

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ANNUAL MEETING

Friday 1 July 2016

Present: K Ball, S Barker, W Cann, A Cooper, G Gribble, P Hitchins, S Hill, M Jeffery, J Kidner, D Lloyd, J McInnes, I Mortimer, D Moyse, N Oakley, C Pannell, M Retallick, P Sanders, D Webber

Apologies: J Christophers

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) informed the meeting that under Standing Orders it falls with him to preside over the first item of business, namely the election of Chairman. Once elected, the Chairman will take conduct of the remainder of the meeting.

3179 Election of Chairman

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the meeting that two written nominations had been received, both for Mr P Hitchins. Mr Hitchins confirmed his willingness to stand for election and thanked Members for their confidence and support.

RESOLVED:

Mr Hitchins was elected to serve as Chairman until the next Annual Meeting.

3180 Election of Deputy Chairman

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Mr M Retallick. Mr Retallick confirmed his willingness to stand for election and thanked the Chairman and Members for their continued confidence and support.

RESOLVED:

Mr Retallick was elected to serve as Deputy Chairman until the next Annual Meeting.

3181 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Mr Christophers.

3182 Appointments to Committees, Sub-committees and Working Panels

Development Management Committee

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that no written notifications had been received from any Member to signify that they did not wish to serve on the Committee.

Signed



Date

2.9.16

RESOLVED:

All Members were appointed to serve on the Development Management Committee until the next Annual meeting.

Audit and Governance Committee

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that there was a requirement for ten Members to sit on the Audit and Governance Committee to include at least one local authority Member and one Member appointed by the Secretary of State. Six expressions of interest had been received as set out in the report. Mr Ball, Mr Cooper, Mr Lloyd and Mrs Pannell volunteered to serve on the committee.

RESOLVED:

Mr Ball, Mr Cooper, Mr Hill, Mr Hitchins, Mr Lloyd, Mr McInnes, Mrs Pannell, Mr Retaillick, Mr Sanders and Mr Webber were elected to serve on the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Standards Sub-Committee

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that there was a requirement for five Members of the Audit and Governance Committee to sit on the Standards Sub-Committee, of whom at least two Members shall be appointed by a local authority. Four expressions of interest had been received as set out in the report. Mr Cooper and Mrs Pannell both expressed an interest to serve, but following a brief discussion Mrs Pannell indicated that she was happy to withdraw her expression of interest.

RESOLVED:

Mr Ball, Mr Cooper, Mr Hitchins, Mr Sanders and Mr Webber were elected to serve on the Standards Sub-Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Park Management Working Panel

The appointment of Members who had indicated an interest, as set out in the report, with the addition of Mr Cooper, was proposed by Mr Hitchins and seconded by Mr Sanders.

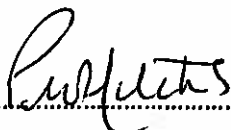
RESOLVED:

Mr Ball, Mr Cann, Mr Cooper, Mr Hitchins, Mr Lloyd, Mr McInnes, Dr Mortimer, Miss Moyse, Mrs Oakley, Mr Retaillick, Mr Sanders and Mr Webber were appointed to serve on the Park Management Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel

The appointment of Members who had indicated an interest, as set out in the report, with the addition of Mrs Pannell, was proposed by Mr Hitchins and seconded by Dr Mortimer.

Signed



Date

2.9.16

RESOLVED:

Mr Cann, Mr Gribble, Mr Hill, Mr Hitchins, Mr Jeffery, Mr McInnes, Dr Mortimer, Miss Moyse, Mrs Pannell, Mr Retallick, Mr Sanders and Mr Webber were appointed to serve on the Planning and Sustainable Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

3183 Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman – Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels

Chairman – Development Management Committee

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the meeting that no nominations had been received. Mr McInnes was nominated by Mr Sanders, which was seconded by Mr Gribble. Mr McInnes confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr McInnes was duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Development Management Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Deputy Chairman – Development Management Committee

Mr Sanders was nominated by Mr Gribble, which was seconded by Mr Retallick. Mr Sanders confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr Sanders was duly elected to serve as Deputy Chairman of the Development Management Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Chairman – Audit and Governance Committee

Mr Retallick nominated Mr Ball, which was seconded by Mrs Pannell. Mr Ball confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr Ball was duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Deputy Chairman – Audit and Governance Committee

Mr Ball nominated Mrs Pannell, which was seconded by Mr Cann. Mrs Pannell confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Pannell was duly elected to serve as Deputy Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Signed  Date 2.9.16

Standards Sub-Committee

Mr Sanders nominated Mr Cooper, which was seconded by Mr Ball. Mr Cooper confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mr Cooper was duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Standards Sub-Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

Park Management Working Panel

Mr Retallick nominated Mrs Oakley, which was seconded by Mr Ball. Mrs Oakley confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Oakley was duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Park Management Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel

Mr Jeffery nominated Dr Mortimer, which was seconded by Mr Gribble. Dr Mortimer confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

RESOLVED:

Dr Mortimer was duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Planning and Sustainable Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

3184 Appointments to Working Groups

Local Plan Steering Group

The appointment of Members who had indicated an interest, as set out in the report, with the addition of Mr Gribble, was unanimously agreed.

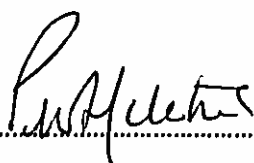
RESOLVED:

Mr Christophers, Mr Gribble, Mr Hitchins, Mr McInnes, Dr Mortimer, Miss Moyse and Mr Sanders were appointed to serve on the Local Plan Steering Group until the next Annual Meeting.

Chairman's Advisory Group

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that the Membership of the Group is determined by the Authority normally in its election of Chairmen to the various Committees and Working Panels.

Signed



Date

2.9.11

RESOLVED:

Mr Ball, Dr Bishop, Mr Hitchins, Mr McInnes, Dr Mortimer, Mrs Oakley and Mr Retallick were appointed to serve on the Chairman's Advisory Group until the next Annual Meeting.

Chief Executive Performance Review Group

Mr Retallick had expressed his interest to serve on the Group prior to the meeting. Mr Hitchins and Mr McInnes expressed their interest to serve on the Group.

A Member requested that, for future reference, the membership of the Group should be made clear. It should specify that its Membership is determined by the Authority at its Annual Meeting and usually consist of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Authority and Chairman of Development Management Committee. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed that the request was noted and would be considered for the next Annual Meeting.

RESOLVED:

Mr Hitchins, Mr McInnes and Mr Retallick were appointed to serve on the Chief Executive Performance Review Group until the next Annual Meeting.

Member Champions

eGovernment Champion

Mr Sanders proposed that the appointment be removed, which was seconded by Mr Webber.

Social Inclusion

Mrs Oakley agreed to continue as Social Inclusion Champion.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Oakley was re-appointed as Social Inclusion Champion until the next Annual Meeting. The eGovernment Champion appointment was removed.

Mr Kidner joined the meeting.

Postbridge Visitor Centre Working Group

One expression of interest from Mr Lloyd had been received prior to the meeting. Mr Cooper, Mr Jeffery and Mr Sanders expressed their interest to serve on the Group. Mr Barker proposed that all four Members be appointed to serve on the Group, which was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

Mr Cooper, Mr Jeffery, Mr Lloyd and Mr Sanders were appointed to serve on the Postbridge Visitor Centre Working Group until the next Annual Meeting.

Signed  Date 2.9.16

3185 Appointments to Outside Bodies 2016/17

Members considered the appointments to outside bodies for 2016/17.

The Chief Executive advised Members of the proposal for the representation on the South West Water Recreation and Conservation Forum to be that of an officer of the Authority rather than that of a Member. Members discussed the proposal but expressed the importance of Member representation on the Forum. Some members were of the opinion that the representation on the Forum should have been previously discussed by the Park Management Working Panel prior to the meeting. Mr Sanders proposed not to appoint to the Forum until the matter had been discussed by the Park Management Working Panel. Mrs Pannell proposed to re-appoint Miss Moyse until the next Annual Meeting, which was seconded by Mr Retallick.

RESOLVED:

Members were appointed to represent the Authority on outside bodies until the next Annual meeting as per the attached schedule.

3186 Calendar of Meetings 2016/17

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that it had been traditional for meetings of the Development Management Committee and the Authority to be held on the first Friday of the month, with the Authority meeting commencing at the conclusion of the development management business. However, in the past 12 months this had caused some timetabling difficulties, particularly when external auditors needed to attend a meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee or the full Authority to present a report. At the same time, the government had also introduced new audit regulations which require key financial control reports to be received at two meetings held before 31 May and 31 July each year. He reported that in several of the months the usual pattern of a 10:00am meeting of the Development Management Committee on the first Friday of the month, followed by a full Authority meeting had been retained, however, Members' attention was drawn to the following main changes:

- 4 November 2016 – Audit & Governance Committee at 09:30am followed by Development Management Committee at 11:30am.
- 3 February 2017 – Audit & Governance Committee at 09:30am followed by Development Management Committee at 11:30am.
- 26 May 2017 - Audit & Governance Committee at 09:30am followed by Development Management Committee at 11:30am.
- 28 July – Authority Meeting at 10:00am followed by Development Management Committee at 11:30am.

Members were also advised of the proposal to change the date for Development Management Committee and the Authority Meeting from 5 May 2017 to 28 April 2017, to avoid a clash with the count for the County Council elections in the first

Signed  Date 2.9.16

week of May. Members were happy with solution for the election count and welcomed the proposal.

Members confirmed that the proposed changes were acceptable but emphasised the importance of ensuring that the changes were carefully and explicitly publicised.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the Calendar of Meetings for 2016/17, subject to the amendment of the date for Development Management Committee and the Authority Meeting from Friday 5 May 2017 to Friday 28 July 2017

3187 Standards Sub-Committee Annual Report 2014/15

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that the production of the Annual Report was a commitment made 5 years ago by the Members of the Sub-Committee to report to the wider membership on the work undertaken over the past 12 months. The Sub-Committee is a group of Members to keep matters under review and to deal with issues as and when they arise.

Members were informed that one Independent Person, Tim Stapledon, had been appointed and it was hoped to appoint a second person in the near future.

RESOLVED:

Members noted the content of the report.

3188 Appointment of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/16/022).

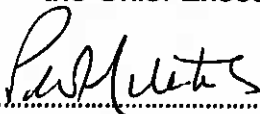
The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised Members that the Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that the Authority remains solvent and that its financial transactions are lawful. Historically, the appointment of the Authority's Chief Finance Officer (CFO) has been via the County Treasurer at Devon County Council at an annual cost of £6,700. The Head of Business Support has now qualified as a Chartered Public Finance Accountant. Members are recommended to appoint her as the Authority's CFO. A small financial saving in the region of £2,700 would be made.

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

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Approved the appointment of the Head of Business Support as the Authority's Chief Finance Officer, to take effect from the conclusion of the meeting;
- (ii) authorised the Chief Executive to negotiate a new service level agreement with Devon County Council to cover areas of support still required; and
- (iii) approved the required changes to the Governance arrangements outlined in the report and delegated the final wording of policies and procedures to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer).

Signed



Date

2.9.16

In July 2015 the Government published '*Fixing the Foundations : Creating a more prosperous nation*' which set out a long-term agenda for economic and wider report to support economic growth and improved productivity.

Devolution for the Heart of the South West (HotSW) is led by the Leaders of Somerset and Devon County Councils, all Somerset and Devon Districts, Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the three Clinical Commissioning Groups. The two National Park Authorities have been fully engaged and been able to influence the content of the Prospectus for Productivity that was published in February 2016.

The Secretary of State for Local Government and Communities met with the Leaders of the principal authorities in May and indicated that if the organisations involved in the HotSW partnership were to agree, in principle, to establishing a Combined Authority to govern any future devolution deal by the end of July then HM Treasury would commence discussions with a view to a deal being formed by the Autumn Statement 2016.

Members expressed some concern that there were no details about the governance arrangements for the proposed Combined Authority but were clear that membership for Dartmoor National Park Authority should be on the basis of full membership and full voting rights. They also stressed the importance of Dartmoor being a National Park ie designated *by the nation for the nation*; and were keen that this should not be altered through any devolution deal. Whilst the Referendum decision has created uncertainty Members felt that it also created further opportunities in terms of devolution especially of rural issues.

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

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Agreed to support the principle of creating a Combined Authority for the Heart of the South West as a basis for negotiation with Government towards a Devolution Deal for the area;
- (ii) noted that this in principle support does not commit the Authority to entering into a devolution deal or becoming a member of a Heart of the South West Combined Authority. This would be subject to a future Authority report setting out in detail the nature of the deal and the financial and governance arrangements of a Combined Authority;
- (iii) indicated that the preferred status for Dartmoor National Park Authority within the potential Combined Authority should be full membership with full voting rights;
- (iv) commented on the potential basis for a devolution deal. They identified the importance of green infrastructure and were keen that any deal should focus on environmental and social productivity and not just on economic productivity and growth
- (v) Agreed that a further report should be taken to a future Authority meeting once more detail is known / agreed.

Signed



Date

2.9.16