

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 6 March 2015

Present: Mr S Barker, Mr P Harper (Chairman), Mr P Hitchins, Mr J Hockridge, Mr M Jeffery, Mr D Lloyd, Mr J McInnes, Dr I Mortimer, Miss D Moyse, Ms N Oakley, Mr M Retallick (Deputy Chairman), Mr P Sanders, Mr J Shears, Mr P Vogel, Mr D Webber.

Apologies: Mr K Ball, Mr G Gribble, Mr J Kidner, Mr J Nutley.

3056 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2015

Subject to the amendment specified below, the minutes for the meeting held on 6 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record:

Page 3, Minute 3054, second paragraph, the words 'since 2009/2010' be added after the words 'in excess of 40%'.

3057 Declarations of Interest

Mr Lloyd and Mrs Oakley declared a personal interest in Part II, Item 10 – Redundancy : Request for Lump Sum Compensation, due to knowing the person concerned.

3058 Chairman's Report


The Chairman and the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) had both visited Fingle Wood to see the restoration of the planted ancient woodland and new access works that are being undertaken by the National Trust and Woodland Trust. The works were impressive and would be of great benefit to the area.

The Chairman had attended the 'Visit Britain' conference held at Bovey Castle to see what opportunities were available for Dartmoor. He had found it very interesting, especially listening to the various delegates from around the world.

The Chairman informed Members that he had attended a very useful meeting with Gary Streeter on 27 February. He had also attended the South West Tourism Awards, where Dartmoor National Park had received a silver award for the National Park Visitor Centre.

The Chairman reported that he had attended the opening of the Dartmoor Trust's World War I exhibition at the Visitor Centre in Princetown, which he had found very interesting and Members were encouraged to visit the exhibition.

Dr Mortimer reported that the medieval workshop that was held on Saturday 28 February, as part of the Moor than meets the eye Landscape Partnership, was a success and well attended.

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Date 10/4/15

Mr Jeffery reported that he had visited the Steward Wood exhibition.

Mr Retallick informed Members that the Farmers Forum, held on Thursday 5 March at Parke had been well attended. He reported that it had been a great opportunity to learn more about the next phase of the Hill Farm Project and that the presentation on what is happening at Pwllperian in Mid Wales was interesting.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) informed Members of the forthcoming Parish Council Workshop on Wednesday 11 March. The workshop is open to all parish and town councils and he would encourage as many Members as possible to attend.

Mr Lloyd thanked all the independent panel members of the Dartmoor Sustainable Development Fund. He stated that over 300 projects had been support and it had been a really good way of encouraging emotive projects and supporting organisations on Dartmoor.

3059 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

None.

3060 Public Participation

None.

3061 Business Plan 2015/16

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/15/008).

The Chief Executive reported that Members had agreed the six priorities, as set out in the Report, for 2015/16 at the November 2014 Authority meeting. He informed Members that the Business Plan 2015/16 sets out the key actions to help deliver the priorities agreed in November 2014 and confirmed that there are no financial implications arising from the Business Plan; the draft Business Plan had informed the revenue budget for 2015/16 approved at the February 2015 Authority meeting.

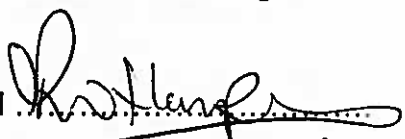
RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) approved the Business Plan 2015/16 for publication; and
- (ii) authorised Audit and Governance Committee to review the process for performance management and agree any proposed changes.

3062 Staffing & Structure Review

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (NPA/15/009)

The Chief Executive reported that formal permission is required to delete the posts of Director of Communications and Business Support and Director of Planning from the

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establishment and as a result of those deletions there would be a need to amend the Authority's Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the paper did not propose any additional powers from the Authority to officers but the reallocation of existing delegated powers. With the new broader structure of Leadership Team and in order to provide assurance of resilience and business continuity, it was recommended to move to a different model of delegation, in which all powers and duties would be delegated to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) with discretion for him to further delegate responsibilities to authorised officers as appropriate.

Mr McInnes commended the importance of continuing to ensure the smooth running of the Authority and fully supported the proposal.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) agreed the deletion of the posts of Director of Communications and Business Support and Director of Planning from the establishment, with effect from 1 April 2015; and
- (ii) agreed the consequential changes to Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, with effect from 1 April 2015.

Mr Barker requested that it be noted that he did not vote in favour of part (i) of the proposal, requesting the deletion of the posts of Director of Communications and Business Support and Director of Planning.

3063 Tree Preservation Orders and Section 211 Notifications (works to trees in Conservation Areas) Determined under delegated powers

Members received the report of the Trees and Landscape Officer (NPA/15/010)

RESOLVED: Members noted the content of the report.

3064 It was formally proposed and seconded that in accordance with s100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the following item of business be taken in the absence of the Press and Public, on the grounds that exempt information within the meaning of Part 1 Paragraph 1 & 2 to Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act would be discussed, namely:-

1. Information relating to an individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

RESOLVED: Members moved into Part II (private) session.

3065 Redundancy : Request for Lump Sum Compensation

Members considered the application for discretionary additional lump sum compensation under Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England & Wales) Regulations 2006.

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RESOLVED: Members did not consider that there were any exceptional circumstances or clear business benefit to the Authority justifying a discretionary payment and for this reason resolved that no additional payment should be made.

Signed *Rob Hunter*
Date 10/4/15