

# DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 7 November 2014

**Present:** Mr K Ball, Mr S Barker, Mr G Gribble, Mr P Harper (Chairman),  
Mr J Hockridge, Mr M Jeffery, Mr Kidner, Mr J McInnes, Dr I Mortimer,  
Miss D Moyse, Mr J Nutley, Mrs N Oakley, Mr M Retallick (Deputy Chairman),  
Mr P Vogel,

**Apologies:** Mr Lloyd, Mr Webber, Mr Sanders, Mr Hitchins

## **3021 Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 3 October 2014**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2014, were signed as a correct record.

## **3022 Declarations of Interest**

None.

## **3023 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the first Management Plan Workshop which had drawn out some good ideas and determined a positive direction of travel.

He had also attended:

- the opening ceremony of the new Holne housing development;
- the recent Dartmoor Commoners Council meeting;
- with the Chief Executive (National Park Officer), the National Parks England meeting on 21 October 2014.

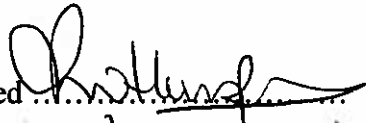
He invited the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to report back to Members as follows:

- Chairs of National Parks, England, have agreed to sign an open letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government regarding the proposed S106 Agreement changes. The letter will be sent at the beginning of next week; a press release has been prepared; Sarah Wollaston, MP, will attempt to raise the matter at Prime Minister's Question Time on Monday 10 November 2014;
- Work is in progress to explore the scope for a National Parks affinity credit card;
- There are plans to re-launch "Love Your National Park" as a stronger brand.

## **3024 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

Tree Preservation Order – Fairfield, South Brent.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised Members that the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) should have been dealt with during the Development

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Management Committee meeting earlier but had been omitted. The proposed TPO related to trees and woodland which are very visible within the landscape; the trees are in good health and the copse comprises of young trees. Retention is important in order to integrate the new development into the landscape. The Trees and Landscape Officer advised Members that the recommendation was to make the Tree Preservation Order on land at Fairfied, South Brent and confirm if unopposed.

In response to a Member's query, he advised that there was no intention to protect any of the hedgerows on the site, although a small opening would be made for the creation of a footpath.

Mr Nutley proposed the recommendation, which was seconded by Mr McInnes.

**RESOLVED:** A Tree Preservation Order be made at Fairfield, South Brent and confirmed if unopposed

**3025 Public Participation**

None

**3026 Priorities for the Authority 2015/16**

Members received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/14/044).

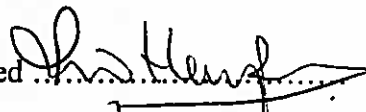
At their annual workshop in July 2014, Members discussed the priorities for the Authority for 2015/16. Following the workshop, it is proposed that the priorities remain unchanged and the Business Plan actions focus on delivering those priorities. In addition, Members identified a need for the Authority's work programmes to have a clearer focus on engagement, communication, evidence and funding.

A workshop to review the progress of the National Park Management Plan – Your Dartmoor was also held in October 2014. New and revised actions identified to deliver the priorities will be used to refresh the Action Plans and, where they are led by the Authority, will be incorporated into the Business Plan for 2015/16.

Priorities guide the work of the Authority; the amount of work that can be undertaken is dependent upon the funding available. Defra has indicated that the National Park Grant for 2015/16 will be £3,573,586, a 1.74% reduction on 2014/15.

With regard to the Hill Farm Project, the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) reported that this has been a key initiative over the past 10 years; over the last five years funding has been provided by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). Transition funding was secured in 2013 to bridge the gap between the old RDPE and the new programme due to commence in January 2015. In September 2014, the Authority received a telephone call from Defra advising that the Authority would not be able to bid for RDP funds and to seek local funding.

The Director of Conservation and Communities advised Members that a funding application has been submitted to the Duchy Countryside Fund. Match funding is

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sought from the Authority's reserves, of £30,000 in order to enable the continuation of the project. The work of the officers is key to assisting farmers to draw down relevant funding, assist with succession planning and integrate young farmers.

Mr Retallick added that the Hill Farm Project has gained a tremendous amount of respect over the years. Farmers look to officers for advice and guidance as opposed to Defra and even the NFU. The Project has high credibility and the momentum should not be lost. The training of young farmers is very important.

The Chairman added that the Hill Farm Project is considered an exemplar in the farming community and with other National Parks. The two year funding applied for would give the Authority the 'breathing space' to determine a way forward.

Dr Mortimer proposed the recommendations, which were seconded by Mr Ball.

**RESOLVED:** (i) The priorities for the 2015/16 Business Plan were agreed, and  
(ii) The allocation of £30,000 from the Match Funding Reserve as the Authority's contribution to 'The Prince's Countryside Fund' bid for the continuation of the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project was agreed.

**3027 Tree Preservation Order : Pew Tor Farm, Sampford Spiney**

Members received the report of the Trees and Landscape Officer (NPA/14/045).

Members were advised that a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) was made under delegated powers to protect several mature oak trees growing around the boundary of the site and a small copse lying to the south. The trees and woodland are considered to be in good health and have a long life expectancy. They are very visible and their presence would help to integrate the new farm into the landscape. The Order was made on 3 July 2014. Planning permission was granted on 4 July 2014. No objections from land owners have been received and Plasterdown Grouped Parish Council was in support of the Order. The Officer confirmed that, if the order is confirmed, the future management of the trees would be under the control of the Authority.

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the Tree Preservation Order at Pew Tor Farm, Sampford Spiney as made.

**3028 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/14/046)

**RESOLVED:** The content of the report was noted.

**3029 Community Council of Devon – Rural Futures Conference – 25 September 2014**

Members received the report of Miss Moyse.

**RESOLVED:** The content of the report was noted.

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3030 Dartmoor Society Debate 2014 – ‘What Future for Railways and their Heritage on Dartmoor?’

Members received the report of Miss Moyse.

**RESOLVED:** The content of the report was noted.

DRAFT

Signed ..*Rob Humpe*..  
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