

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 10 May

Present: K Ball; W Cann; A Cooper; S Hill; P W Hitchins; M Jeffery;
J McInnes; D Moyse; N Oakley; C Pannell; M Retallick;
P Sanders; D Webber; P Woods

Apologies: S Barker; J Christophers; G Gribble; P Harper; R Parkinson

3433 Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 1 March 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3434 Declarations of Interest

None

3435 Chairman's Report

The Chairman report that he had attended a roundtable workshop involving the chairs of the English National Parks and Julian Glover who is leading the Government's review of designated landscapes. Discussion had focused on the future of National Parks and the five areas of opportunity that had been identified in the evidence submitted to the review by National Parks England, namely:

Opportunity 1 – National Parks as bigger and better places for nature, connected through wildlife corridors to each other and resilient to climate change


Opportunity 2 – Bespoke farming and land management schemes that work for National Parks and underpin wider rural development

Opportunity 3 – A strong new partnership with the NHS to improve people's health, wellbeing, and recovery

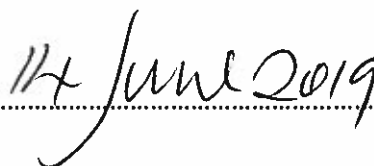
Opportunity 4 – A Government commitment that every child has the opportunity to visit a National Park to enjoy outstanding learning experiences during their time at school

Opportunity 5 – Harnessing a passion for our National Parks
The Chairman thought the discussion had gone well. Julian Glover is due to report to Government in Autumn 2019 and we anticipate a formal response by the Government.

Signed



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The launch of the film "Living and Dying on Dartmoor" (held at Princetown Visitor Centre) had been well attended and with positive feedback. The Chairman asked that his thanks to the Moor than Meets the Eye team be recorded.

3436 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

None

3437 Statement of Accounts 2018/19 Letters to Management And To Those Charged With Governance

The Head of Business Support informed Members that as part of the annual audit process for the Statement of accounts, the Auditors (Grant Thornton) formally write to both management and Those Charged With Governance (the Members) asking a set of questions to help them gain an understanding about the Authority's management processes and how Members maintain oversight and how assurance in relation to:

- The detection of fraud
- Compliance with law and regulation
- Risk management and system of internal control
- Operational issues and the financial statements.

A Member questioned the process, which sees the strategic risk register being overseen by the Audit & Governance Committee rather than the full Authority, and asked whether this was thorough enough. Members agreed that Audit and Governance Committee has been delegated this role and they trust them to scrutinise and oversee this area of work. The SRR can be "called in" by the Authority at any time.

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

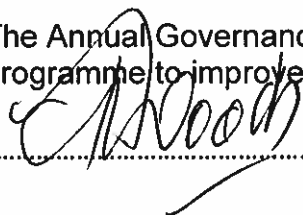
RESOLVED: Members approved the responses to the auditor questions as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

3438 The Local Code of Corporate Governance and 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement

The Head of Business Support informed Members that the Authority adopted the CIPFA "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" framework in 2008. In 2016, CIPFA and Solace reviewed the framework, which requires Local Authorities to adopt and set out it's governance in a document called "Local Code of Corporate Governance", as well as producing an Annual Governance Statement to accompany the Annual Statement of Accounts. There have been no changes to the format of the Local Code this year.

The Annual Governance Statement is the culmination of an on-going review programme to improve the effectiveness of our systems of internal control and

Signed



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governance arrangements. The Annual Government Statement must be formally approved by the Authority so it can accompany the publication of the Statement of Accounts.

Section 2.5s and 2.6 highlight the most significant work and improvements undertaken in 2018/19, and the recommended work to be undertaken in 2019/20 is set out in section 2.7 of the report; which is recorded in the AGS itself.

Mr Ball proposed the recommendation, which was duly seconded.

RESOLVED: Members:

- i) Approved the assessment of the Authority's governance arrangements as set out in the Local Code of Corporate Governance
- ii) Approved the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement

3439 More Moor Otters – Dartmoor Public Arts Initiative

The Marketing and Fundraising Officer informed Members that the previous Public Arts Initiative, Moor Otters, in 2017 raised £60,000 for three key projects – Junior Rangers, controlling non-native species and repairing footpaths. The project expenditure in 2017 was just under £100k. The recommendation is for Members to support a similar project and allocate £120k from the reserve balances, which would provide scope for potential increase in costs. As with the previous project, it is hoped the initiative will receive in-kind Support from local businesses, which would keep project costs down.

The project will require some Member input and therefore the Marketing and Fundraising Officer requested that four Members be part of a Steering Group. The project would have the same format as before, but the number of sculptures and what animal to use for the sculpture is yet to be decided, this would be for the Steering Group to discuss.

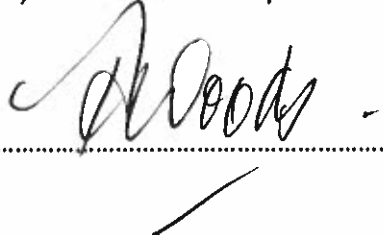
The key changes and lessons learnt from the first project are highlighted in the report.

Artists have already been in touch with the Authority expressing an interest to be involved in the next project.


Members were in full support of the project and agreed it was positive for public engagement and captured the interest of all age groups. The Members discussed the option of either continuing with otters or choose a different animal; would having otters again reduce the public interest? The Marketing and Fundraising Officer highlighted the reasons for choosing the otter were:

- 1) It is vandal proof
- 2) It can't be climbed on
- 3) It doesn't take up much floor space.

Signed



Date



The factors should be considered and Members agreed that the steering group should come up with a couple of options for the sculptures and bring it back to Authority on 14 June 2019.

Mrs Pannell proposed part 1 of the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Cooper.

Mr Ball, Mr Cooper, Mr Harper and Mrs Pannell agreed to be on the Members Steering Group for the initiative. Mr Sanders proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Hill.

RESOLVED: Members:

- (i) Supported the development of the initiative and allocated £120k from the reserve balances to cover costs.
- (ii) Four Members were nominated as a Member Steering Group to support the project officer in the development of the project.

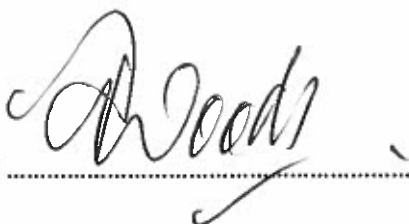
3440 Tree Preservation Orders and Section 211 Notifications (Works to Trees in Conservation Areas) Determined Under Delegated Powers

Members received the report of the Trees and Landscape Officer (NPA/19/016)

RESOLVED: Members noted the content of the report.

At the end of the Authority meeting the Deputy Chairman made a formal presentation, on behalf of members, to the Chairman to mark the fact that this was the last meeting he would attend as Chairman. He expressed the gratitude and appreciation of members for what the Chairman had achieved during his 20 years as a Member of Dartmoor National Park Authority and the way in which he had achieved it: a statesman, a strong and passionate ambassador for the National Park.

Signed



Date

