

**DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday 9 July 2021**

**Present:** 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 Sanders, P Smerdon, D Thomas, P Vogel  
P Woods

**Apologies:** L Samuel

**Non-Attendance:** D Webber

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

**3321 Election of Chair**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Ms Woods. No other nominations had been received. Ms Woods confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

**RESOLVED:**

Ms Woods was elected to serve as Chair until the next annual meeting.

**3322 Election of Deputy Chair**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Mr Harper. No other nominations had been received. Mr Harper confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Harper was elected to serve as Deputy Chair until the next annual meeting.

**3323 Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies were received from Mrs Samuel.

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3324 Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels**

### **Development Management Committee**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no written notifications had been received from any Members to signify that they did not wish to serve on the Committee.

#### **RESOLVED:**

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

### **Audit and Governance Committee**

The Monitoring Officer advised that there is 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. Expressions of interest had been received from Mr Cooper, Mr Dracup, Mr Harper, Mr McInnes, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mrs Pannell, Mr Sanders, Mr Vogel and Ms Woods to serve on the committee. Mr Renders and Mr Smerdon also expressed their interest to serve on the Committee.

It was confirmed that Mr Harper and Ms Woods would be ex officio Members of the committee, leaving sufficient spaces for the other Ten Members who wished to serve.

#### **RESOLVED:**

Mr Cooper, Mr Dracup, Mr Harper, Mr McInnes, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mrs Pannell, Mr Renders, Mr Sanders, Mr Smerdon, Mr Vogel and Ms Woods were elected to serve on the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

### **Standards Sub-Committee**

The Monitoring Officer advised that there is a requirement for six Members of the Audit and Governance Committee to sit on the Standards Sub-Committee, of whom at least two Members shall be appointed to the Authority by a local authority. Expressions of interest had been received from Mr Cooper, Mr Harper, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mr Sanders, Mr Vogel and Ms Woods.

The Monitoring Officer advised that, in order to satisfy local authority membership, at least two from Mr Sanders (DCC), Mr Nutley (TDC) and Mrs Morgan (TDC) must be appointed. The meeting was advised that the appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair of Audit and Governance Committee were yet to be determined.

Members agreed to increase the membership of the committee for 2021/22 to seven.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Cooper, Mr Harper, Mrs Morgan, Mr Nutley, Mr Sanders, Mr Vogel and Ms Woods 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, was proposed.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Cooper, Mr Dracup, Mr Harper, Mr McInnes, Mrs Morgan, Miss Moyse, Mrs Oakley, Mr Sanders and Mr Vogel 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 Hill, Mr McInnes, Mr Smerdon and Mr Thomas, was proposed.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Cooper, Mr Dracup, Mrs Hill, Mr McInnes, Mrs Morgan, Miss Moyse, Mr Nutley, Mrs Oakley, Mr Sanders, Mr Smerdon, Mr Thomas, Mr Vogel and Ms Woods were appointed to serve on the Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

**3325 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair – Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels**

**Chair – Development Management Committee**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Mr Sanders. No other nominations had been received.

Mr Sanders confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

**RESOLVED:**

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

## **Deputy Chair – Development Management Committee**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that two nominations had been received for Mr McInnes and Mr Vogel. Both nominees confirmed their willingness to stand for election.

Members voted by secret ballot without comment, question or debate. Following an elimination ballot Mr McInnes was elected to serve as Deputy Chair.

### **RESOLVED:**

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

## **Chair - Audit and Governance Committee**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Mrs Morgan. Mrs Morgan confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

A further nomination was received for Mr Cooper, who confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

Members voted by secret ballot without comment, question or debate. Following an elimination ballot Mrs Morgan was elected to serve as Chair.

### **RESOLVED:**

Mrs Morgan was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

## **Deputy Chair – Audit and Governance Committee**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that no nominations had been received.

Mr Cooper was nominated to stand for election. Mr Cooper confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

### **RESOLVED:**

Mr Cooper was duly elected to serve as Deputy Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

## **Chair – Standards Sub-Committee**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that no nominations had been received for Chair of Standards Sub-Committee.

Mr Cooper and Mrs Morgan confirmed their willingness to stand for election.

Members voted by secret ballot without comment, question or debate. Following an elimination ballot Mrs Morgan was elected to serve as Chair.

**RESOLVED:**

Mrs Morgan was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Standards Sub-Committee until the next Annual Meeting.

**Chair – Park Management Working Panel**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Mrs Oakley. Mrs Oakley confirmed her willingness to stand for election.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**Chair - Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel**

The Monitoring Officer informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for Mr Vogel. Mr Vogel confirmed his willingness to stand for election.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Vogel was duly elected to serve as Chair of the Planning and Sustainable Development Working Panel until the next Annual Meeting.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) expressed his thanks and support to all Members for their contribution and attendance at virtual meetings during these unusual times. He personally thanked the Chair and all other Chairs of the various committees, sub-committees and working panels for the way in which they had managed business.

The Chair thanked Members for their confidence in re-electing her. She stated that it was an enormous privilege to Chair the Authority and was looking forward to being able to continue the privilege and challenge in supporting Dartmoor and the Authority to the best of her ability.

**3326 Appointments to Working Groups**

**Local Plan Steering Group**

The Monitoring Officer advised the meeting that the group would need to comprise of nine Members and would require at least one Member from each of the three district councils.

The appointment of Members who had indicated an interest, as set out in the report, with the addition of Mr Cooper, Mr Gribble, Mr Smerdon and Mr Vogel, was proposed.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Cooper, Mr Gribble, Miss Moyse, Mr Nutley, Mrs Pannell, Mr Sanders, Mr Smerdon, Mr Vogel and Ms Woods were duly appointed to serve on the Local Plan Steering Group until the next Annual Meeting.

**Chair's Advisory Group**

The Monitoring Officer advised that Standing Orders anticipate a convention that the membership of this group will fall to the various Chairs of the Authority's Committees and Working Panels. Members indicated that they wished to continue to apply this convention.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Harper, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Oakley, Mr Sanders, Mr Vogel and Ms Woods were appointed to serve, alongside the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), on the Chair's Advisory Group until the next Annual Meeting.

**Chief Executive Performance Review Group**

Membership is determined by the Authority at the Annual Meeting and usually consists of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority and Chair of Development Management Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

Mr Harper, Mr Sanders and Ms Woods were appointed to serve on the Chief Executive Performance Review Group until the next Annual Meeting.

3327 **Appointments to Outside Bodies 2021/22**

Members were notified that the requirements of attendance at meetings was as set out in Standing Orders, paragraph 5. Members considered the appointments to outside bodies for 2021/22.

Members thanked the Chair for her outstanding contribution and hard work at a national level for National Parks England, as the Authority's appointed representative.

Members were thanked for all who had expressed their interest in being a representative for internal and external bodies.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**3328 Calendar of Meetings 2021/22**

Members considered the Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22.

**RESOLVED:**

Members APPROVED the Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22.

DRAFT

## MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, WORKING PANELS 2021/2022

Committee/Working Panel/Group	2021/22 Member
<p><b>Development Management Committee</b></p> <p>Consisting of every Member of the Authority, unless they shall signify in writing that they do not wish to serve on the Committee.</p> <p>To exercise the Authority's development management functions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- as a planning authority and mineral planning authority for Dartmoor National Park;</li> <li>- as the relevant authority under Parts I, II and III of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; and</li> <li>- as the relevant authority for the purposes of the Town &amp; Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011.</li> </ul>	<p>Mr Andrew Cooper Mr William Dracup Mr George Gribble Mr Peter Harper Mrs Gay Hill Mr James McInnes (Deputy Chair) Mrs Sally Morgan Miss Diana Moyse Mr John Nutley Mrs Naomi Oakley Mrs Cathie Pannell Mr Mark Renders Mrs Lois Samuel Mr Philip Sanders (Chair) Mr Peter Smerdon Mr Daniel Thomas Mr Philip Vogel Mr Derek Webber Ms Pamela Woods</p>
<p><b>Audit &amp; Governance Committee</b></p> <p>Consisting of <b>Ten</b> Members, of whom at least <b>one</b> is a local authority Member and <b>one</b> a Member appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The functions of the Audit &amp; Governance Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) to exercise such powers and decision-making duties as may be delegated to the committee by the Authority;</li> <li>(b) to scrutinise the activity of the Authority with particular reference to audit, governance, risk management, performance management and use of resources (including financial and human);</li> <li>(c) to maintain a sub-committee to deal with Standards issues;</li> <li>(d) to provide assurance to and make recommendations to the Authority, its committees and sub-committees as appropriate;</li> <li>(e) to report its findings and confirm the level of assurance that has received [In-year] to the whole Authority (via committee minutes, reviewed at Authority meetings, or other reports as determined);</li> <li>(f) to consider any relevant issue referred to it by the Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, Head of Internal Audit or External Audit</li> </ol> <p>The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority shall be ex officio members.</p>	<p>Mr Andrew Cooper (Deputy Chair) Mr William Dracup Mr James McInnes Mrs Sally Morgan (Chair) Mr John Nutley Mrs Cathie Pannell Mr Mark Renders Mr Philip Sanders Mr Peter Smerdon Mr Philip Vogel</p> <p><b>Ex officio members:</b></p> <p>Mr Peter Harper Ms Pamela Woods</p>
<p><b>Standards sub-committee</b></p> <p>Consisting of <b>Six</b> members of the Audit &amp; Governance Committee, of whom at least <b>two</b> shall be Members appointed by a local authority.</p> <p>The functions of the Standards sub-committee are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members;</li> <li>• to advise the Authority on the adoption of a Code of Conduct pursuant to s.27(2) Localism Act 2010;</li> <li>• to assist Members to observe the Code of Conduct ;</li> <li>• to consider and determine complaints under the Code of Conduct.</li> </ul>	<p>Mr Andrew Cooper Mr Peter Harper Mrs Sally Morgan (Chair) Mr John Nutley Mr Philip Sanders Mr Philip Vogel Ms Pamela Woods</p>



<b>Committee/Working Panel/Group</b>	<b>2021/22 Member</b>
<p><b>Park Management Working Panel</b></p> <p>The Panel will meet to consider matters relevant to policy, priorities and performance in relation to the Authority's statutory conservation, and understanding and enjoyment purposes. The Panel is not a decision-making forum but aims to facilitate greater member involvement in policy development and the monitoring of delivery. There is no limit on the number of Members who can attend/be part of the Panel.</p>	<p><b>Mr Andrew Cooper Mr William Dracup Mr Peter Harper Mr James McInnes Mrs Sally Morgan Miss Diana Moyse Mrs Naomi Oakley (Chair) Mr Philip Sanders Mr Philip Vogel</b></p>
<p><b>Planning &amp; Sustainable Development Working Panel</b></p> <p>The Panel will meet to consider the work of the Authority relevant to its planning functions and engagement with socio-economic issues. The Panel is not a decision-making forum but aims to facilitate greater member involvement in policy development and the monitoring of delivery. There is no limit on the number of Members who can attend/be part of the Panel.</p>	<p><b>Mr Andrew Cooper Mr William Dracup Mrs Gay Hill Mr James McInnes Mrs Sally Morgan Miss Diana Moyse Mr John Nutley Mrs Naomi Oakley Mr Philip Sanders Mr Peter Smerdon Mr Dan Thomas Mr Philip Vogel (Chair) Ms Pamela Woods</b></p>
<p><b>Local Plan Steering Group</b></p> <p>The Group will meet as a forum for discussion and to provide views, focussing upon strategy and direction, not matters of policy detail. The Group will hold no decision-making powers.</p> <p>The Group will comprise of up to <b>nine</b> Members, with at least one Member from each of the three district councils. Led by the policy team, other internal officers will also be invited to attend the group when their expert opinion is required.</p> <p>The Group is expected to meet once every quarter.</p> <p>Key functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to act as an advisory body for the Local Plan Review process</li> <li>• to contribute to the assessment of current policies and identify priority areas for review</li> <li>• to monitor progress through the review process</li> <li>• to provide a Forum for officer/member discussions regarding the Local Plan Review, allowing for scrutiny of policy strategy and direction.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Mr Andrew Cooper Mr George Gribble Miss Diana Moyse Mr John Nutley Mrs Cathie Pannell Mr Philip Sanders Mr Peter Smerdon Mr Philip Vogel Ms Pamela Woods</b></p>

Committee/Working Panel/Group	2021/22 Member
<p><b>Chair's Advisory Group (CAG)</b></p> <p><b>Membership</b> As determined by the Authority at its Annual Meeting, and usually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair &amp; Deputy Chair of the Authority (ex officio)</li> <li>• Chair of the Development Management Committee</li> <li>• Chair of the Audit &amp; Governance Committee</li> <li>• Chair of the Park Management Working Panel</li> <li>• Chair of the Planning &amp; Sustainable Development Working Panel</li> <li>• Chief Executive (National Park Officer)</li> <li>• Other Officers or Members by invitation of the Chair of the Authority</li> </ul> <p><b>Remit</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) to provide an informal forum for the exchange of information, discussion and debate on matters relating to the Authority</li> <li>2) to facilitate greater member involvement on all matters relevant to the Authority</li> <li>3) to provide an opportunity for early consideration of matters likely to come before future Authority meetings</li> <li>4) to provide a forum for panels and committees to highlight or raise issues they believe require fuller debate</li> </ol>	<p><b>Dr Kevin Bishop</b> <b>Mr Peter Harper</b> <b>Mrs Sally Morgan</b> <b>Mrs Naomi Oakley</b> <b>Mr Philip Sanders</b> <b>Mr Philip Vogel</b> <b>Ms Pamela Woods</b></p>
<p><b>Chief Executive Performance Review Group (3)</b></p> <p>The purpose of the Committee is to carry out the target setting, performance review and appraisal functions in respect of the Chief Executive. Membership of this Review Group is normally Chair of Authority, Deputy Chair of Authority and Chair of Development Management. The Review Group normally comprises the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority and the Chair of Development Management Committee.</p>	<p><b>Mr Peter Harper</b> <b>Mr Philip Sanders</b> <b>Ms Pamela Woods</b></p>

## MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2021/2022

**Please Note:** *When an appointed Member representative is unable to attend a meeting, that Member will be required to contact the appointed substitute Member direct, at the earliest opportunity, to arrange for the substitute Member to attend the meeting in their absence.*

Body/Group	2021/22 Member
<p><b>Campaign for National Parks (1)</b>  <i>The Campaign for National Parks is a charity that works to protect and enhance the National Parks and areas that merit national park status, and to promote understanding and quiet enjoyment of them. (The member is invited by the Campaign, but approved by the Authority)</i></p>	<p>Miss Diana Moyse  Mrs Sally Morgan (substitute)</p>
<p><b>Dartmoor Access Forum (2)</b>  <i>The Local Access Forum is a statutory advisory body established by the DNPA in accordance with the requirements of the CROW Act 2000. The Forum meets four times a year. At least one member should be a serving member of the Park Management Working Panel.</i></p>	<p>Miss Diana Moyse  Mr Peter Smerdon</p>
<p><b>Dartmoor Commoners' Council (1 Member plus a substitute)</b>  <i>The Dartmoor Commoners' Council was set up under the provisions of the 1985 Dartmoor Commons Act, to regulate agricultural use of the commons. It consists of representatives of the commoners, the DNPA, the Duchy of Cornwall, common land owners and a Veterinarian Surgeon. It meets eight times a year.</i></p>	<p>Mr William Dracup  Mr Andrew Cooper (substitute)</p>
<p><b>Dartmoor Hill Farm Project Steering Group (1 Members plus substitute)</b>  <i>The DNPA has secured funding via the Prince's Countryside Fund to extend work of the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project. The overall aim of the project is to contribute to the viability of farm businesses on Dartmoor in ways that help sustain the special qualities of the National Park. A new Steering Group has been appointed and will meet on at least three occasions in each year.</i></p>	<p>Mr Peter Harper  Mrs Naomi Oakley (substitute)</p>
<p><b>Dartmoor Rural Crime Partnership (5)</b>  <i>A joint initiative with Devon and Cornwall Police and other partners. It is recommended that the four Secretary of State Parish Members are appointed as 'community representatives' plus the Chair of the Authority. It is proposed to meeting twice a year.</i></p>	<p>Mrs Gay Hill  Mrs Cathie Pannell  Mr Mark Renders  Mr Philip Vogel  Ms Pamela Woods</p>
<p><b>Dartmoor Steering Group (3)</b>  <i>The Steering Group was set up by Parliament following the 1975/76 inquiry conducted by Lady Sharp into the military training use of Dartmoor. Its purpose is to reconcile the (sometimes) competing interests of military training and national park designation and to seek ways of minimising the adverse impact of the training requirement at any one time. More recently the Group has focussed in a positive way on conservation and access benefits of the Defence Estate on Dartmoor. It consists of representatives of all the military interest, the DNPA, the Duchy of Cornwall, Natural England, Historic England and the Dartmoor Commoners' Council. It is served by the Dartmoor Working Party comprised of officers of the DNPA, MoD and other bodies. The Steering Group reports to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Ministry for Defence. It meets annually. (It is customary for the Chair and Deputy Chair to take two of these seats)</i></p>	<p>Mr Peter Harper  Mr Philip Sanders  Ms Pamela Woods</p>
<p><b>Dartmoor Trust (1)</b>  <i>The Dartmoor Trust has one DNPA Member representative on the Board of Management. The purposes of the Trust closely reflect National Park purposes. The Trust was established by the DNPA as an independent charitable Trust in the early 1990s in order to harness public and other donations for the good of Dartmoor.</i></p>	<p>Mr Andrew Cooper</p>
<p><b>Devon Communities Together (1)</b>  <i>Devon Communities Together (former Community Council for Devon) exists to promote local community interests. Member representation is required only at the Annual Conference and the Annual General Meeting.</i></p>	<p>Mrs Cathie Pannell</p>

Body/Group	2021/22 Member
<p><b>Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (1 Member plus a substitute)</b>  <i>The LEAF is responsible for providing the overall strategic direction of the programme, approving projects and allocation of funding and ensuring that the programme is implemented effectively.</i></p>	<p><b>Mr Philip Vogel</b>  <b>Mr Mark Renders (substitute)</b></p>
<p><b>Heart of the South West Joint Committee (1 Member plus a substitute)</b>  <i>The Joint Committee comprises representatives from all of the local authorities in Devon and Somerset including Plymouth and Torbay unitary authorities. It also includes membership from the Local Enterprise Partnership. It has been established to further joint working and implement the productivity strategy for the Heart of the South West.</i></p>	<p><b>Ms Pamela Woods</b>  <b>Mr Andrew Cooper (substitute)</b></p>
<p><b>Joint Advisory Committee on Provision of Housing for Local Needs (3)</b>  <i>This is a joint advisory committee of the three District Councils in the National Park, the DNPA, Devon Communities Together and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). It exists to co-ordinate the planning functions of the NPA with the housing functions of the other bodies. It meets twice a year and is chaired by an Authority Member.</i></p>	<p><b>Mrs Cathie Pannell</b> <b>Mr Philip Sanders</b> <b>Mr Philip Vogel</b></p>
<p><b>Land Availability Assessment Panel (3)</b>  <i>The Land Availability Assessment (LAA) Panel is set up to consider land submitted to the Call for Sites for the Local Plan. The Panel comprises professionals in their field such as land and estate agents, small and large developers, the Environment Agency and Highways Agency. Three Community Representatives, appointed from the Authority, may also attend the Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to consider whether a potential housing or employment site may be technically deliverable.</i></p>	<p><b>Mr Andrew Cooper</b> <b>Mrs Cathie Pannell</b> <b>Mr Dan Thomas</b></p>
<p><b>Meldon Viaduct Company (1)</b>  <i>In February 1999 the Meldon Viaduct Company was set up for the sole purpose of safeguarding and maintaining the Viaduct to ensure its future as a monument to Victorian engineering and as a valuable recreational resource. The appointed member will sit on the Board of Directors along with representatives from the Aggregate Industries Limited, Dartmoor Railway, Sustrans, and the County and Borough Councils. The group meets quarterly.</i></p>	<p><b>Mr James McInnes</b></p>
<p><b>National Parks England (1)</b>  <i>A limited Company established by the ten English National Park Authorities to represent their views and promote their needs at a national level. The Directors of the Company are the respective Chairs of the National Park Authorities.</i></p>	<p><b>Ms Pamela Woods</b></p>
<p><b>National Parks Partnerships Limited (1)</b>  <i>A limited liability partnership established by all 15 UK National Parks as a vehicle to secure commercial sponsorship to fund conservation and recreation projects in the National Parks. It is recommended that the Chair of the Authority is formally appointed to the Partnership Board, as the Authority's representative, with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) acting as a deputy. The Board will meet once a year.</i></p>	<p><b>Ms Pamela Woods</b></p>
<p><b>South West Water Recreation &amp; Conservation Forum (1)</b>  <i>This Forum consists of representatives of South West Water, local authorities, the DNPA, conservation bodies and recreation user groups. It advises SWW on recreation and conservation issues on its land and water holding. It meets twice a year.</i></p>	<p><b>Miss Diana Moyse</b></p>

## DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 9 July 2021

Present: 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 Sanders, P Smerdon, D Thomas, P Vogel, P Woods,

Officers: A Kohler, Director of Conservation and Communities  
N White, Head of Organisational Development  
K Bishop, Chief Executive (NPO)

Apologies: L Samuel

Did not attend: D Webber

### **3329 Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Oakley, Mr Dracup and Mr Harper declared a personal interest in the Farming in Protected Landscapes paper.

### **3330 Minutes of the Meeting held Friday 30 April 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held Friday 30 April 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### **3331 Chair's Report**

The Chair reported that she had attended National Park England meetings. A task and finish group were looking at governance of National Park Authorities to share learning and potentially develop a set of principles and recommendations in light of the Landscapes Review .

The Chair reported that UK National Parks were likely to have a presence at the COP26 conference being hosted in Glasgow later this year. Specific details are to be confirmed but it should provide an opportunity to showcase and communicate what we are doing in response to the climate and ecological emergency.

The Dartmoor Rural Crime Initiative has been very successful and a good working relationship developed between the Rangers and the Police.

The Park Management Working Panel tour to East Shallowford Farm was a success and the project and facilities there are a great asset to Dartmoor.

The Chair reported that a letter and briefing note had been sent to all MPs regarding the recent Written Ministerial Statement regarding the Landscapes Review. The Statement provided very little detail on the Government's response and we await a full response and consultation paper to be published (we understand) September 2021.

Mr Harper informed Members that the National Parks Partnership (NPP) has a new business plan, which has been sent to Chairs and Chief Executives. There are some major deals being discussed, but they won't benefit all National Parks – maybe 2 or 3 Parks will benefit from it. Questions have been raised regarding the direction of travel of the NPP and if the subscription is worth continuing.

### **3332 Items requiring urgent attention**

None.

### **3333 Public Participation**

None.

### **3334 Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL)**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Members.

The Farming in Protected Landscapes is a programme of project funding for farmers established by Defra for all National Parks and AONB in England. It will run until March 2024, when it will be replaced by the new Environmental Land Management Schemes.

Defra have offered Dartmoor National Park Authority funding to run the FIPL programme. Circa £600,000 is available in 2021/22 for projects that fall within four themes

- Climate
- Nature
- People
- Place

Applicants will need to demonstrate in their application how their project meets the aims of the National Park Management Plan as well as the National Framework which will be set by Defra. Projects less than £5k will be delegated to an Officer to decide, projects between £5k and £250k will be determined by Local Assessment Panels.

FIPL will aid local nature recovery and land management, it will help recognise local deliver and the value of local facilitation and advice. It is the first time a funding stream recognises the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) and gives the NPMP a clear value for the farming community.

The Chief Executive highlighted to Members that the money ear-marked for this financial year needs to be spent by the end of March 2022 and that this means: applications developed, submitted and approved, works completed, invoices submitted and paid. If the money is not spent there is a risk that Defra will claim the money back. This lack of financial flexibility is a key risk, other risks were identified in the report.

The recommendations were highlighted to Members.

In response to Members questions the Chief Executive stated that it would be possible to change the dynamics of the panel and have another representative from the farming community. Some positions are fixed and dictated by Defra but there is a degree of flexibility. The maximum size of a panel proposed by Defra is 12.

In response to questions about financial risks, the Chief Executive explained that Defra had been made aware of the concerns about the lack of financial flexibility and that risk to the Authority from unsuccessful projects is mitigated by the fact that payment is normally in arrears.

Members expressed their support for FIPL, noted the risks, but agreed that it was an important and welcome opportunity.

The Chief executive explained that staff were already talking to farmers about potential applications/projects and that this was a corporate priority. There have already been 30 expressions of interest. The Authority is looking at how it can support FIPL and project development whilst we recruit additional capacity, resources and potentially bringing in local consultants.

Mrs Oakley proposed that an amendment to Recommendation VII – that the Authority appoint two members to the Local Assessment Panel and that the number of open advert posts for farmers be reduced from three to two. Mr Harper seconded the proposal.

Members voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

Mr Sanders proposed the recommendations with the above amendment, which was seconded by Mr McInnes.

The two Members appointed to the panel were Mr Harper and Mr Dracup.

**RESOLVED:** Members supported the recommendation with the amendment to recommendation VII to state “Members agree the format for the Dartmoor Local Assessment Panel and appoint 2 Members of the Authority to serve on the Panel (this appointment will be subject to review at the Annual Meeting)”.

### **3335 South West Peatland Partnership – Nature For Climate Fund**

The Director of Conservation and Communities informed Members that the Authority has been involved in peatland restoration for over 10 years. Peatland restoration is a priority locally and nationally and contributes to net zero target and nature recovery both of which are key priorities in the National Park Management Plan. There have been significant levels of peatland restoration undertaken on Dartmoor (385ha), but there is still a lot more to do.

The Authority was successful in a partnership bid with South West Water and other partners to the Defra capital fund in 2017 which is now coming to an end. The Partnership have reviewed this latest programme and made recommendations for improvement

SWW have submitted another partnership bid to the Nature for Climate fund for a programme of work across the South West moor including 931ha of restoration on Dartmoor at a cost of approximately £6m.

The bid for Dartmoor has been led by SWW but with the involvement of officers, landowners and the relevant commoners. We have tried to incorporate recommendations from the Partnership. It is an ambitious project and therefore additional staff will be required. The Authority funded and employed the Dartmoor Peatland Officer to lead delivery of the Defra funded scheme. There is an opportunity for us to do the same for the new programme including 3 peatland restoration officers and a dedicated historic environment post. There will also be shared posts for communication, engagement, monitoring and farm engagement. There is an opportunity to ensure co-ordination of future peatland work with the new 6 year programme of Natural Flood Risk Management and develop an interdisciplinary team working at a catchment level. Given the number of new staff which is likely to reach 6 in total we need a project manager to oversee the team and its delivery, manage relationships and reporting and help with strategic communication and advocacy.

The Authority's financial contribution to this project would support this new post and will be part funded through the NFM project.

The risks for the Authority are outlined in paragraph 3.1 including liability for redundancy.

In response to a Members question, the Director of Conservation and Communities stated that there is a restoration plan for each site to be restored. A comprehensive monitoring programme has been carried out on Flat Tor Pan where the original Mires Project was based and monitoring is part of this new project

Members supported the increase in staffing for the project and highlighted the importance of positive, proactive communication.

Mr Vogel proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Mr Cooper.

The Chief Executive and Members expressed their thanks to the Director of Conservation and Communities for her role in helping to get the bids and project to this point.

**RESOLVED:** Members approved the recommendations.

**3336 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/21/021).

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