

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 30 July 2021

Present: A Cooper, W Dracup, G Gribble, P Harper, G Hill, J McInnes, S Morgan, J Nutley, N Oakley, M Renders, L Samuel, P Sanders, P Smerdon, P Vogel, D Webber, P Woods

Officers: K Bishop, Chief Executive (NPO)
S Hill, Head of Communications & Fundraising
D Janota, Head of Forward Planning & Economy

Apologies: D Moyse
C Pannell
D Thomas

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Shewan, Independent Person, Mrs Samuel on her first meeting as a Member and Mr Webber on his return to duties.

3337 Declarations of Interest

Mr Gribble, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley and Mr Vogel declared a personal interest, due to their local connections with the Dolbeare Road, Ashburton and Bovey Tracey Golf Centre sites in Item 7 – Consultation response: Teignbridge Local Plan Review (Part 2) Site Options Consultation and confirmed that they would not be voting and would leave the meeting when the report was presented.

3338 Minutes of the Annual Authority meeting and Authority meeting held on Friday 9 July 2021

The minutes of the Annual Authority meeting held on Friday 9 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

Save for the amendment detailed below, the minutes of the Authority meeting held Friday 9 July 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

Page 3 – paragraph 4 – ‘...talking to farers...’ be amended to read ‘...talking to farmers...’.

3339 Chair’s Report

The Chair reported that she had visited the Four Winds car park where a Tour of Britain interview had been taking place which was good publicity for Dartmoor.

The Chair informed Members that she had been in discussions with the Chairs of other English National Park Authorities regarding the Landscapes Review and in particular, options for a National Landscape Service.

Mr Harper reported that he had attended a National Parks Partnership meeting on 29 July, where it was confirmed that the Columbia agreement would not be renewed, however, clothing at a cost rate could be arranged.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) recorded his thanks to staff. He advised Members that there were some staff shortages in Visitor Centres due to Covid and the 'pingdemic'. He reported that there had been a number of resignations and that the organisation was in the process of advertising and recruiting to these vacancies. He apologised for any delays and thanked members for their patience.

He informed Members that the Authority had been successful with the Green Recovery Challenge Fund application to kick-start green jobs and connect people to nature. The grant funding from the Government's second round of the Green Recovery Challenge Fund will be invested in a new project called Changing Lives, Nurturing Nature. The project would bring together the Authority, the National Trust, Woodland Trust and South West Lakes Trust in a partnership aimed at creating new green job opportunities focusing on nature restoration, conservation and connecting people to what makes Dartmoor so special.

He reported that the Authority had secured funding through the Government's Welcome Back Initiative. This funding was directed to local authorities and to support COVID-19 recovery. We have worked with Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon Councils on proposals and the funding secured will assist with a social media campaign and enhanced visitor management.

Members were advised that the bid for the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund had not been successful.

3340 Items requiring urgent attention

None.

3341 Public Participation

None.

Mr Gribble, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley and Mr Vogel left the meeting.

3342 Consultation response: Teignbridge Local Plan Review (Part 2) Site Options Consultation

Members received the report of the Head of Forward Planning & Economy (NPA/21/022).

The Head of Forward Planning & Economy reported that the consultation was part 2 of the Teignbridge Local Plan and followed a previous consultation on development management policies. The two would be combined into a single local plan for the final stage of consultation next year. Part 2 of the plan set out the development strategy for the Teignbridge Plan area over the next 20 years. It proposed site options to meet identified housing need, sites for employment uses to meet economic development requirements, Gypsy and traveller pitch provision and a low carbon

energy strategy. A spatial strategy was proposed which sought to meet the majority of housing need in the largest settlements, identifying also smaller towns and villages where a requirement should be met on an appropriate site.

Members were advised that the key issues proposed that the Authority should include were set out in Section 4 of the report

Members were invited to endorse the principles of the response and delegate Authority to the Head of Forward Planning & Economy in consultation with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to submit a formal response.

Members raised queries regarding the Duty to Co-operate relationship with adjoining authorities, the proximity of the Dolbeare Road site to Linhay Hill Quarry, and whether any of the land at the Golf Centre is suitable for development from a DNPA perspective. .

The Head of Forward Planning & Economy advised that:

- - It would be for the District Council to identify any geological concerns through appropriate policies in it's own local plan, and noted the principle of the 'agent of change'
- That land at Dolbeare would likely relate to the extent of ownership rather than necessarily be informed by a specific development proposal at this stage
- The draft NPPF 2021 revisions were a positive direction in respect of setting of protected landscapes, and it is good to reinforce this in adjoining plans
- That he recognised Members views in respect of the proposal at the Golf Centre and would take on board the steer in respect of the suitability of any part of the site.

It was confirmed that a copy of the Authority's response would be circulated to Members.

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

RESOLVED:

Members endorsed the principles of the response to the Teignbridge Local Plan consultation and delegated Authority to the Head of Forward Planning and Economy in consultation with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to submit a formal response.

Mr Gribble, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley and Mr Vogel rejoined the meeting.

3343 Dartmoor National Park Authority Annual Review 2020/21

Members received the report of the Head of Communications & Fundraising (NPA/21/023)

The Head of Communications & Fundraising informed Members that the Authority produce an annual review each year that highlights work from the previous year. Although it is a requirement of the Authority from Defra, it also provides the

opportunity to highlight work of the Authority in a less formal way than normal Authority reports.

She reported that once written, the review is designed and published as a summary document on the Authority's website and circulated to various stakeholders. This had included Defra, local MPs, the Dartmoor Forum and constituent local authorities.

Members were advised that the draft annual review presented to them provided a summary of some of the Authority's achievements from last year's business plan; highlights submitted from heads of service; and the Authority's response to the pandemic. The annual review was split up into five headings providing a range of different examples of what had been completed, demonstrating the diversity of the Authority's work. It highlighted the agility with supporting communities through the pandemic, using local networks to provide a rapid response.

The business plan reporting process provides Members with a fuller account of the Authority's performance which is reported to Audit and Governance Committee in May.

Members were advised that the draft text would be designed into an attractive document to circulate and in doing so would like to also take the opportunity to circulate it to a wider range of stakeholders to make better use of the document and suggested sending directly to the Minister and Secretary of State, the Shadow Secretary of State, MPs in surrounding constituencies and local ward councillors.

Members were asked to put forward any questions or thoughts on distribution and how they could support that.

The Chair thanked the Head of Communications & Fundraising for an excellent summary of achievements during difficult times.

Members suggested that a precis of the summary be placed in Enjoy Dartmoor and local parish magazines via the Members' Parish updates, additional wording be added to highlight that the Authority had continued to be fully engaged during the pandemic and a digital version made available with links to more background information on the website.

Mr Nutley thanked the Authority on behalf of the Ashburton COVID-19 Response Team as the grants given had been greatly appreciated.

The Head of Communications & Fundraising confirmed that a precis of the summary would be put into Enjoy Dartmoor, the additional wording regarding the Authority's engagement during the pandemic would be included and links would also be incorporated to provide more background information. She stated that the Authority had been uniquely placed to respond quickly for grants which had been a huge achievement.

In response to a query raised in relation to the £140K per annum for infrastructure under the surveying our public rights of way section, the Head of Communications & Fundraising confirmed that she would seek clarification from the Head of Access, Recreation & Estates as to whether that figure was correct.

The Chair suggested that an opening paragraph be added to highlight achievements made through relationships with local contacts to emphasise the importance of local links. She thanked the Communications & Fundraising team for the summary.

The Head of Communications & Fundraising confirmed that Members would be sent a link directly to the report for Members' distribution.

Mr Sanders proposed the recommendations, which were seconded by Mr McInnes.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) noted the report and Dartmoor National Park Authority's Annual Review 2020/21 for information; and
- (ii) agreed the distribution and communication of the Annual Review, and
- (iii) agreed the final wording would be approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair.

3344 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/21/024).

RESOLVED: Members NOTED the content of the report.