Management Plan Progress Report 2024/25 is approved.**
- 2. The implementation of any required amendments to the Progress Report 2024/25 be delegated to the Head of Resources.**

**57/25 AUTHORITY PROGRESS REPORT - TURN OF YEAR (DECILE 4) 24-25 WITH PERFORMANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN 24/25 INCLUDING CORPORATE RISK REGISTERS**

The Date, Strategy & Performance Officer was present for this report to answer any questions.

The Officer reported of an addition in that she was hoping to have got the CEO's update summary to be added in time for today's meeting. It will be added following the meeting.

Members asked what the Warslow Moors Estate Plan covered and has the gap in staffing resources now been filled, and will that be achieved in 25/26 as indicated? The CEO reported that an contractors had been engaged to give interim capacity in estate management for 6 months to progress the urgent work and to catch up, and recruitment will be continued to find a permanent solution.

The Head of Assets confirmed that she will be leading on the Estate Management Plan and this will be an item on a Member Forum as part of the Asset Management Plan which will look at intrinsic aspects on the vision for the estate and the Authority wishes to deliver that.

The Chair reported of an amendment to the 2<sup>nd</sup> recommendation where it talks about proposed 24/25 and it should be proposed 25/26.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. The digital Authority Progress Plan Report (Decile 4) 2024/25 is approved.
2. The Performance and Business Plan which includes the turn of year (24/25) and proposed (25/26) corporate risk registers are approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Head of Resources to complete the details of the Performance and Business Plan to allow for full publication by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2025.

A vote to continue the meeting past three hours was carried.

**58/25 WARSLOW MOORS ESTATE, PUMP FARM, WARSLOW - LETTING OF PUMP FARM**

The Head of Assets was present for this item and to answer any questions from Members.

Members asked whether a business case had been made for separating Lot 1 and Lot 2? The Officer responded that the business case was done as a whole but with the potential to let them as two separate entities, so when the tenders are submitted that will be the acid test of the financial interrogation. What the Authority needs to be certain of in the decision making that an opportunity hasn't been missed by letting the farmhouse out in isolation because it could generate more income.

The CEO reported that the Pump Farm Farmhouse had decades where it had had no investment at all due to the tenants not wanting any investment being put into the property, which would have meant their rent increasing, so the Authority has now brought it up to a standard for letting.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. To amend the second resolution of the Authority, Minute 51/23, to the following:  
"To modernise the farmhouse and erect two new farm buildings prior to re-letting the holding as a whole or in two parts, on either of the following bases:
  - Option (a) – if Lots let to separate tenants  
Lot 1: (Farmhouse and garden) on a residential tenancy for a maximum term of 2 years 364 days, with a break clause at 18 months  
Lot 2: (Land and buildings) on a Farm Business Tenancy (FBT) of 5 years (minimum) to 6 years 364 days (maximum).  
OR
  - Option (b) – if both Lots let to the same tenant  
Lots 1 and 2: on a Farm Business Tenancy of 5 years (minimum) to 6 years 364 days (maximum)."
2. To delegate authority to the Head of Assets and Enterprise, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Programmes and Resources Committee (or any equivalent committee), and subject to the

satisfaction of the Authority Solicitor and the Finance Manager, to let Pump Farm under either Option (a) or Option (b) above, to the highest scoring tenderer, following the completion of a fair and transparent competitive tendering and evaluation exercise.

3. To delegate authority to the Authority Solicitor to enter into and determine the terms and conditions of the letting(s) in accordance with the procurement exercise and in the best interests of the Authority.

## **59/25 LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY FUNDING 2025-26**

The Strategy & Performance Manager was present for this report and to answer any questions from Members.

The Officer informed Members that this was a good news item not only for the Authority as an organisation but for the National Parks family, and had come about as a result of 2-3 years of work by the Strategy and Performance Team and academic partners

The Chair also expressed his thanks to Jane Butler and National Parks England as she was the one that kept the door open with DEFRA and managed to get £500,000 in funding for the project.

Members asked whether there was an opportunity to talk to other local authorities? The Officer reported that the funding received thus far was for protected landscapes, but the plan is for the project to run over 3-4 years if the first year is successful and it is hoped will expand in coverage. Similar discussions will take place with Scotland and Wales to expand the area of work if funds can be found.

Members asked what the plans would be for the Board and Steering Group and were there plans to involve Members and how would the governance develop? The Officer reported that the Board would be chaired by Jane Butler in the first instance, supported by a couple of key academics, as well as someone from DEFRA and Natural England and they would oversee the three main project elements which are the AI Project, Trialling of Rapid Condition Assessment of Landscape Features and Management Planning, but as it's a National Project, it doesn't member involvement had yet to be considered. The project, and its governance, are evolving rapidly.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That acceptance of funding for the Landscape Observatory project, as described in this report, of up to £550,000 for 2025-2026 is approved. Approval of the terms of funding is delegated to the Head of Resources in consultation with the Finance Manager/Chief Finance Officer (or such other person appointed under S151 of the Local Government Act 1972).
2. That authority be delegated to the Authority Solicitor to enter into and determine the terms and conditions of the funding agreement for the project in the best interests of the Authority.
3. That approval be granted to incur expenditure up to £550,000 as detailed in the report, pursuant to Part 3, C3.(c) of Standing Orders, subject to compliance with the Contract Procedure Rules and Standing Orders

generally.

4. That authority be delegated to the Authority Solicitor to enter into and determine the terms and conditions of any contracts and/or agreements required for the project, subject to compliant procurement exercises being carried out as required in line with Standing Orders and in the best interests of the Authority.
5. That this project be monitored by the Audit, Budget, and Project Risk Management Group or any equivalent group or committee.

**60/25 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF PROGRAMMES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Chair of Programme & Resources Committee gave a verbal update from the committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April where the following reports were up for approval:-

3 reports from the Head of People Management:

- Safeguarding
- Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing
- Diversity

The forthcoming diversity objectives for the Authority were also approved which will be presented annually to the committee for approval.

A proposal to receive up to £350,000 for further Access to All Funding was also approved to enable the Authority to continue progress in this area.

2 Management Plan themes were also looked at, Landscape & Nature Recovery, which included presentations on FiPL progress and the Morridge Hill Project and the Welcoming Place, where a range of things were looked at which included Peaks for Health, Ambassador Schools and Youth Voice as well as other areas that the Engagement Team have been working in.

The P&R Committee also asked that special thanks be given to the Engagement Team for their dedication to progress during what has been a difficult time due to the restructuring process.

The Chair then encouraged all Members to review the P&R Committee Papers on the Management Plan Aims.

**61/25 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave an update on the last planning committee and some of the planning decisions taken.

There were 3 applications that had been referred back to the April Planning Committee as departures from policy, these were all subsequently approved by Members. There was also a progress report from planning enforcement which showed good promise, despite the team being down by a Planning Enforcement Officer and a Junior Solicitor.

**62/25 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES - NONE SUBMITTED**

No reports had been submitted.

**63/25 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 22 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (3) 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)”.**

**64/25 EXEMPT MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THE 21 MARCH 2025**

The exempt minutes of the last meeting of the National Park Authority Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 were approved as a correct record.

*The meeting ended at 1.15 pm*