

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 2 December 2016

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

Apologies: D Webber

3202 Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 2 September 2016

The Minutes of the meeting on 2 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

3203 Declarations of Interest

None

3204 Chairman's Report

The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman attended the commoners briefing at Okehampton Camp. The new Brigadier, who has responsibility for defence training establishments, wishes to have a closer working relationship with Dartmoor National Park Authority.

The designs for the Moor Otters have been selected from submissions from many different artists with a lot of different designs. The launch is being held at Bovey Castle on Monday 5 December.

The Chairman called for volunteers to work with Exmoor National Park Authority to discuss income generation. Mrs Oakley, Mr Ball, Mr Cooper and Ms Woods put their names forward for the group.

3205 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

None

3206 Public Participation

None

3207 Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 and Arrangements for the Appointment of External Auditors

The Head of Business Support informed Members about the changes brought about under the Accounts and Audit regulations 2015 and potential option of not continuing as a Category 1 Body (full audit authority) and informed the Members about three options open to the Authority for the future appointment of external auditors from 2018/19.

Signed  Date 6.1.14

The Head of Business Support ran through the advantages and disadvantages of continuing as a Category 1 body and set out the three options open to the Authority in respect of appointing an external auditor. The Head of Business Support explained why option 3 (detailed in the report) was the most cost effective way forward.

The Head of Business Support informed Members that all the other National Park Authorities are going through a similar process and have received reports from their Chief Financial Officers containing the same recommendation.

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

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) Members agree that the Dartmoor National Park Authority continues to operate as a Category 1 Body (full audit authority);
- (ii) Members approve the Dartmoor National Park Authority opting into the national audit appointment arrangements of Public Sector Audit Appointment (PSAA Ltd) for appointment of the Authority's external auditors for the 2018/19 accounts; and that
- (iii) The Head of Business Support is authorised to sign and issue the "notice of acceptance" to the PSAA Ltd on behalf of the Authority.

3208 Proposed Diversion of Footpath No 9 (Throwleigh)

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services informed the Members that an Order needs to be made to Footpath No.9 (Throwleigh), which requires part of the current footpath to be extinguished and a new route to be created.

The legal route has not been used and the new route has been established and the preferred route by the public for over 30 years. The land owners would like to formalise the new route. It's a total length of the diversion is 90m and the terrain is the same as the old route and one of the stiles will be replaced by a gate ensuring the paths ease of use stays the same.

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

RESOLVED: That;

- (i) An Order be made under Section 119 Highways Act 1980 to divert part of Footpath No.9 (Throwleigh), by creating a new section of public footpath and extinguishing part of the current route as shown on the plan at Appendix 1;
- (ii) Public notice of the making of the Order be given and in the event of there being no objections within the period specified, the Order be confirmed in the exercise of the powers conferred on the Authority.
- (iii) In the event of an objection to the Order being received and not subsequently withdrawn, a report shall be brought to a future meeting of the Authority.

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/16/032).

Signed  Date 6.1.17

RESOLVED: Members noted the content of the report

3209 Property Options

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

RESOLVED: Members authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, to:

- (i) Enter into detailed discussions with a view to securing new leases as per the Heads of Terms set out in Appendices 1 & 2
- (ii) Commission external legal support as required
- (iii) Execute and complete new leases, provided that the terms are substantially similar to the Heads of Terms.

Signed  Date 6.1.17