

Dartmoor National Park Authority

Public Minutes of Meeting held on 7 February 2025

Present:

Will Dracup, Peter Harper, Gay Hill, Mike Jeffery, James McInnes, Sally Morgan, Caroline Mott, Mark Owen, Guy Pannell, Mark Renders, Philip Sanders, Mary Seddon, Catherine Shewan (Independent Person), Peter Smerdon, Dan Thomas, Pamela Woods

Apologies:

John Nutley, Lois Samuel, Mark Williams

Non-Attendance:

Jerry Brook

Officers in attendance:

Kevin Bishop (Chief Executive), Dean Kinsella (Director of Spatial Planning), Angela Stirland (Head of Business Support), Liz Payne (Senior Planning Policy Officer), Honey Green (Assistant Policy Officer), Su Layfield (Business Support – Minutes)

3641 Declarations of Interest

Mr Renders declared an interest in Part 2 as a member of West Devon Borough Council representing the ward of Dartmoor Forest which includes Princetown. Mr Renders also declared that he is a resident and business owner in Princetown.

Mrs Mott declared an interest in Part 2 as a member of West Devon Borough Council.

3642 Minutes

The public minutes of the meetings held on 10 January 2025, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3643 Chair's Report

The Chair reported having attended the following meetings:

- Team Devon – Chair reported a sense of unfinished business, with some uncertainty about whether Devon would be in the first tranche of arrangements, which affected the debate. Ms Woods mentioned DNPA's financial position, but obviously Council Authorities have their own problems in that respect.
- National Parks England – Main subject was National Parks' funding. All Chairs at this meeting decided that they would act in partnership to raise issues about money/perceived lack of money to the Minister and agreed to be pro-active by taking issues forward.
- Shadow Board of the Partnership Plan – the Authority has a statutory responsibility to prepare a Partnership Plan (with help of partners, stakeholders and the community). By the end of the meeting, there was a formal agreement on a fully constituted Board.

Mr Sanders attended the AGM and Committee Meeting for the Campaign for National Parks, where first speaker on the agenda was Mary Creagh. Unfortunately, she declined at short notice. However, there was marked support for more finance to be made available for National

Parks from National Landscapes. There was no more definite news on our funding for this year.

Mrs Mott sang the praises of the Youth Engagement Rangers as she has attended an event recently which was enjoyable, interesting, educational and seemed to have a marked effect on the youth attending. The Community Engagement Ranger will be sending out an email about further events shortly.

3644 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

None.

3645 Public Participation

None.

3646 Local Development Scheme (LDS)

Considered:

Report of the Senior Planning Policy Officer and the Director of Spatial Planning (NPA/25/007)

The Senior Planning Policy Officer acknowledged an inconsistency in the dates used in the LDS and confirmed these would be amended before final publication.

Following questions by Members it was advised that a reserved budget had been identified to fund the review process. This was approximately £95,000. Members thanked the officers for a digestible and easy to understand report.

Resolved:

Members noted the content of the report and approved the recommendation that Members adopt the Local Development Scheme.

3647 Fees and Charges 2025/26

Considered:

Report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/25/008)

Members queried the difference in charges relating to Class A to Class B. Officers advised that charges related to Class A were limited to the negotiation of a Planning Performance Agreement and a bespoke charge would be agreed with a developer.

Resolved:

Members noted the content of the report and approved the recommendations:

- i) approve the recommendations made in Section 3 of this report;
and
- ii) approve the 2025/26 schedule of Fees and Charges as set out in Appendix 2

Members commented that they are glad to see the Fees and Charges will reflect officer time.

3648 Dartmoor National Park Authority Updated Climate Action Plan and Emissions Targets

Considered:

Report of the Partnership Plan and Climate Officer and the Assistant Policy Officer (NPA/25/009).

It was clarified that in Paragraph 5.3 the last sentence should read “difficult” and not “different”

Members were impressed with the findings in the report considering our financial situation and feel it is appropriate to move to a science-based approach.

Resolved:

Members noted the content of the report and approved the recommendation to adopt the new greenhouse gas emissions targets.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by Members to move to Part II – items to be taken in the absence of the press and public on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed.

Public Summary of Items considered “in private” at the meeting of the Dartmoor National Park Authority on 7 February 2025.

3649 Financial Strategy for Leased Property

Considered:

The Report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/25/010).

Resolved:

Members noted the content of the report and agreed the recommendations stated within the report.

There being no other business, the Part II meeting ended and moved back to Part I.

There being no other business, the Part I meeting ended at 14:25 hours.