



MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 6 October 2017 at 10.03 am

Venue: The Board Room, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: Cllr Mrs L C Roberts

Present: Cllr D Chapman, Mr P Ancell, Mrs P Anderson, Mr J W Berresford, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr P Brady, Cllr C Carr, Cllr A R Favell, Cllr C Furness, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr A Law, Cllr H Laws, Cllr Mrs C Howe, Cllr J Macrae, Cllr A McCloy, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr J Perkins, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr Mrs N Turner, Cllr Mrs J A Twigg, Cllr F J Walton and Cllr B Woods

Apologies for absence: Cllr J Atkin and Mrs F Beatty.

40/17 APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE MEMBER

The meeting was asked to note the Secretary of State's appointment of Mr James Berresford to the Authority. Mr Berresford would be a Member of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee until the Authority's Annual General Meeting on 6 July 2018.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

The Chair welcomed Mr Berresford to the Authority and reported that the Secretary of State had decided to make no further appointments until 2018, despite there being a further two Secretary of State vacancies. It was noted that we were not the only National Park Authority who were holding Secretary of State vacancies.

RESOLVED:

To note that the Secretary of State has appointed Mr James Berresford as a Member of the Authority and to appoint him as a Member of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee until the Annual Meeting in July 2018.

Cllr Becki Woods joined the meeting at 10.05am.

Cllr Colin McLaren joined the meeting at 10.12am.

Cllr Alan Law joined the meeting at 10.18am.

41/17 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Chair made the following announcements:

- The BogFest event held in Edale on Friday 22 September had been a great success with over 300 attendees, including Authority Members, the Chair of the Environment Agency, representatives from Defra and local MPs.
- The shortlist for the 2017 Park Protector Award included the Moors for the Future Community Science Project. The Chair and Deputy Chair would learn who had won the award on Wednesday 11 October.

Cllr C Furness recorded his thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in the BogFest event, which he agreed had been a great success.

Mr R Helliwell noted that the BogFest had made good use of Edale's facilities and benefited the community.

The Chief Executive was invited to update Members on the Authority's successful bid to the £40 million Discover England Fund. The Authority had approved submission of the bid in March 2017 and the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee had subsequently signed off acceptance of the bid. The Chief Executive reported that following the successful bid, the Authority would now work with Visit England and other English National Parks to deliver the "Make Great Memories in England's National Parks" programme. Members would continue to receive updates on progress.

The Chair noted that the annual Parishes' Day, held on 30 September this year, had been well-attended and enjoyed by delegates. She thanked all involved in organising and supporting the event.

Cllr Mrs K Potter gave details of a fundraising day for the Helen's Trust, to which all Members and staff were invited.

The Chair confirmed that there would be a Members' Forum following the meeting.

42/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: AGM HELD ON 7 JULY 2017

The minutes of the last meeting of the Authority held on 7 July 2017 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

Minute No. 35/17

Delete Cllr Mrs C Howe from the membership of the Appeals Panel and replace with Cllr Mrs N Turner.

43/17 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to report.

44/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the Staff Committee was present to make a representation to the Meeting.

45/17 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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Mr J Berresford declared a personal interest as a non-executive board member of the Pinelog Group, which had completed a consultation form on the Peak District National Park Management Plan update.

Cllr P Brady declared a personal interest as a member of the Peak Park Parishes' Forum and Taddington Parish Council, both of which had commented on the consultation documents.

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46/17 NPMP - UPDATE ON CONSULTATION FEEDBACK, PROJECT TIMESCALES AND EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT PLAN (MM)

Emily Fox, Head of Strategy and Performance and Matt Mardling, Senior Strategy Officer were present for this item.

Matt Mardling introduced the report and suggested that the date in Recommendation 3 be removed, in case the updated plan was not ready by then.

There had been 219 responses to the consultation, of which 142 came from individuals and 77 from organisations. The results indicated broad support for the special qualities of the National Park.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the National Park Management Plan is produced in partnership with a range of groups and organisations for the whole of the Peak District National Park and is updated every five years, in accord with the requirements of the Environment Act 1995.

Member input into its development had been sought and recognised via the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group and in Member workshops, most recently at the "Forming Our Delivery Plan" workshop at Thornbridge Hall on Tuesday 3 October which was attended by several Authority Members and representatives of partner organisations.

Cllr A Favell urged caution in making changes on the basis of a relatively small number of responses. He expressed concern about the evergreen afforestation of upland areas that were insufficiently grazed and said that this should be the subject of regional and national debate.

Members made several observations and suggestions for officers to consider further.

The recommendations were moved and seconded.

Mr Z Hamid recorded his appreciation of officers' and partners' work in compiling the National Park Management Plan.

The Chief Executive extended her personal thanks to Emily Fox, Matt Mardling and the whole Strategy and Performance Team.

The recommendations as amended were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the results of the public consultation undertaken as part of the update of the National Park Management Plan and changes made as a result of it be noted.
2. That the timescales for completion of the updated National Park Management Plan be noted.
3. That Members approve extending the current National Park Management Plan: A Partnership for Progress the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2012-2017 until adoption of the updated plan.

47/17 APPROVAL OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES DOCUMENT (DPD)/ BJT

Brian Taylor, Head of Policy and Communities and Tim Nicholson, Transport Policy Planner, were present for this item.

It was noted that if the recommended modifications were approved by Members, Officers would refer back to consultees ahead of the examination process due in the Spring of 2018.

The recommendations were moved and seconded.

Members requested a shorter and easier to read document and suggested further amendments to the proposed modifications, especially in light of input already made by the steering group.

Officers were thanked for their good work.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried, with one abstention.

RESOLVED:

1. That Members agree the Statement of Representations as laid out at Appendix 1 of the report.
2. That Members agree the Schedule of Modifications at Appendix 2 of the report.
3. That Members agree the additional text at paragraph 32 regarding major development and that this be added to Appendix 1 and 2 of the report in response to representations and more recent evidence.
4. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Conservation and Planning in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee to agree any further modifications and finalise the documents at Appendix 1 and 2 of the report and other documents necessary for the submission stage; and
5. That Officers produce a further work to establish the weight of emerging policies at this stage and that this is brought back for approval by the Authority.

Cllr J Macrae, Cllr A Law and Cllr Mrs G Heath left the meeting at 11.40am.

A break was taken between 11.40 and 11.50am.

48/17 MARKET SUPPLEMENT POLICY (TR)

David Hickman, Director of Corporate Strategy and Development and Theresa Reid, Head of Human Resources, were present for this item.

The Director introduced the report. He defined the term 'market supplement' and explained that at present, the Authority had no policy on how to calculate such payments. An initial draft policy had been provided for the Authority by the Local Government Association and subsequently amended, following consultation with Officers currently receiving a market supplement plus Senior Leadership Team, Staff Committee and others.

The following spoke under the Authority's Scheme of Public Participation:

- Rosie Olle, Monitoring & Enforcement Officer, on behalf of Staff Committee

Members sought information on several points, including:

- When a market supplement would be awarded
- The criteria and process which the Authority will use to determine the cash value of a post
- The timing of reviews of market supplements and the risk of reviews not being conducted
- When there would be a right of appeal
- How many Authority employees currently receive market supplements
- Transitional arrangements for Officers likely to lose their market supplement
- The development of Authority Officers and work force planning to reduce the need for market supplements
- Budget implications (the Director confirmed that the current cost of market supplements is £15K per annum)

To address Members' concerns about reviews, the Chief Executive suggested an additional paragraph be added to the Guidance Notes:

"In the event of a review not taking place in the specified period and when the member of staff is still in post, that person can formally request a review and the market supplement should remain in place until the review is completed."

The recommendations were moved and seconded.

The Director stressed that the award of market supplements would always be a last resort and only considered after a number of tests had been applied. The Head of Human Resources stated that the Authority had a good benefits package and did not have difficulty recruiting and retaining staff.

The recommendations were voted upon and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Authority approves the Market Supplement Policy, set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and the Guidance Notes relating to the Market Supplement Application and Review Procedure, set out in Appendix 2, to ensure fairness and transparency across the Authority and minimise potential equal pay claims.
2. That the following wording be added to the Guidance Notes: “In the event of a review not taking place in the specified period and when the member of staff is still in post, that person can formally request a review and the market supplement should remain in place until the review is completed”.

49/17 MEMBER LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT (RC)

Andrea McCaskie, Head of Law and Ruth Crowder, Democratic & Legal Support Team Leader, were present for this item.

The Head of Law introduced the report, stating that Members are encouraged to identify any development opportunities they would like to take up and to commit to 20 hours per year, which for local authority Members could include training provided by their own councils. Changes to the Authority Membership in 2016/17 had affected the performance figures shown in Appendix 1 of the report (page 243 of the pack).

It was noted that Cllr A McCloy was appointed as the Member Representative for Member Learning and Development at the Authority AGM in July 2017. Members were asked to make known by December 2017 any other optional development they would like to see included in the framework.

The recommendations were moved and seconded.

Cllr McCloy reported that he intended to have an informal one-to-one discussion with each Member during the next 10 months, to listen to their views and to encourage them to take up the available opportunities.

In response to Members' questions, the Head of Law confirmed that staff resources affected how much training could be given and that normally, Members were invited to select two or three options. A workshop could not be provided if there was insufficient interest. The National Parks UK New Member Induction course was commended with a request that its scope be broadened to help new Members understand a wide range of issues that apply specifically to national parks.

It was noted that some Members have a long round trip to Aldern House and that online training was a better option for them.

The Chair concluded by reminding Members that there are fewer than 250 National Park Authority Members in the whole of the UK and that they have a special role as advocates of the interests of the National Park.

The recommendations were voted upon and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed Member Learning and Development Framework (Appendix 1 of the report) and the event programme for January to December 2018 (Appendix 2 of the report) are agreed.

- 2. That Member learning and development activities continue to be recorded in terms of hours and include personal learning and development by Members outside of events organised by the Authority, with the target of 20 hours per Member in every 12 months.**

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm