



Dartmoor Access Forum

Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 9JQ

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To: All Members of the
Dartmoor Access Forum
(see below)

DARTMOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of meeting held on Tuesday, 23 April 2024

James Wright
Recreation Strategy Development Officer
E-mail: recreation@dartmoor.gov.uk

Present: Mrs G Branfield, Mrs A Clish-Green, Ms K Donohue, Mr L Fursdon, Mrs A Head, Mr M Jeffery, Mrs J Lewis, Mr G Lindsay, Mr C Mason, Mrs S Morgan, Mr M Owen, Mrs S Parrott, Mr P Spear & Mrs P Warren
DNPA: Mr A Watson & Mr J Wright

598) Welcome and Apologies

The meeting was opened by the current Chair Michael Owen (MO) who welcomed new and existing members.

Apologies were received from T Russell, R Manning and I Page.

599) Minutes of meeting held on 14 November 2023

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th November 2023 were accepted as a correct record by the Chair Michael Owen and seconded by Alison Clish-Green.

600) Member Introductions

New and existing members provided a brief summary of their backgrounds and interests relating to Dartmoor.

601) Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and FiPL Access Representative.

Michael Owen handed over to Andrew Watson to facilitate the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the forum.

Alison Clish-Green and Penny Warren both proposed that Michael Owen continue in his role as Chairman for the benefit of consistency. This was seconded by Julia Lewis. A vote was held with unanimous support for Michael Owen to be elected as Chair of the Dartmoor Access Forum.



Alison Clish-Green proposed that Amanda Head could fulfil the role of Vice-Chair. This was seconded by Gillian Branfield. A vote was held with unanimous support for Amanda Head to be elected as the Vice-Chair of the Dartmoor Access Forum.

Andrew Watson handed back to the Chair to continue proceedings. The Chair proposed that Alison Clish-Green continue in her role as the Access Forum's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) representative. Forum members supported this decision. The forum were unable to decide on a second member to attend in case of absence by Alison Clish-Green.

Alison Clish-Green provided a brief summary of the role the access forum representative on the Local Assessment Panel.

Question was asked from members about the continuation of the scheme. Gillian Branfield, Penny Warren and Luke Fursdon confirmed that there is still no confirmation on whether FiPL will continue beyond March 2025. James Wright raised the introduction of access payments through the new Agri-environment schemes. James Wright will share the proposed payment details post-meeting so that members can continue their work in identifying missing links and building a wish-list or permissive access routes.

602) Role of the Dartmoor Access Forum

The Chair provided a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Access Forum. The Chair stressed the fact that the forum is independent of Dartmoor National Park Authority and that National Park Officers are not required to attend the forum meetings.

603) Access and Recreation Team Priorities for 2024-25

Andrew Watson provided context of the history of local access forums. Luke Fursdon asked whether the Dartmoor Access Forum has or has had any contact with other local access forums. The Chair and Andrew Watson confirmed that this has happened in the past but not in recent years. Luke Fursdon, Alison Clish-Green, Michael Owen and Penny Warren all shared their thoughts on the benefits of looking to re-establish a link. Suggestion was made that a sub-group could oversee this re-connection.

James Wright provided an overview of the priorities for the access and recreation team in 2024-25. JW stressed the fact that these were DNPAs priorities and that the Access Forum is not obliged to share them and can indeed generate their own priorities.

James Wright summarised the main priorities for 2024-25. Namely the management of Active Travel England funding, Access for All funding, the development of an off-road cycling strategy, Peatland Restoration (access implications) and Dogs on Dartmoor. Andrew Watson shared details about the Dogs on Dartmoor partnership and work done to date with the lead partner, National Trust, continuing to facilitate sessions for staff and other local organisations so that consistent messaging is provided to the public during lambing and bird-nesting season. James Wright highlighted that it was DNPAs ambition for the forum to contribute to these priorities with opportunities being provided for focussed sub-groups to liaise and share thoughts and suggestions.



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604) Training Day

The Chair suggested that members liaise with him directly regarding training ambitions and that there was an opportunity to visit a peatland restoration site with Pete Davies from the National Trust to discuss implications for access and potential engagement/consultation opportunities for a forum sub-group.

A training day date suggestion for July will be shared with members via e-mail.

605) Next Meeting and AOB

Next formal meeting – October 2024. Date to be confirmed.
No other business noted.

