
MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 27 February 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue: Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: K Smith

Present: Prof J Dugdale, N Adams, M Beer, R Bennett, P Brady, M Buckler, H Corran, C Farrell, C Greaves, B Hanley, L Hartshorne, I Huddleston, S Mabbott, A Martin, C O'Leary, K Potter, V Priestley, K Richardson, K Rustidge, M Smith, Dr R Swetnam, S Thompson, J Wharmby and Y Witter

Apologies for absence: M Chaplin, C Kelly and A Nash.

1/26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2025

The following amendment was made Item 107/25 to the Chair's briefing to read "Steel Cotton Rail Trail".

The minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 28 November 2025, with the above amendment, were approved as a correct record.

2/26 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

3/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

4/26 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was declared:

Item 15 – Partnership Agreement

H Corran declared that she currently volunteering through work for PPCV.

5/26 CHAIR'S BRIEFING

The Chair provided the following verbal update to Members regarding his attendance at various events in addition to the weekly briefing meetings with the Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, as well as attendance at 3 Planning Committee meetings with associated site visits and one Resources Committee meeting: -

- 5 Local Plan Steering Group meetings
- A meeting of the Governance Working Group
- Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting
- In December there was an extraordinary meeting of National Parks England regarding the recruitment of the new National Park England Director
- NPUK meeting also in December
- 9 Dec the Chair met with CEO and Andrew McCloy to establish some content for 75th document and an opportunity to share perspectives on the Peak District National Park
- 11 Dec – NPE Board Meeting
- 15 Dec – Participated with CEO in a progress meeting with EMCA Mayor over progress with the Buxton Rail Initiative
- 6 Jan – Was part of the interview panel for the Executive Director of NPE in London
- 9 Jan – met with Sue Albion - the new Chair of National Parks Partnership (NPP)
- Jan – met with directors of NPE and new Chair – Vanessa Roland
- 15 Jan – CEO, Chair and Deputy Chair were interviewed as part of the DEFRA consultancy initiative about governance of protected landscapes
- 19 Jan - Participated on the National Parks England Governance Working Group
- 28 Jan – along with the CEO and Officers the Chair met with new Chief Executive and some of the Directors of EMCA to try to establish relationships with EMCA and inform on the role of the National Park.

10:10am *N Adams attended the meeting.*

6/26 CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Chief Executive delivered the following updates to his report:

- 2 new staff had started within the new Landscapes Connections Team.
- Interviews have taken place for the new Head of Assets and Enterprise
- The CEO attended the annual meeting with DEFRA shall share the slide deck with Members.

Members made the following points:

- The Chair and CEO were thanked for their reports and for their continued hard work

- It was noted that a replacement Member from Staffordshire Moorlands Council has not yet been appointed
- Transport links were discussed and work is being carried out in partnership with the new Mayor of Sheffield who has budgets for transport and buses, and there is input into new travel plans proposed. Public transport remains a priority in order to transport visitors into the National Park.
- A Peak Park Initiative has been launched to look at integration and co-ordination of transport amongst the constituent authorities.
- The timescales for the Local Government Reform were mentioned with an announcement regarding the chosen option being made in June 2026. In April/May 2027 there would be elections to the shadow authorities that will come into being in 2027.

7/26 AUTHORITY PLAN 2023 - 28: YEAR 4 LOOK FORWARD 2026/27 (DECILE 7 & 8)

The Data, Strategy and Performance Officer presented their report which reviews the Year 4 look forward actions for 2026-27.

The following areas were discussed:-

- The maintenance of footpaths
- Matched funding and what costs it covers and it was noted that as an Authority it is not possible to claim overheads via matched Lottery Funding.
- If there was capacity within the Legal Team to progress the review of the Standing Orders which remains a priority.
- The Nature Recovery Plan (NRP) and the apparent lack of targets associated with it. It was explained that the NRP is not reported through the Authority Plan but through the Management Plan. It was noted that an extra resource has been allocated to ensure that the actions for the NRP are progressed.
- The progress of the Local Plan was discussed along with the timetable and the implications if the deadline is not met. It is critical that the July deadline is met to allow for the required period of consultation and pre-submission work to be completed.
- Exposure to slippage in the Authority Plan was discussed, it was noted that a key staff appointment has recently been made and the authority is now expecting a period of stability and is not anticipating any further reductions which might impact on delivery.
- It was clarified that the climate change objective in point E of the plan refers to the Authority's business emissions.

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

RESOLVED:

1. **The Authority Plan Programme for Year 4 2026/27 (Decile 7 & 8) is approved (see Appendix 1).**
2. **That authority be delegated to the Head of Resources in consultation with the Chair of the Authority to make any necessary amendments to the actions or critical success factors detailed in the Authority Plan Programme Year 4: 2026- 27 in Appendix 1 due to arising changes in circumstance.**

8/26 COMMUNITIES AIM UPDATE FOR NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Policies & Communities Officer presented the report for Members which informs Members about the Authority's progress since January 2025 with respect to the Aims and Objectives of the National Park Management Plan in relation to Thriving Communities, and what this means for the future.

The following points were discussed:

- Business Peak District whose events are hosted at Aldern House and how this organisation has grown within the last year.
- The distribution of grants across the national park.
- A proportionate amount of Decarbonisation and Community Resilience Grants has been allocated to the national park area.
- The progress on the Active Travel Plan and the high level network of trails plan
- Potential risks regarding the new Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) which has introduced another level of plan making which will sit above the Local Plan and is coming out prior to the summer recess. The Peak District National Park will be covered by six Mayoral Authorities and therefore six SDS plans.

10:46am K Rustidge left the meeting and returned at 10:50am

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

RESOLVED:

1. **To note the progress report for the National Park Management Plan Thriving Communities Theme.**

9/26 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Planning Committee gave an update on the business of the last three planning Committees held on 5 December 2025, 16 January 2026 and 13 February 2026.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

10/26 REPORT FROM CHAIR OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Resources Committee gave an update on the business of the last Resources Committee held on 23 January 2026.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

11/26 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

13.1 Peak District Local Access Forum

- Opportunity to improve transport across the national park and the mechanism and process to do this.

13.2 Peak District National Park Foundation

- The Peak District National Park Foundation is going from strength to strength and is now attracting large donations. They shall be involved in 75th anniversary celebrations.
- Paragraph 3 should read the “Derbyshire Record Office” and not the “Derby Record Office”.

RESOLVED:

To note the reports

12/26 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda items 15,16,17 and 18 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).

The draft motion as set out above was proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

11:03am *The meeting adjourned and recommenced at 11:15am.*

PART B – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Summary of Decisions

13/26 Renewal of Partnership Contract

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

14/26 Revenue Budget 2026/27 and Medium-Term Financial Forecast 2026/27 to 2029/30

The recommendations as set out in the report with an amendment regarding the timeframe to recommendation 4, were proposed, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

15/26 Annual Capital Strategy, Capital Budget and Treasury Management Strategy Statement

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

16/26 Exempt minutes from Authority Meeting on 28 November 2025

The exempt minutes from Authority Meeting on Friday 28 November 2025 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm