

**DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**Friday 1 August 2014**

**Present:** Mr G Gribble, Mr Harper (Chairman), Mr J Hockridge, Mr M Jeffery, Mr J Kidner, Mr D Lloyd, Mr J McInnes, Dr I Mortimer, Miss D Moyse, Mr J Nutley, Mr M Retallick (Deputy Chairman), Mr P Sanders, Mr J Shears, Mr P Vogel, Mr D Webber

**Apologies:** Mr K Ball, Mr Barker, Mrs N Oakley

**Observing:** Mr P Hitchins

**3080 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2014 and Annual meeting held on 4 July 2014**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2014 and the Annual Meeting held on 4 July 2014 were signed as a correct record.

**3081 Declarations of Interest**  
None

**3082 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman and Members gave a warm welcome back to Mr Hitchins, who was observing the meeting after recent surgery.

**3083 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**  
None

**3084 Public Participation**  
None

**3085 Access to Environmental Information**

Members received the report of The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (NPA/14/032).

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that the Information Commissioner has reviewed guidance concerning access to Environmental Information. The new guidance makes it clear that public bodies are entitled to seek payment for information requests in respect of staff time costs involved with retrieving the information required.

In the past there has been no charge and it can take a considerable amount of staff time to sift through the masses of past records held only in paper form.

A schedule of charges will have to be published, before reasonable charges can be applied. A reasonable charge according to the regulations is £25p/h, any requests

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Date..... 5/9/14 .....

likely to exceed 3 hours (£75) would require advanced payment.

Mr Vogel proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Gribble.

**RESOLVED:** Members approved the proposed charging policy for environmental information, to take effect for EIR requests received on or after 1 September 2014.

**3086 Local Government Pension Scheme and Compensation Payments: Policy relating to discretionary items within the regulations.**

Members received the report of The Head of Human Resources (NPA/14/033)

Dartmoor National Park Authority and its officers participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). All employers who participate in the LGPS have a duty to formulate a discretions policy. The policy must be published and kept under review.

The Authority is also under a duty to formulate, publish and review the policy that the Authority applies in exercising discretionary powers under Regulations relating to the payment of compensation to employees whose employment is terminated as a result of redundancy or certain other reasons.

The Head of Human resources clarified that the para 28 discretions relating to Councillors will be removed as it does not apply to our Members.

Mr Sanders stated that the policy mirrors that of the constituent Local Authorities, therefore proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Vogel.

**RESOLVED:** Members:

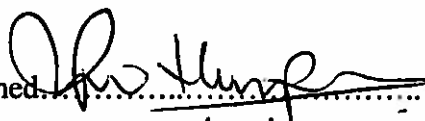
- (i) Approved the pension policy discretions with respect to the new Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) which commenced on 1 April 2014
- (ii) Approved the updated policy statement relating to extant discretionary powers under the LGPS Regulations and the Local Government (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations.

**3087 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/14/034)

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

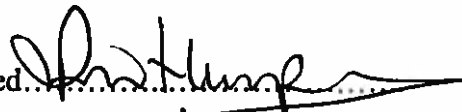
**3088** The Chief Executive (NPO) and Mr Retallick attended a meeting with the Vice President of the Countryside Land and Business Agency (CLA), Ross Murray, to discuss planning issues and in particular Permitted Development Rights. Sarah Wollaston MP also attended. There will be CLA seminars held in Bridgwater, which Members have been invited to attend.

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**3089** The Chairman stated that he had recently done an interview with the Mid Devon Advertiser, at the National Park Visitor Centre, Postbridge.

**3090** Mr Vogel wanted his congratulations noted to Bill Allen (DNPA Ranger), who attended the Ashburton Skate Park opening with the Outreach Vehicle. He also wanted to thank two particular volunteers, Carole and Brian, who have been carrying out lots of rubbish collections at Spitchwick. Mr Vogel proposed that the Members should have a lunch where they can meet people who work as volunteers for the National Park and thank them for their hard work. Mr Sanders suggested that the Members could attend the voluntary wardens annual lunch, which the Chief Executive (NPO) said he would look in to.

**3091** The Members also noted that the DNPA outreach vehicle at Totnes Show was very busy, with Helen Jenny, Bill Allen and other helpers doing a wonderful job.

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