

# DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 4 October 2019

**Present:** K Ball, S Barker, A Cooper, G Gribble, P Harper, G Hill, J McInnes, S Morgan, D Moyse, J Nutley, N Oakley, C Pannell, R Parkinson, M Renders, P Sanders, P Smerdon, P Vogel, D Webber, P Woods

**Apologies:** None

## **3479 Minutes of the Authority Meetings held on 6 September 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2019 were agreed and signed as a correct record. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) reported that he was still in correspondence with Defra regarding the Financial Grant Agreement (Minute 3475)

## **3480 Declarations of Interest**

None

## **3481 Chair's Report**

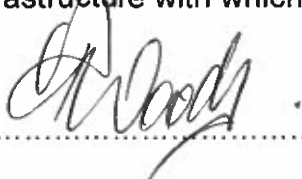
The Chair reported that she had attended:

- The National Parks Conference along with the Deputy Chairman, the Chief Executive (NPO) and the Director of Conservation & Communities. Dartmoor had been nominated for two awards, but sadly we were unsuccessful, although we were the National Park with most shortlisted projects. There were lots of thought provoking presentations plus opportunities to meet and compare problems, and solutions, with others.
- The Heart of the South West Joint Committee meeting held on 27 September 2019.
- The Member Workshop, in September, which had been particularly good. Those Members who had been unable to attend had missed an excellent presentation by Mr Robin Chadwick from the Met Office, and the afternoon session, where Members took on the roles of 'planning officers', was certainly eye opening.

In addition, it was noted that Mrs Hill, Dr Parkinson and Mr Cooper had attended some training in Buckfastleigh run by the Audit Committee South West Audit Partnership. They had received very informative and interesting presentations and discussions on the culture of fraud and dishonesty, which highlighted the need for internal audit and scrutiny.

Mr Vogel, Mr Nutley and Mrs Hill had attended the new Member induction in the Peak District. They had met Members from other National Parks who shared their experiences of similar problems to ours with regards visitor numbers, and the lack of infrastructure with which to deal with them in their parks.

Signed .....



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**3482 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

None

**3483 Public Participation**

None

**3484 Procurement Procedures**

Members received the report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/19/032)

In January this year, and following a major review of processes, the Procurement Procedures were presented to Members for approval. Since then, the procedures have been tested and, as a result, minor amendments have been made to some of the wording to assist in their use. The wording itself does not require re-approval, however, it has been recognised that one of the financial limits relating to the possible situation where only one quotation, or tender, might be received was unworkable. After taking advice from Devon County Council Legal services, this has been amended. (Please refer to section 2.18, page 13 of report NPA/19/032)

Following Member approval, the procedures will be issued and dated with today's date, ie 4 October 2019.

The Chair expressed her thanks to the Head of Business Support and her team for their work.

Mr Sanders proposed, Mrs Pannell seconded and Members agreed unanimously:

**RESOLVED:** Members NOTED and APPROVED the Authority's revised Procurement Procedures (attached at Appendix A to the report) to take effect from the end of the meeting.

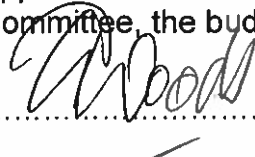
**3485 Heart of the South West Joint Committee**

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/19/033)

In January 2018, Devon, Somerset, Plymouth and Torbay Councils, together with the Local Enterprise Partnership, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the two National Park Authorities, agreed to formally establish a Heart of the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee. Its purpose being to take forward the devolution agenda and improve productivity. In light of changes to Government policy, and the evolution of the Joint Committee's role, plus the developing relationships with other key local partnerships, the Joint Committee has reviewed its governance arrangements. Accordingly, the Committee has refined its focus into certain areas. These refinements have been reflected in the amendments to the list of functions contained in the Joint Committee's 'Arrangements' document (Appendix 1 to report NPA/19/033). Members are asked to approve the highlighted text.

Appendix 2 shows the revised management support arrangements for the Joint Committee, the budget covers its running costs and work programme. Contribution

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levels per council tier are based on population numbers. It was agreed earlier this year that a larger annual budget would likely be required to fund work programmes in future years. DNPA indicated it might be willing to consider a doubling of its contribution on a one-off basis for 2019/20 – ie from £1,400 to £2,800 and has queried the proposed level of future membership fees, indicating it would like to see a funding contribution more closely linked to ability to pay, and relevant to statutory remit. The Authority expressed concerns about the potential doubling of subscription fees and, that if this were to be pursued, it would need to consider the benefits of membership versus costs.

A Member stated that, although it should be recognised that there is no immediate benefit to this Authority in being a member of the HotSW Joint Committee, we would be ill advised not to be present currently, in order to see what is going on.

Another Member stated that, perhaps a joint membership with Exmoor NPA would show that the two NPAs are working collaboratively together, and would perhaps warrant further discussion.

A third Member endorsed the previous two speakers. The HotSW Joint Committee is a brilliant networking opportunity and it is really important for the two National Parks to be seen to be working together, having a joint vision.

The Chair and her deputy Member both stated that they will continue to attend future meetings.

Mr Ball proposed, Mr Cooper seconded and Members agreed unanimously

**RESOLVED:** Members AGREED to:

- i) Approve the amendments (highlighted) to the Committee's list of functions in the Arrangements Document (refer to Appendix 1 to the report); and
- ii) Note the updated budget position for 2019/20

**3486 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/19/034).

**RESOLVED:** Members NOTED the content of the report.

**3487 The Annual Audit Letter for Dartmoor National Park Authority for the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

**Resolved:** Members NOTED the content of the Annual Audit Letter for Dartmoor National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Signed .....



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