

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Friday 26 May 2023

Present: Members
S Morgan (Chair), W Dracup, M Renders, P Woods, J McInnes,
P Sanders

Officers
N White (Head of Organisational Development)

Apologies: P Harper, A Cooper, J Nutley

Non-attendance:

246 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 November 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4 November 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

247 Declarations of Interest

None.

248 Public Participation

None.

249 Monitoring Officer's Update

The Head of Organisation Development (Monitoring Officer) advised Members that there were no formal complaints to report, but three informal matters, detailed as follows:

- Alleged unreasonable behaviour from a Member towards two IT staff. An informal investigation was carried out and it was found that this was caused by frustration at not being able to access the papers, but there was no breach of the Code of Conduct. Members have since been advised to download the papers onto their devices before the meeting.
- The Development Management Committee Meeting held on 2 December 2022 raised procedural questions relating to a decision contrary to officer recommendation and a decision that was a departure from the development plan. The Monitoring Officer emailed all Members to remind them of our established procedures to deal with these situations. The Monitoring Officer also undertook an investigation into Member conduct relating to this matter. This concluded that there was no breach of the

Code of Conduct. The Monitoring Officer also commissioned an external investigation into the Officers' handling of the application. This concluded that Officers had dealt with all matters relating to this application appropriately.

- A training session on the Local Plan resulted in strong feedback from some Members, which the Officers will bear in mind for the future.

Due to recent local elections, the Authority will shortly be welcoming new Members. Dates of induction training to be confirmed. All Members are encouraged to attend these sessions as a refresher regarding our policies and procedures.

Members commented that training is positive but the timing, content and format are important. A Member recommended all Members should have training in declarations of interest going forward.

The Members thanked the Head of Organisational Development (Monitoring Officer) for the sensible and balanced approach taken when dealing with the issues which were dealt with very well.

RESOLVED: Members noted this update.

250 Standard Sub-Committee Annual Report

Corinne Farrell, a new Independent Person has joined the Authority.

Regarding the future, the Chair advised that Members will continue to meet twice annually to ensure high standards of conduct and noted the plan to review of the Member Code of Conduct during 2023/24.

Members were happy to note.

251 Observation Reports

The Head of Organisational Development (Monitoring Officer) advised that the Independent Observers report back to him after each formal meeting. Minor issues have been raised and addressed relating to declarations of interest and minor technical / behavioral matters in meetings.

The Independent Persons thanked the Members for accepting their observation reports and taking action where necessary. They continue to be impressed by the standard of conduct at meetings. Very little to report back on.

Members thanked the Independent Persons and our Corinne Farrell thanked Members and Officers for the warm welcome. She is impressed with the critical standards of the Committees and asked if there was anything

particular the Members wish the Independent Persons to comment on as they are happy to receive suggestions from Members.

246 Next Meeting

Friday 3 November 2023.

DRAFT