

DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 1 September 2017

Present: S Barker, J Christophers, A Cooper, G Gribble,
P W Hitchins, M Jeffery, J McInnes, D Moyse, C Pannell,
M Retallick, P Sanders, D Webber, P Woods

Apologies: K Ball, S Hill, N Oakley, W Cann

The Chairman welcomed new Secretary of State appointed Member, Mr Peter Harper.

3288 Minutes of the Authority Meeting held on 28 July 2017

The Minutes of the meeting on 28 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

3289 Declarations of Interest

Mr Sanders declared a personal interest in Item 7 – Review of function and delivery of public rights of way work – due to his being the Chairman of the Public Rights of Way Committee, Devon County Council.

The Chairman welcomed Miss Helen Jenny in her role of Voluntary Co-ordinator of the Junior Ranger Project. Miss Jenny, together with Mr Rutter, Senior Learning and Outreach Officer, made a presentation to Members regarding the success of the Project 2014-17. Members were advised of and invited to attend the Award Ceremony which will take place on Saturday 25 November, at Parke.

3290 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported a successful meeting with Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The meeting was instigated by Mel Stride MP. Topics covered included the future of farming on Dartmoor, Conservation and co-operation with various community organisations within the National Park.

Members were reminded of the Member Workshop scheduled for Friday 8 September 2017, at Parke.

3291 Review of Function and Delivery of Public Right of Way Work

Members received the report of the Head of Recreation, Access and Estates (NPA/17/034).

Signed  Date 6.10.17

The Public Rights of Way network within the National Park is managed by the Authority on behalf of Devon County Council through a Service Level Agreement.

In recent years, the role of the voluntary warden has increased; their work now includes path surveys, inspections, brush cutting, strimming and minor vegetation clearance.

Authority Rangers reported that the recruitment of a student ranger has proved immensely valuable. In one Ranger area alone the number of outstanding issues has dropped from 90 to 27. The student ranger now works on his own with volunteers; he has also been involved in mentoring the Authority's apprentices. There is one year left on his contract and this time will be spent working in other Ranger areas to reduce outstanding tasks. This has enabled the Rangers to focus on other responsibilities eg., working with young people through the National Citizen Service.

A Ranger advised that the collaborative approach with tenants and landowners has been of particular value.

A Member suggested that it would be useful for Members to meet some of the volunteers to find out about and see some of the work that has been undertaken.

Members asked the Head of Recreation, Access and Estates to note the following issues:

- Issues around the 'fringe' of the National Park, particularly those rights of way that reach out into the conurbations and more residential areas – information could be provided to help to inform those who are not necessarily 'country minded';
- With regard to the farming community, additional information on the issue of dog faeces, which can cause abortion and premature birth in livestock, would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: Members NOTED the content of the report.

3292 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/17/035).

RESOLVED: Members NOTED the content of the report.

Signed  Date 6.10.17