

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 6 March 2020

Present: S Barker, A Cooper, G Gribble, P Harper, G Hill, S Morgan, D Moyse, J McInnes, J Nutley, N Oakley, C Pannell, M Renders, P Sanders, P Smerdon, D Webber, P Woods

Apologies: K Ball, P Vogel

3502 Minutes of the Authority Meetings held on 10 January 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 January 2020 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3503 Declarations of Interest

Mr Harper declared an interest in the Part II item (NPA/20/011) – National Parks Partnerships Limited due to being a director of the company, and advised that he would leave the room for the discussion and resolution of this item.

Mr Smerdon declared a personal interest, due to being a councillor on South Hams District Council, in Item 14 – Shipley Bridge Car Park and Toilets.

Mr Webber and Mr Renders declared a personal interest in Item 13 – Renewal of Access Agreement, Use of Disused Railway Walkhampton Common and Peekhill Farm.

Mrs Pannell declared a non-prejudicial interest, as a member of the Parish Council, in item 14 – Shipley Bridge Car Park and Toilets.

3504 Chair's Report

The Chair reported that she and the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) had had recent discussions with Philip Bown of the Western Morning News, resulting in some positive coverage for the Authority. Other discussions have revolved around National Park Grant, and potential National Park engagement with the International Conference on Climate Change (COP26) being hosted in Glasgow later this year.

3505 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Financial Settlement 2020/21 – Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and the Head of Business Support (NPA/20/012).

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised Members that notification of the Authority's financial settlement 2020/21 had been received. In cash terms, the settlement is the same as the National Park Grant awarded for 2019/20. No

provision has been made for inflation (such as pay award) during 2020/21. In real terms, this represents a 5% drop in funding. This, coupled with a forecast increase of at least 2% for Local Government staff salaries, represents a 7% reduction in funding, putting the Authority in a difficult position as we enter into the next Spending Review.

Defra has offered an additional £191k in ring-fenced funding for biodiversity projects; this has to be accounted for separately. With regard to National Park Grant, Members were reminded that Defra now has the ability to decide what we spend the funds on which add to concerns regarding the independence of the Authority.

In real terms, the Authority has seen a cut in funding in eight out of the last 10 years; this equates to a 40% cut since 2010.

The financial settlement for 2020/21 is disappointing when considered against the Glover Report and the recommendations therein. The pre-election Conservative Party Manifesto welcomed the Glover Review but the settlement makes it difficult to deliver on the recommendations.

The Authority therefore needs to find an additional £65,038 to set a balanced budget; it is proposed that these funds are allocated from reserves. It will be extremely difficult to set years two and three of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Chairs of all National Parks have expressed their concerns in a letter to George Eustice, Secretary of State Defra.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) proposed that Members agree the first recommendation at this point, with recommendations two and three to be considered with Item 9 on the agenda – Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2022/23 was discussed.

Further to Member queries the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) responded as follows:

- Defra has advised that the £191k allocated to the Authority for Biodiversity work can be used for current costs, including costs.
- Defra has been notified of concerns regarding possible dictates just prior to the start of the new financial year, and has been advised that approval is sought today for the Authority's Draft Business Plan 2020/21. The setting of new business priorities at this late stage does not make for good business planning.
- A 1% salary increase across the Authority equates to approximately £36k (inclusive of on-costs). A 2% provision has been planned for in year.
- With regard to Member assistance, it was suggested that Members instruct the Chair to write to the Secretary of State outlining concerns regarding the financial settlement in view of the forthcoming Spending Review, and highlighting the work that the Authority already undertakes which is highly relevant.

- Funding is disseminated to National Parks based on historic allocations. Approximately 20 years ago a funding formula was drawn up, based on size, population, planning SSSIs etc, but has never been fully implemented.

Mr McInnes proposed that a letter from the Chair be sent to the Minister and Secretary of State, as well as all Devon MPs, the letter should include the reiteration of some of the points raised in the Chairs' letter. This was seconded by Mrs Pannell.

Another Member added that any letter should include details of what the Authority '*can do*' in order to encourage a better understanding of the work of the National Park Authority, perhaps giving a reminder that funding for all National Parks only costs 85p per person, per annum.

A Member expressed unease over the Government's expectations that Local Authorities become self-funding, using their ability to 'trade' on their assets. Unfortunately DNPA does not own very much when compared to other NPAs, which puts us in an unfavourable position. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised that this issue had been raised during the Glover Review.

Mrs Pannell proposed recommendation (i), which was seconded by Mr Cooper. Recommendations (ii) and (iii) to be considered when Item 9 on the agenda is discussed.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) NOTED the implications of the financial settlement for 2020/21 – the real terms cut in funding and the potential implications of a 5% cut to National Park Grant; and
- (ii) INSTRUCTED the Chair to write to the Minister, Secretary of State, and Devon MPs, expressing Members' concerns regarding DNPA's financial settlement.

3506 Fees and Charges 2020-2021

Members received the report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/20/003).

The Authority charges for a small number of services in order that costs can be partially or even fully met. The Government also requires us to generate income streams whenever it is possible and lawful to do so. Planning fees are not included as they are set centrally by Government. As part of the budget setting process a formal review is undertaken each year. The charges that are applied may influence decisions as to whether to provide a service or not.

The Head of Business Support advised that since writing the report she anticipates a further increase in pre-application planning fees and car parking income will materialise, which should mean that a similar total outturn will be achieved to last year. It is proposed that many charges remain the same as they are so small it would be inefficient to alter them by just tiny amounts, with

the exception of car parking charges which are now a significant income source. The message that the Authority promotes is one of “pay and conserve” i.e. that monies received from parking (once the costs of provision are deducted) are used to maintain and improve the car parks and ancillary infrastructure. The current charges are extremely modest; and once VAT and processing costs have been deducted the net amount received is reduced by at least 25% (this is one of the reasons that card readers were not installed into the machines).

When the 2019/20 budget and MTFP was presented for approval last March it included the identified need for a significant car park resurfacing programme and in the building of the new MTFP this has not changed. Current spending on car parks averages around £90k per annum i.e., on operational and maintenance costs and does not include staff time. Income has increased; last year it was just under £75k and this year it is anticipated to be circa £80k.

Last year Members determined not to increase charges; and asked officers to look at the feasibility of introducing a season ticket/permit scheme, however this was not considered viable and was not supported by the public. It should be noted that Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh Teams, as well as volunteers are issued with free parking tickets. Free parking is also available up to 10am and after 6pm. Charges have not changed since 2013. Members have discussed this many times and this report was considered by the Audit & Governance Committee in February 2020. After much debate the Committee agreed to recommend to the Authority that:

- The Service Level Agreement with West Devon Borough Council be reviewed to investigate termination;
- That car parking charges be increased as set out in the table at the top of page 9 of the committee papers and, that if this is approved
- That contactless card readers are purchased and installed

The reason that the Authority charges parking fees is to cover the costs of having and providing parking facilities. At least £90k is needed to cover the cost of the service; the installation of card readers will also come at a cost of £10k and there would be transaction costs of around 1.5% on the charge taken. Therefore, the only way to meet this cost would be to increase charges or take money from another priority area.

Following discussion, Members were in agreement that the Authority should use as many sources as possible to explain what funds raised are spent on, i.e., ensuring that car parks remain safe and useable for the public. With regard to the installation of card readers, it was agreed that this would make life easier for everyone as cash is not as readily used as it has been in the past. In response to Member queries, the Head of Business Support advised that the machines publicise the ‘Donate for Dartmoor’ scheme and how the funding raised is used.

Mr Cooper proposed the recommendations, which were seconded by Mr Harper.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Approved the 2020/21 schedule of fees and charges as set out in Appendix 2, and
- (ii) Agreed that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to terminate the Service Level Agreement with West Devon Borough Council at the most effective date.

Mrs Oakley left the meeting.

3507 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2020/21

Members received the report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/20/004). She advised that each year in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management and the Treasury Management Policy the Authority must set out and adopt a Treasury Management and Investment Strategy. The document (found at Appendix 1) is straightforward as the Authority is debt free and has no plans to borrow; has modest working capital balances which are invested in bank treasury deposits; rarely has a capital programme of any substance and does not have any other type of investment activity that falls outside of the Treasury management policy, i.e. commercial investments in property, companies or other financial assets.

There are no changes to the CIPFA Code this year, so the Treasury Management Policy, the Strategy and the Authority's Treasury Management practices remain unchanged.

A new accounting standard is being introduced from 1 April 2020 called IFRS16 – Leasing. This has the effect of turning all operating leases (for land and buildings) into finance leases, putting asset and liability transactions onto the Balance Sheet which then count as debt. There is a considerable amount of work to be done which will not be completed for some months. As this debt relates to historical transactions this is clearly a financial and administrative task but, technically, the Authority will no longer be debt free. Members will be updated later in the year.

In response to a Member query, the Head of Business Support advised that the Authority is permitted to borrow but it would be required to set out a detailed business plan. There are no plans to borrow as no major new projects are in the pipeline.

Mr Cooper proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Gribble.

RESOLVED: Members approved the 2020/21 Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

3508 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2022/23

Members received the report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/20/005). With regard to the current 2019/20 financial year, officers have been rigorous in their monitoring and control of expenditure since Christmas when the Authority was made aware by Defra that the 2020/21 financial settlement could be at best flat cash. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is a key feature of the Authority's forward planning process. It is guided by the priorities set out in the Business Plan, the National Park Management Plan and government policies such as the 25 year Environment Plan and the 8 Point Plan for England's National Parks.

The 2020/21 budget was put together with the assumption that the Authority would receive an inflationary increase in National Park Grant. As the financial settlement has been confirmed as flat cash, the budget gap is increased from £32k to just under £97k if all budget bids remain; the proposed allocation of a further £65k from reserves would be required. As the Authority has only received a one year settlement from Defra, the two years beyond 2020/21 can now only be considered as aspirational and will need to be fundamentally reviewed. It is also proposed that officers identify in-year savings to reduce the call on reserves for 2020/21.

A list of the most significant projects in each year is included in the report and highlights the aspiration to continue with the Project Fund. An increased amount in the 2020/21 Project Fund has been provided to potentially meet some of the costs of implementing a new Planning IT system, which is become critically important to do. The triennial pension valuation results indicate that the Authority's funding position has improved as a result of its proactive intervention. The employer contribution rate will be maintained at the current level for the next three years.

A significant risk is the unresolved outcome of the pay award negotiations—the Trade Unions have rejected the employer offer of 2% which has been built into the MTFP. If the outcome should be closer to 3% then the impact would be extra £36k in 2020/21; some provision for this has been set aside in reserves. A further budget pressure includes the Authority's desire to implement actions set out in the climate action plan; to date £50k has been set aside in reserves; it is doubtful that this will be sufficient.

The majority of reserve balances are earmarked for specific purposes. Taking money from reserves to set a balanced budget is the right thing to do at this moment in time; however, it is clearly not sustainable in the longer-term. Therefore, in advance of and to prepare for the Comprehensive Spending Review, officers need to address how the Authority can reduce costs going forward.

The proposed Capital Strategy for 2020/21 includes the ongoing building project at Postbridge; the essential replacement of three Ranger and Conservation Works Team vehicles and the procurement of a replacement Planning IT system in 2020/21. In 2021/22 a new roof and improvements to

the cottage at Higher Uppacott are proposed. It is likely that further capital projects will be brought before Members for approval in the near future; for example from the Climate Action Plan. This may result in the need for a further re-prioritisation of spending plans, if increased core funding is not forthcoming.

A successful outcome in respect of the Moor Otters II project would give a welcome boost and enable the Authority to deliver worthwhile outcomes in 2021/22.

In conclusion the settlement for 2020/21 represents a real terms cut to our core budget; the level of this cut may also be impacted by the unresolved pay award issue and then whether this cut in National Park Grant is carried forward into future years. The two following years budgets will need to be completely reviewed and until the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review is known, this will be very hard to do.

The Head of Business Support asked Members to consider the following revised recommendations, in respect of this report (NPA/20/005) and the Financial Settlement 2020-21 report (NPA/20/012):

- (i) Approve 2020/21 budget as set out;
- (ii) Approve the use of earmarked reserves (as set out in appendix 6 and sections 3.4 and 4 to this report) to balance the budget for 2020/21, noting that an additional £65,038 will need to be allocated from reserves due to the real terms reduction in funding from Defra;
- (iii) Instruct officers to identify in-year savings to reduce the call on reserves and report these to Audit and Governance Committee;
- (iv) Note that producing a detailed Medium Term Financial Plan given current uncertainty is extremely difficult, but that officers have revised the Medium Term Financial Plan scenarios in light of the 2020/21 settlement and these indicate significant financial pressure in 2021/22 and 2022/23; and
- (v) Approve the capital investment strategy as set out in section 5 of the report.

In response to Member queries, the Head of Business Support advised that the Environmental Land Management Scheme and the Peatland Project were both externally funded. Work on the new Local Plan is entering its final stages; the aim is that the Plan is adopted in early 2021.

A Member commented that 'nothing is impossible', and emphasized the need for Members to reassure staff that '*we can manage this, staff can do this*'. He thanked the Head of Business Support and her team for the hard work undertaking in bringing the budget to committee for approval whilst, at the same time, acknowledging that there will inevitably be difficulties ahead. He also suggested that it would be prudent to consider the potential impact on the Strategic Risk Register, adding that a review would be timely.

With regard to 'Donate for Dartmoor' a Member stated that the Authority needed to promote this more on the ground, adding that there is still no

signage to advise the public what has been raised and for what. The Head of Communications and Fundraising advised that there are plans to address this, including an excellent film covering the Buckfastleigh Project which is to be placed on the Authority's website.

Mr Cooper proposed the recommendations, which were seconded by Mr Barker.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Approved 2020/21 budget as set out;
- (ii) Approved the use of earmarked reserves (as set out in appendix 6 and sections 3.4 and 4 to this report) to balance the budget for 2020/21, and noted that an additional £65,038 will need to be allocated from reserves due to the real terms reduction in funding from Defra;
- (iii) Instructed officers to identify in-year savings to reduce the call on reserves and report these to Audit and Governance Committee;
- (iv) Noted that producing a detailed Medium Term Financial Plan given current uncertainty is extremely difficult, but that officers have revised the Medium Term Financial Plan scenarios in light of the 2020/21 settlement and these indicate significant financial pressure in 2021/22 and 2022/23; and
- (v) Approved the capital investment strategy as set out in section 5 of the report.

3509 Draft Business Plan 2020-2021

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and the Director of Conservation and Communities (NPA/20/006).

The Draft Business Plan 2020-21 sets out the Authority's strategic priorities, the key actions to achieve these and the budget available to deliver. The revised NPMP themes '*Enhance, Enrich and Prosper*' form the framework of the 2020-21 Business Plan and proposed actions reflect national policy drivers. Priorities also reflect Member discussions at the Annual Member Workshop in September 2019.

The Draft Business Plan 2020-21 identifies key actions to help deliver the priorities identified by Members:

- Engaging young people;
- Future direction of agriculture policy;
- Supporting economic development and productivity;
- Climate change and enhancing nature;
- Engaging with people and communities; and
- External funding.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised that, whilst it was possible that priorities could be curtailed by continuing austerity, the Authority was determined to deliver this ambitious plan.

A Member brought everyone's attention to page 52 of the agenda papers and commented that the statement "*Every pound spent by the Authority generates over £4.00 for the local economy*" would make for an excellent strap line, adding that this is the type of information that the Authority should promote. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) added that the source of this information was Defra. In response to a Member query, he advised that Performance Indicators are available on the Authority's website through the Audit and Governance Committee reports.

Mrs Pannell proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mrs Hill

RESOLVED: Members reviewed the Draft Business Plan for 2020-21 and delegated authority to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to agree the final version.

3510 Local Plan Submission

Members received the report of the Head of Forward Planning and Economy (NPA/20/007). The report asked Members to agree the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for examination which starts the final stages of the Local Plan. The aim is for the adoption of the Plan to take place in early 2021.

The Regulation 19 consultation took place during the autumn 2019, in order to identify issues of compliance and unsoundness. The key issues raised, detailed in the table on page 63 of the committee papers, did not raise anything which would make the plan unsound or not legally compliant. In order for the Plan to be sound and legally compliant there are a number of documents that sit alongside it; these include the Habitat Regulations Assessment and the Statement of Common Ground. With regard to the procurement of the Programme Officer, the Head of Forward Planning and Economy clarified that the officer would be employed and paid by the Authority but would, effectively, be working for the Planning Inspectorate.

Once the examination stage has commenced, any changes will be at the will of the Inspector. The Authority is effectively bound to accept any changes that he/she considers necessary for soundness.

Mr McInnes proposed the recommendations, adding that Members had been involved in the development of this document he recognised the amount of work that has been undertaken in its production and he thanked the Head of Forward Planning and Economy and the Forward Planner for their hard work. Mr Gribble seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Agreed to submit the publication version (financial Draft) Local Plan to the Secretary of State;
- (ii) Noted the Habitat Regulations Assessment Addendum;
- (iii) Endorsed the updated Duty to Co-operate Statement of Common Ground;
- (iv) Agreed the procurement of the Programme Officer; and
- (v) Delegated to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chair, authority to make minor changes to the submissions documents, including the Environmental Reports and the Statement of Common Ground, if felt necessary.

Mr Barker left the meeting

3511 Draft Climate Action Plan

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and the Forward Planning Officer (NPA/20/008).

In July 2019 the Authority declared a climate and ecological emergency and agreed to work towards the Authority being carbon neutral by 2025. The Draft Climate Action Plan has been drawn up in order for Members to consider the implications of becoming carbon neutral and the practicality of the 2025 target date. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) thanked the Forward Planner for undertaking this piece of work. Work has been carried out in partnership with Devon County Council and as part of the family of National Parks. The Plan has been developed in an inclusive way in order to gather ideas and obtain ownership of the actions.

The Authority has monitored its carbon emissions since 2009/10. Emissions have been reduced by 50% over this time.

Carbon emissions are categorised by three Scopes:

Scope 1 – Direct emissions eg, from boilers and work vehicles;

Scope 2 – Indirect emissions eg, electricity; and

Scope 3 – other indirect emissions eg, business travel, commuting by Members and staff.

The Authority has adopted a hierarchy of priorities – Be Lean, Be Clean, Be Green, and Offset. The top priority action for 2020/21, in terms of reducing its carbon footprint, is to source renewable energy for premises. The best way to do this would be through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This is being actively explored by Devon County Council. It is proposed that the Authority moves to a REGO or green tariff option until such time as a PPA is available at a Devon level. Once this has been achieved then the Authority will consider the purchasing of electric vehicles.

Currently, there is no accounting framework with regard to assessing the carbon value from land. A nationally agreed framework set by Government is required. UK.

Members had previously approved the allocation of £50k from reserves to support the climate awareness campaign. £4k has been utilised so far. It is proposed to use the rest of the funds to fund the Action Plan. It is hoped that Government will assist those organisations that aspire to becoming carbon neutral. Officers feel that Scopes 1 and 2 are achievable by the target of 2025. Scope 3 is more complicated but there are some areas that could be developed as outlined in the report.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and the Forward Planner responded to queries and noted comments from Members as follows:

- Scope for tree planting This is a key consideration in the NPMP;
- Peatland work – 99% of the work is undertaken on Duchy land. Many organisations are involved in the project;
- The Climate Action Plan 2020 can be shared; the Authority would actively encourage feedback and collaboration with the local community and other organisations;
- Going paperless – fully supported; other organisations further ahead and good examples to be seen;
- The Draft Climate Action Plan has been brought to the attention of Defra;
- An excellent report and draft plan – good examples for other Local Authorities to aspire to.

Mr Nutley proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Smerdon.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Approved the draft Climate Action Plan and, in particular, the key actions identified for 2020/21 in table 1;
- (ii) Agreed that the Climate Action Plan needs to be reviewed on an annual basis and noted that there will be on-going resource implications (financial and staff);
- (iii) Noted that the £50,000 earmarked in reserves to support action on climate change will be used to fund key actions in 2020/21. Any cost above this will be subject to separate Authority approval as there is no provision in the draft Revenue Budget for 2020/21 for further expenditure associated with the Climate Action Plan; and
- (iv) Agreed that the Chair of the Authority and Chief Executive (National Park Officer) should highlight the need for an agreed carbon accounting framework to ensure consistency across both emissions and sequestration of carbon.

3512 Renewal of Access Agreement

Members received the report of the Head of Recreation, Access and Estates (NPA/20/009).

This access route provides a safe off road multi-user route between Princetown and Burrator Reservoir. Whilst the route has remained opened there is currently no access agreement and therefore access cannot be guaranteed.

The route is a popular one, used by over 13,000 cyclists and 25,000 walkers a year. It caters for a wide range of users, is suitable for those with off road mobility vehicles such as trampers and is enjoyed by people of all ages from keen mountain bikers to families with young children. The route would benefit from some minor repairs due to the high level of use.

The Authority invested in this route for over 15 years. Significant improvements were made in 2015 through the Granite and Gears project and provision of a safe road crossing over the B3212 at Peekhill. The landowners would now like to formalise access arrangements by way of new access agreements:

- Agreement 1 – Peekhill Farm
- Agreement 2 – Walkhampton Common

These two agreements would cost £4,752 per annum, with an additional £800 towards legal fees. The agreements would be for 10 years with a five year break clause. Without agreement the Authority would be unable to promote the route and there is a risk that it would be lost.

Once an agreement is in place the Authority will install people counters which would help to build a picture of patterns and levels of use. Site information and interpretation boards would also be put in place to tell visitors about the wildlife and farming in the area.

A Member commended the report, stating that the proposed agreements represented very good value for money, adding that the route is a very safe one for all users to use.

Mr Sanders proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Renders.

RESOLVED: Members authorised the completion of two access agreements at Peekhill Farm and Walkhampton Common.

3513 Shipleigh Bridge Car Park and Toilets

Members received the report of the Director of Conservation and Communities (NPA/20/010).

The toilets and car park at Shipleigh Bridge are a well-used, year round facility. The site provide good access for the south moor; the easy access path leading to the Avon Dam is used by a range of visitors, including families with young children and less mobile visitors.

The Authority leases the car park from South West Water (SWW). The toilets, although on SWW land rare owned by the Authority. In early 2019, South Hams District Council informed the Authority that it intended to terminate its interest

(responsibility for the maintenance and cleaning of the toilet block) in September 2019.

In an effort to seek a long term solution to keep the toilets open, the Authority has been in negotiation with SWW and South West Lakes Ltd (SWLL). SWLL has expressed an interest in taking responsibility for the car park and toilets given the proximity of the Avon Dam. SWLL would need to introduce formal car parking charges in order to cover management and maintenance costs.

A Deed of Variation to our Head Lease with South West Water and a new Sub Lease with South West Lakes Ltd would be required to implement the proposal. The cost to the Authority would be minimal; £500 costs to South West Water and a deep clean of the toilets before the exchange took place with South West Lakes Ltd. In the longer term this would prevent additional costs for the Authority to maintain and manage the facilities at Shipley Bridge.

In response to Member queries, the Director of Conservation and Communities advised the following:

- Members would need to accept the parking charges, which would be slightly higher than those of the Authority, as they would be in-line with other car parks run by SWLL;
- Discussions with SWLL regarding the potential parking of vehicles on the large green would be proposed to seek methods to avoid erosion.

Members commended the Director of Conservation and Communications for her hard work and persistence to find a way forward.

Mrs Hill proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Gribble.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Instructed the Authority to agree a Deed of Variation with South West Water (SWW) on the Head Lease and enter into a new 10 year Sub Lease with South West Lakes Limited (SWLL) for the management and maintenance of Shipley Bridge car park and toilets, with Heads of Terms for the proposed Sub Lease as detailed in the report; and
- (ii) supported the introduction, by South West Lakes Ltd, of formal charging in the form of pay and display parking, to fund the future management and maintenance of the site.

Mr Gribble and Mr Harper and Miss Moyse left the meeting.

3516 Draft Minutes of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 7 February 2020

Members received the draft minutes of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting held on 7 February 2020.

RESOLVED: Members noted the content of the minutes.

It was duly proposed by Ms Woods, seconded by Mr Cooper and agreed that, in accordance with s.100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, report NPA/20/011 should be taken in the absence of the Press and Public, on the ground that exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 Paragraph 3 to Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act (as amended) will be discussed, namely:-

Information in respect of commercial sensitivity.

RESOLVED: Members resolved to move into Part II private session.

3514 National Parks Partnership Limited

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/20/011).

RESOLVED: Members delegated authority to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chair, to agree a further contribution to the operating costs of National Parks Partnerships Limited Liability Partnership for 2020/21 up to a maximum of £10,000.

DRAFT