

**DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Friday 25 May 2018**

- Present:** Kevin Ball, Andrew Cooper (Chairman), Derek Webber, Pamela Woods, James McInnes
- Officers:** Kevin Bishop, Chief Executive (National Park Officer)  
Alison Kohler, Director of Conservation & Communities  
Donna Healy, Head of Business Support  
Neil White, Head of Organisational Development & Monitoring Officer
- In attendance:** Tim Stapleton (Independent Person)  
Mike Galt (Independent Person)

**187 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Philip Sanders.

**188 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2017**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 3 November 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**189 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**190 Public Participation**

None.

**191 Monitoring Officer's Update**

The Monitoring Officer provides informal advice on standards and probity issues from time to time. He advised that this was a new role for him, there had been no formal complaints raised under the Code of Conduct and there have been no Standards issues raised since the last meeting in November 2017. There had been one query regarding Member declarations of interest which has been dealt with. At a recent Development Management Committee a member of the public gallery commented that he was unable to see the Member nameplates – this has been resolved - nameplates are now placed at an angle, facing the public gallery.

**192 Standards Sub-Committee Annual Reports**

Members received the Standards Sub-Committee Annual Reports for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Signed .....



Date .....

2 November 2018

There being no issues raised, Members formally adopted the reports.

### 193 Observation Reports

The Monitoring Officer advised that he receives the observation reports from the Independent Persons and that these are available for inspection if required. He reported that no significant concerns or patterns had been identified.

He invited Mr Stapleton and Mr Galt to share any further observations.

Mr Stapleton observed that at a recent Development Management Committee meeting, Members discussed three applications which had previously been deferred for site inspections. Mr Stapleton felt that Members took too much time debating and determining these applications.

Mr McInnes commented that he had given much consideration to this issue and advised that he would set out to Members, on 15 June 2018, a proposal to run the Development Management meetings slightly differently.

With regard to officer reports, Mr Stapleton observed that at times officer presentations could be more focused in setting out the key planning considerations and clearly stating the recommendations at the end of their presentation.

On a more general note Mr Stapleton observed that 14 Members sit on the boards of other organisations whilst representing the Authority and that Members had, in the past, reported back to committee. Mr Stapleton had noticed a reduction in feedback over the last couple of years.

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) commented that Members should seek a briefing before attending meetings and provide feedback as appropriate.

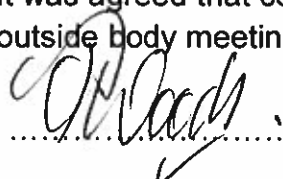
Members commented that they found the observations and feedback provided by the Independent Persons very helpful and thanked Mr Stapleton and Mr Galt for their contributions

The Monitoring Officer advised that consideration would be given to further training for officers relating to presentations to the Development Management Committee. The Chairman also accepted the Monitoring Officer's offer to consider and propose training for Members regarding effective decision making.

Mr Galt observed that some Members are seen using their mobile phones during meetings and this may give a misleading impression to the public. Members advised that they sometimes consult a mobile device during meetings for business reasons and it was agreed that the Chairman would advise the public that Members may use these devices during meetings for this purpose.

It was agreed that consideration would be given to reporting Member attendance at outside body meetings at the Annual Authority meeting.

Signed .....



Date .....

2 November 2018


Members agreed that the role of the Independent Person was an important one; the feedback they provide is welcome and constructive and improvements can be made going forward.

The Chairman commented that Members need to be seen as 'Clear, Concise and Consistent'.

**194 Next Meeting**

Friday 2 November 2018

The Chairman thanked Mr Stapleton on behalf of Members and Officers, for the time he has committed over the last three years and for his valuable independent observations during that time. He wished him well for the future.

Signed  Date 2 November 2018