

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 6 December 2019

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

Apologies: S Barker, D Moyse, C Pannell, R Parkinson

3488 Minutes of the Authority Meetings held on 4 October 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3489 Declarations of Interest

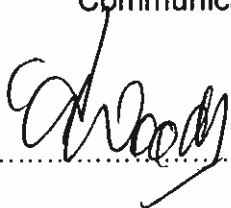
None.

3490 Chair's Report

The Chair reported:

- In October, the RTPI President, Ian Tant and South West Chair, Chris Balch, visited Chagford and Christow housing schemes. They had nothing but praise for the Authority's forward thinking and how it had combined these schemes with community partnerships;
- She had attended and undertaken the "turf cutting" ceremony at Postbridge and had met the team who will be carrying out the works;
- Rural Crime Partnership – this was launched in October, Authority Rangers and the Police have been working together for the past 12 months on two key issues – Raves and Rural Roads. A presentation had been made at the recent National Park Forum meeting by Ranger Team Manager Simon Lee and Sgt. Martin Beck;
- National Parks Partnership AGM – a more strategic approach to fundraising is developing. Recently £9k was raised for Dartmoor through the Forest Holidays Black Friday promotion;
- National Parks England AGM – Carl Lis (Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority) was elected as Chair for the next 12 months. The Chair of Natural England, Tony Juniper, attended and gave a presentation to attendees which gave a very positive message;
- The National Park Forum took place on 22 November 2019 and was very well attended. She thanked those Members who had attended;
- Chairs and Conveners Forum, London. This took place 27 November 2019. The Glover report was discussed, amongst other things. Fiona Reynolds, (Chair, Green Alliance) attended and addressed the meeting; she is clearly in support of the National Parks concept.
- The Moor Otters launch took place at Bovey Castle on 4 December 2019. The unveiling of the otter and cub was very well received. The Chair thanked the Communications Team for their hard work so far.

Signed



Date

10 January 2020

3491 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

National Parks UK - Members received the additional report from the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/19/037).

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised Members that National Parks UK is a limited company registered with Companies House, which evolved out of the Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA). Its focus was on the promotion of the National Parks, the provision of member training and providing support for the National Parks portal (shared IT services).

In February 2018 the Directors of National Parks UK (the Chairs/Conveners of the 15 UK National Park Authorities) agreed to wind-up the company and pursue a model of 'internal commissioning' for services that the National Parks wished to share and/or collaborate on. Under this model there is no need for the company structure provided via National Parks UK.

On 27 November 2019 the Directors of National Parks UK reviewed the declaration of solvency, approved it and swore it in front of a registered solicitor. The costs of the liquidation process will be met from the National Parks UK reserves. The next stage is to seek member approval for the voluntary liquidation – the members of the company being the 15 UK National Park Authorities.

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

RESOLVED: Members AGREED that:

- (i) National Parks UK should be wound up voluntarily;
- (ii) That Lucinda Clare Coleman and Stephen James Hobson of Francis Clark LLP, Centenary House, Peninsular Park, Rydon Lane, Exeter EX2 7XE be appointed as Joint Liquidators of the Company for the purposes of the voluntary winding-up and that their fixed fee will be paid from National Parks UK reserves prior to the closing balance being divided evenly between the 15 UK National Park Authorities; and
- (iii) Authorised the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chair, to act on behalf of the Authority in this matter.

3492 Public Participation

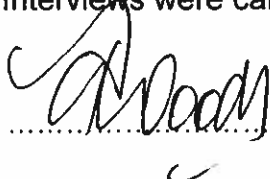
None

3493 Appointment of Independent Person

Members received the report of the Monitoring Officer (NPA/19/035).

The Monitoring Officer advised Members that, in line with the Localism Act 2011, in which a local authority (including a National Park Authority) is required to appoint at least one "independent person", Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) had undertaken a recruitment process to appoint an additional independent person (DNPA Members had previously agreed that two independent persons would be appointed). Interviews were carried out and Mr Nigel Tigwell was the preferred candidate.

Signed



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10 January 2020

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

RESOLVED: Members AGREED that Mr Tigwell be appointed as an Independent Person of the Authority, effective from 6 December 2019.

3494 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/19/036).

RESOLVED: Members NOTED the content of the report.

Signed 

Date *10 January 2020*