

# DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 10 January 2014

**Present:** Mr K Ball, Mr Harper, Mr P Hitchins (Chairman), Mr J Hockridge, Miss H Jenny, Mr J Kidner, Mr D Lloyd, Mrs C Marsh, Mr J McInnes, Miss D Moyse, Mrs N Oakley, Mr M Retallick (Deputy Chairman), Mr P Sanders, Mr J Shears, Mr P Vogel, Mr D Webber, Mr N Way

**Apologies:** Mr G Gribble, Mr M Jeffery, Dr I Mortimer, Mr J Nutley

**Non attendance:** Mr Barker

## **3006 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013 were signed as a correct record.

## **3007 Declarations of Interest**

Mr Retallick declared a personal interest due to land interests in NPA/14/001 – Moor Than Meets The Eye – Landscape Partnership Bid. Miss Oakley declared a personal interest in NPA/14/001 due to employment with Natural England. Mr Hitchins and Mr Sanders declared a personal interest NPA/14/001 due to their connection with the Dartmoor Trust.

## **3008 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the funeral of Maurice Anning, past Member, at the end of last year on behalf of the Authority.

The Chairman, Chief Executive (National Park Officer) and Head Ranger attended the funeral of Arnold Cole on Wednesday 8 January 2014, as representatives of the Authority.

A delegation from the Chinese Association of National Parks and Scenic Areas will be visiting the National Park on Tuesday 14 January.

The Chairman then invited the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to inform the Members of a number of updates.

The Chief Executive reported that the Draft Budget report (which would normally be presented at the January meeting) would go before Authority in February. This was due to the delay in confirmation of the National Park Grant (NPG) by Defra.

He advised that confirmation had now been received – the grant for 2014/15 was £3,636,835; this figure represented an 8.65% cut on 2013/14 National Park Grant.

The revised National Park Management Plan 2014-2018 will be launched on 24 February 2014, at Holne Park House, River Dart Country Park. Members would receive an email when final details were known.

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The BBC had commissioned a documentary regarding the excavations and findings at White Horse Hill. Members would be emailed details of when the programme was to be televised.

**3009 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

None.

**3010 Public Participation**

None

**3011 Moor Than Meets The Eye – Landscape Partnership Bid**

The Members received the report of the Director of Conservation and Communities (NPA/14/001). She reported that the Landscape Partnership provided an opportunity to support a scheme that would provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The proposed projects were detailed in section 4 of the report.

It was reported that the Landscape Conservation Action Plan, a significant part of the Part 2 submission, was approved by the Landscape Partnership Board at a meeting held on Wednesday 8 January 2014. In addition, the Board delegated authority to the Project Manager, the Project Board Chairman and the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to make any further crucial amendments as required.

The final cost of the project was confirmed at £3,393,030. This is £41,436 over the figure agreed in Round 1 of the bid. The Partnership would have to find this sum over the five years of implementation of the project. The shortfall would not, however, stop the bid from going forward as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) did not require all match funding to be in place at the time of submission.

Members were asked to approve £100,000 of additional match funding (to that already approved) for the Landscape Partnership scheme, to be taken from unallocated reserves. This money would be used to provide 50% match funding for the projects to be undertaken at Higher Uppacott and Postbridge National Park Visitor Centre. The additional funding would also support the 'Parishscapes' programme of small grants to enable community based projects that fit the remit of *Moor than meets the eye*.

A Member stressed the importance of emphasising that the Authority would remain focussed on serving the whole of the National Park. Another welcomed the inclusion of the additional funding for the projects for Higher Uppacott and Postbridge Visitor Centre which would show to all the commitment of the Authority to the scheme.

A Member advised of the benefits of the consultation process, together with the hard work of the Local Stakeholders Group (LSG). A great many people had put in a lot of voluntary hours to get the point where only minor amendments may be needed. The projects would bring in nearly £4 million over the next five years and

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would present a variety of opportunities to people across Dartmoor, encouraging more community engagement.

Another Member commented that the Landscape Partnership Bid had generated a real 'buzz' already – even before the bid had been submitted. People have already learned many new things, including how to find and draw down funding. Members asked to record their thanks to the team and all other officers involved in putting the bid together, and especially wished to thank the Local Stakeholders Group for all their hard work and commitment to the scheme.

Miss Jenny proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr Harper.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) formally adopted the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) and authorised the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chairman, to agree any minor modifications that have to be made before submission;
- (ii) agreed an additional £100,000 cash contribution to the scheme to be taken from unallocated reserves;
- (iii) re-affirmed the Authority's commitment to act as lead partner for the scheme, and
- (iv) authorised the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to submit the second round application as lead partner on behalf of the Partnership.

Mr Harper requested that the Authority make it known more widely that it had contributed a further £100,000.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised that he would confirm that the £100,000 had been approved to the Project Board and the Local Stakeholders Group.

**3012 Draft Business Plan 2014 - 2015**

Members received the report of the Director of Communications and Business Support (NPA/14/002).

Members were advised that the structure had changed slightly, with stronger links to the National Park Management Plan. Elements still in need of completion were financial information and the determination of the detailed performance indicators and associated monitoring framework; it was proposed that this latter work be delegated to the Audit and Governance Committee. The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee added that it was good to see a more succinct Business Plan and agreed that performance indicators needed to be more relevant and better defined.

Mr Harper proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Miss Jenny.

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**RESOLVED:** Members:

- (i) approved the Business Plan 2014/15 and delegated authority to the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority, to undertake any final amendments that may be required, and
- (ii) delegated determination of the detailed performance indicators and associated monitoring framework to the Audit and Governance Committee.

**3013 Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Draft for Consultation**

Members received the report of the Forward Planner (NPA/14/003).

The Forward Planner advised Members that the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was not policy, instead provided guidance or interpretation to the adopted local plan (the Core Strategy and the Development Management and Delivery Development Plan Document (DMD)).

The main aspects of the document were as follows:

- Defining and identifying local need
- Consideration of potential sites
- Different types of housing
- Viability assessment
- Cross subsidy on exception sites
- Commuted sums
- Cascades in legal agreements

He advised that the next step would be a six week consultation, to commence Friday 17 January 2014. Once this had been completed he hoped to take a final report, setting out the responses received and any proposed revisions to the document, to the April Authority meeting.

Members welcomed the document, adding that it was well written and easy to understand.

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

**RESOLVED:**

Members approved the draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation.

**3014 The Duty to Co-operate : A Devon-Wide Co-operation Protocol**

Members received the report of the Forward Planner (NPA/14/004).

He advised Members that the Localism Act 2011 placed a statutory duty to co-operate on planning Authorities. The draft protocol had been produced by the strategic

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planning team at Devon County Council, in conjunction with the Devon Planning Officer Group (DPOG).

Members welcomed the protocol but queried why some prescribed bodies, for example English Heritage, Forestry Commission, Ministry of Defence, had not been asked to sign up to the document. The Forward Planner advised Members that he would take their query back to the authors of the protocol and report back with their response.

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

**RESOLVED:** Members:

- (i) approved the draft Devon-wide Co-operation Protocol as an appropriate mechanism for assisting Dartmoor National Park Authority to fulfil its legal duty to co-operate with other planning authorities and relevant bodies, and
- (ii) authorised the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), in consultation with the Chairman, to sign the final version of the Protocol on behalf of the Authority.

### **3015 Fees and Charges 2014/15**


Members received the report of the Head of Resources (NPA/14/005).

Members were advised that there had been some major changes in 2013/14, namely:

- The cessation of the admission charge at the National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown.
- The introduction of car parking charges at Princetown;
- Charging for bespoke events at Higher Uppacott;
- New and revised legal charges;
- Revised placement gatepost charges, and
- The cessation of the admission charge at the National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown.

The forecast outturn for 2013/14 was for an increase of 5% in income compared to the outturn position for 2012/13.

With regard to the proposed fees and charges for 2014/15, the Head of Resources advised that officers had considered and reviewed all fees as part of the budgeting process. The main conclusion had been that there was little justification for any significant increase. The only change recommended for the forthcoming financial year was for a new charge to be introduced in respect of Public Path Orders and the work required to extend a temporary closure – officer time and advertising costs. It was also proposed that a review of parking charges at Princetown be undertaken in the summer of 2014 following a full 12 months of operation.

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The Head of Resources advised Members that, whilst not a major source of income, fees and charges assisted the Authority in setting a balanced budget; for some services, the application of a charge could be the difference between its continuation or its withdrawal.

The Director of Communications and Business Support reported a query which had been raised by a Member who was unable to attend the meeting. The Member also declared an interest as a Moorland Guide. He had asked that Members consider whether more should be charged by the Authority for the provision of guided walks, the charge for which currently stood at £4.00.

After a brief discussion, Mr Sanders proposed that the fee for guided walks be raised to £5.00, which was seconded by Miss Oakley. Members voted in favour of the amendment.

**RESOLVED:** Members:

- (i) noted the content of the report;
- (ii) approved the recommendations made in section 3 of the report, and
- (iii) approved the fees and charges for the financial year 2014/15, to include the agreed increase to £5.00 for guided walks.

**3016 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/14/006).

**RESOLVED:**

Members noted the content of the report.

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