

## DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 6 November 2020

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

Officers: Dr K Bishop, Chief Executive, (National Park Officer)  
Mr O Rutter, Head of Outreach & Understanding  
Mrs E Stockley, Community Engagement Officer

Apologies: P Sanders

### **3273 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2020 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### **3274 Declarations of Interest**

Mr Vogel declared a personal interest in Item 7 - Dartmoor National Park Outreach and Engagement Strategy 2020, due to being a volunteer with the second Sunday group and on the outreach van.

### **3275 Chair's Report**

The Chair reported that a letter from the Authority had been sent to Lord Gardiner outlining funding, governance and ELMS. A standard response has been received offering a meeting with Defra officials, which the Authority has accepted – a date is yet to be agreed. The outcomes of the meeting will be reported back in due course.

The Chair took part in a video conference for the Heart of the South West looking at housing provisions and the planning consultation, a good discussion was had.

The Chair also attended Defra – ALB meeting where the spending review was discussed. The issue with the amount of time taken to get people appointed to various boards was also brought to attention.

The Chair informed Members that the Visitor Centres would be shut between 5 November 2020 – Wednesday 2 December due to the national lockdown. Officers would still be able to carry out covid secure site visits and the Rangers will still be out on the Moor.

The Director of Conservation and Communities announced that the Green Recovery Challenge Fund application has been submitted for the second round and a decision whether it is successful or not will be given in early December.

### **3276 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

None

### **3277 Dartmoor National Park Outreach and Engagement Strategy 2020**

The Head of Outreach & Understanding informed Members that the ambitious strategy provides a mechanism for quality engagement with the public and intention to reach people who don't currently visit the National Park with the additional benefit of managing relationships with the current visitors. The strategy ties in with the Landscapes (Glover) review and aims to respond to some of the points raised. The work done over the summer months conducting surveys with Members of the public has helped to illustrate the make up of visitors to the Park. There is a wider concern for health and wellbeing by the general public, particularly since the beginning of the pandemic, this means more people have been accessing the National Park for exercise and a means of escape.

The strategy aims to increase accessibility, awareness and understanding of Dartmoor in under-represented groups, increase the number of young people who connect with the Park and increase the number of people who realise the health benefits of spending time in the National Park and help all people develop a long lasting relationship with Dartmoor and help look after it. For example: Work is being done with young ambassadors in Plymouth to encourage and enable them to access, enjoy and understand Dartmoor.

Should the Members be minded to approve and adopt the Outreach and Engagement Strategy, it will bring focus and ambition to the Authority's work and will respond to the Landscape review, it will be a crucial document when applying for bids and engaging stakeholders and partnerships. The success will be measured by seeing a greater diversity of people engaging with Dartmoor and any barriers preventing that will be understood in greater detail with the ambition to see barriers removed. More people will feel the beneficial impact on their health and wellbeing and the next generation of people will have a lasting connection with Dartmoor and take care of its special qualities.

The Chair congratulated the Head of Outreach & Understanding on the work done to create the strategy and the work done with young ambassadors from Plymouth.

A Member queried what happened to the MOSAIC project, the Head of Outreach & Understanding stated that it was a charitable arm of the Campaign for National Parks and funding for the fixed term project ran out. The Landscapes Review does comment on the success of the MOSAIC project and it is a good model to use for future projects. The Members commended the work with youth groups in Plymouth as a high number of young people in the city have never visited Dartmoor. A Member suggested that the John Muir Award is opened up to adults as many of the volunteers would like have to opportunity to take part in the award. The Head of Outreach & Understanding stated that family involvement and informal learning are incredibly important, this is a strategic document so not every detail has been included, but the aims of the document are to educate and include people of all ages and backgrounds.

Mr Webber joined the meeting

Mrs Morgan was unable to vote due to losing connection during the item.

**RESOLVED:** Members approved and agreed to adopt the Outreach & Engagement Strategy.

**3278 Dartmoor Community Resilience Project: Prince's Countryside Fund Bid**

The Community Engagement Officer informed Members that the Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF) is looking for applications for projects that will build on existing projects that came about as a result of the Covid -19 pandemic, that strengthen social enterprises and sense of community. She requested Member's support to bid for match funding for this project, which has been developed using evidence led by the Covid Business Surveys, individual meetings and meetings with community enterprises and business representatives on Dartmoor.

The project will first and foremost develop a community support network bringing together collective knowledge, skills and experience to develop many of the embryonic community ventures on Dartmoor that have arisen from the impact of the pandemic. The network would enable peer to peer support and share learning across the National Park. The project is supported by three existing community initiatives – Chagfood, NED Care and The Seed CIC.

A grant of £10k is sought from the PCF, and the rest of the project will be funded by DNPA – including £16,932 of in-kind staff costs (Community Engagement Officer) and £1,512 in costs. There are other options if the bid is not successful.

Members expressed their support for the project and building on enterprises that have already started and helping them continue in the future.

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

Mrs Morgan could not vote due to problems with her connection.

**RESOLVED:** Members supported the bid and the “match funding” approach as described in the report.

**3279 Tree Preservation Orders, Section 211 Notifications (Works to Trees in Conservation Areas) and Hedgerow Removal Notices Determined Under Delegated Powers**

Members received the report of the Trees and Landscape Officer (NPA/20/021).

**RESOLVED:** Members NOTED the content of the report.