

Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Partnership Board Meeting East Knoyle Village Hall

Monday 9th April 2018

9.30am for a 10.00 start

MINUTES

Member	Organisation	Present	Apologies
Zam Baring	Vice Chairman	√	
Cllr Barbara Manuel	East Dorset District Council		
Gary Foyle/Wilbert Smith	EDDC Officers	√	
Cllr Dick Skidmore	Mendip District Council		
Robert Palmer	MDC Officer		
Cllr Audrey Burch	North Dorset District Council		
Cllr Catherine Langham	North Dorset District Council	√	
Cllr Audrey Skipwith Sub	North Dorset District Council		√
Hilary Jordan/Ed Gerry	NDDC Officers	√	
Roxanne Matcham	New Forest District Council		
Martin Peacock	NFDC Officer		
Cllr Lucy Wallace	South Somerset District Council		
Rachael Whaites	SSDC Officer		
Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philipe	Wiltshire Council	√	
Cllr Bridget Wayman	Wiltshire Council		√
Cllr Jose Green	Wiltshire Council		√
Richard Broadhead	Wiltshire Officer	√	
Cllr Andrew Cattaway	Dorset County Council		
Cllr	Dorset County Council SUB		
Ken Buchanan	DCC Officer	√	
Cllr Edward Heron	Hampshire County Council		
Garry King	HCC Officer	√	
Cllr William Wallace	Somerset County Council		

Barry James		Somerset CC Officer		
Susan Batstone		Natural England		√
Roger Griffin		Natural England		√
Ian Briscoe		Forestry Commission	√	
Alistair Fitzgerald		Independent	√	
Phil Matthews		Wiltshire Association of Town & Parish Councils		
Mike Jones		Dorset Association of Town & Parish Councils	√	
Vacant		Historic England		
Paul Cottington		National Farmers Union		
Francis Taylor		Campaign to Protect Rural England	√	
Vacant		Chair of LMAF		
Vacant		Chair of Planning & Transportation Topic Group /		
Vacant		Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust		
AONB Team		Position		
Linda Nunn	FT	AONB Director	√	
Anne Carney	PT	Funding / Partnership Officer		√
Richard Burden	PT	Landscape and Planning Advisor	√	
Tracy Adams	PT	Farmland Conservation Officer		√
Harry Bell	PT	GIS Officer		√
Shirley Merrick	PT	Team Support Officer	√	
Julie Harding	PT	Communications Officer		√
Roger Goulding	FT	LPS Development Officer		√

Rachel Whaites (SSDC) has taken over from Katy Menday as the officer representative for South Somerset District Council.

David Blake (CCAONB) has left to work in Scotland.

Councillor Edward Heron has replaced Councillor Steve Rippon-Swaine as the representative for Hampshire County Council.

Councillor Roxanne Matcham has replaced Councillor Edward Heron as the representative for the New Forest District Council.

Sophie Cardinal, new Policy Officer with Hampshire County Council, attended as an observer.

1. Welcome

Zam Baring welcomed everyone to the meeting which he said would be his last meeting to chair.

ZB announced the sad news of the passing of Councillor Mervyn Jeffery who served on this Board for many years. He will be sadly missed.

ACTION 1

- | |
|--|
| 1. Fleur, on behalf of the Board, thanked Zam for everything he has done since becoming Vice Chairman. |
|--|

2. Minutes of the meeting on 16th October 2017 and any matters arising

IB asked about the AONB position on telephone masts being erected in the AONB. The Forestry commission has recently sent back the request for a license for the felling of a Victorian woodland belt where the existing mast was producing a weak signal due to the height of the trees. The FC suggested three alternatives that would be acceptable to them, including raising the height of the mast. RB (AONB) replied the AONB requests the masts are appropriately sited and coloured, and mentioned the scheme in Broadchalke where 4G coverage has been achieved without using masts.

ACTION 2

- | |
|--|
| 1. The Minutes were agreed as accurate and can now be put onto the web site. |
|--|

3. Report A – Constitutional Items

1. Purpose: To update the Board on the progress of recruiting a new Chairman, contacts with organisations not currently represented on the Board and on various changes within partner Local Authorities

2. Progress on a new Chairman for the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership

The deadline for applications was extended which brought in nine enquiries. Of those, after telephone discussions, five submissions were received. Those details were sent to RB (Wiltshire Council), GK (HCC) AF (Ind) and F de Rhe P (WC). Four interviews were held the week beginning 2nd April. These were very successful with those who may not be chosen as the next Chairman having skills useful to the Board. A short report will be written after the last interview this week and will be circulated to Members. The role of Vice Chairman is considered best left to the new Chairman to appoint. The new Chairman needs to understand the 'living and working landscape' aspect of the AONB.

3. Representation from the Environment Agency (EA), National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA)

AF reminded members of the importance of having farm representation on the Board and that he has been trying to find interested parties.

4. Changes within Wiltshire Council

RB (WC) reported that he has become Head of Service, which includes the responsibility for the two AONBs. His original post has been removed and the Rights of Way team will undergo some organisation.

5. Changes within Dorset County Council

Both Peter Moore (former officer representative on the Board) and Phil Sterling (officer representative) have left Dorset County Council. Ken Buchanan will be the replacement officer.

Dorset is to become a Unitary Authority next year. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Councils will merge. East Dorset District Council will split from Christchurch Council and join the Unitary Authority.

ACTION 3
1. The Board to be informed of the outcome of interviews for a new Chairman of the Partnership after 13 th April.
2. The Board wished to leave open the invitation for representation from EA, NFU and CLA and to consider additional representation from other organisations.
3. The Board noted the changes in partner Local Authorities.
4. ZB congratulated Richard Broadhead on his promotion.

4. Report B – AONB Budgets and Related Staffing/Office/IT issues

1. Purpose: To inform the Panel of end of financial year 2017-18, AONB proposed budget 2018/19 and related issues.

3.1 Project budgets 2017-18

LN went through the financial details for the end of year budgets. The final budget report will not be received from Wiltshire Council until May. To date there is a small underspend.

3.3 International Dark Sky Reserve bid

The application will be in by January 2019. LN thanked Wessex Astronomical Society, and especially Bob Mizon, for their invaluable help in progressing this project. Jo Richardson, Space Detectives, has delivered eight school workshops to 450 children. LN has bought equipment for star boxes which will be given to fifteen schools.

3.4 HLF Landscape Partnership Scheme

This project is progressing really well. RG is meeting youngsters from Seeds4Success today to see what they think of the plans so far.

3.5 Discover Cranborne Chase

'Follow the Fallow' project, a public arts trail, is being progressed with business owners being approached to gauge their interest in participating. The Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust are interested in being involved in this. Two artists who may be interested in painting the models of the deer were suggested by members.

3.6 Landscapes in Planning

Wallets have been designed and printed to hold the AONB Position Statements and Good Guidance Note documents.

3.7 Local Initiative Fast Track (LIFT)

A River Ebble leaflet has been printed.

4. Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)

This fund was fully spent on three projects: 1) Deverills Festival 2) Gussage All Saints finger posts and 3) Ashscapes project.

The LIFT element of the funding may be transferred to the SDF budget in 2018/2019

5. DEFRA grant

For this financial year this is £216,637. The Local Authority contributions were listed.

6. AONB Staffing

David Blake left at the beginning of the year leaving a surplus in the salary budget. TA has been funded mainly by a Wessex Water grant; this ends in March 2019. Therefore TA will continue to work one day per week on the Wessex Water work and two days per week funded by the AONB.

6.4 A Dark Night Sky Advisor is to be appointed for an 11 month contract, at three days per week, to hopefully take this project to a conclusion.

6.7 RB (AONB) is to increase his hours from three days per week to four for a temporary 3 month period.

7. AONB Office and IT arrangements

If the 2nd round bid to HLF is successful the AONB will need to take on 3 / 4 new employees. If the pilot for the new agri-environment scheme is awarded to this AONB that will mean even more employees will be necessary. There is no room to do this in the existing office, therefore the AONB needs to relocate to bigger premises. RB (WC) is in talks at present to look at favourable rates for the AONB if a Wiltshire Council building is available. If the AONB moves into a WC building there could be a saving in changing to the WC IT system although Wiltshire IT are content to bring the AONB onto the system wherever the base is.

8. Countryside Centre

ZB reported that he knows of other environmental groups looking for other premises and it could be useful to have a hub that includes all the groups.

ACTION 4
1. The Board noted the expenditure during 2017-18 in core, project and SDF budgets.
2. The Board noted the proposed Local Authority contributions for 2018-19. Members to notify their Councils of these amounts.
3. The Board noted the changes to the staffing within the AONB team

- | |
|---|
| <p>4. The Board remains aware of the need, and requirements, for the AONB team to relocate in the not too distant future and to pass any knowledge of possible office/storage locations on to LN as soon as possible.</p> |
|---|

5. Report C – AONB Management Plan Review and Related Topics

1. **Purpose:** To inform the Board of the Management Plan Review process and current issues that need to be assimilated within that review.

2. AONB Management Plan Review

LN went through the timetable for the review of the Management Plan.

3. Recent work of the National Association of AONBs (NAAONBs)

LN detailed the work recently carried out by the NAAONBs, and the Minutes in Appendix 1 of the meeting in November with DEFRA.

3.3A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

RB (WC) will be attending the Cornwall AONB Forum where George Eustice MP is giving a talk. He will report back to the Board on that meeting.

3.9 NAAONBs and the AONB Lead officers' meeting

LN was unable to attend so DB went to this meeting instead. LN is still waiting for those minutes. Howard Davies (NAAONBs) has been having regular meetings with DEFRA. With major changes coming due to the UK leaving the EU the AONB Management Plans need to reflect these changes. If the pilot scheme for the implementation of the payments to farmers is successful that will change the relationship that this AONB has with the farmers and land owners and the scene needs to be set for this in the reviewed Management Plan.

AF suggested that a letter from the new Chairman, once appointed, could be sent to the newly appointed NFU President, Minette Batters who lives in Wiltshire, to congratulate her on her appointment.

ACTION 5
1. That the Board supports the timetable for the AONB Management Plan Review and consultation activities in the coming months
2. That the Board endorses the offer made to Defra to become a pilot area for a new agri-environment support scheme and supports the team in continuing the discussions with NAAONBs and Defra
3. The new Chairman to write a letter of congratulations to the newly appointed NFU President.

6. Report D – Team Work Update

1. Purpose: To inform the Board on progress on work undertaken by the team since the last meeting in October 2017

Richard Burden – Landscape and Planning Advisor.

RB expanded on some of the items listed in his report.

NPPF draft consultation. The draft has re-ordered the numbering of the significant paragraphs relevant to this AONB. Paragraph 115 has been deleted and RB will respond to the consultation to strongly recommend that it is reinstated.

‘Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.’

Other issues responded to included:-

The potential waste handling site in Blandford – needs to be cut into the ground.

The housing development West of Warminster – needs decent landscaping with large trees.

The Stonehenge Tunnel - AONB looking for compensation for the disruption.

The A303 planned road works – rat run issues.

Dark Night Skies – strongly recommending E1 zoning for external lighting in new developments.

Parish Training – visiting parish groups to discuss AONB issues.

Agri-environment schemes – RB attending a training day next weekend.

CL questioned RB on Permitted Development Rights (PDR) for change of use for redundant agricultural buildings. HJ said that PDR are set nationally, not locally.

Tracy Adams, Farm Conservation Officer

TA has increased her work days from two to three days per week, as detailed earlier.

TA has been working with the farm clusters and a fourth area in the Wylye Valley is being set up. A map of the area the clusters cover was supplied.

TA has been doing work with Turtle Doves on Martin Down and looking for funding and partnership working with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust for a ‘Dove Chasers’ project. The HLF is unlikely to fund a project based primarily on research.

LN accompanied TA to Bath for the Wessex Water end of year reporting.

Anne Carney – Funding and Partnerships

Amongst a list of work detailed in the report, including major input to the HLF funded Landscape Partnership Scheme, the following was highlighted.

AC submitted a Round One bid to the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for a Community Dark Night Skies Ranger to work with schools two days per week for two years.

AC continues to support the Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust.

Roger Goulding – Landscape Partnership Development Officer

RG is pushing ahead with engaging partners in project work. The second round bid is now competitive. A meeting was held with HLF and our monitor. They were pleased with progress so far.

F de Rhe P recommended that letters be requested to show public support from the Council, Parish Councils and other organisations.

Julie Harding – Communications Officer

JH has promoted all of the projects through the regular e-bulletin and press releases.
JH has helped RG with compiling the website for the LPS project.

Shirley Merrick – AONB Team Support

SM continues to undertake invaluable work to ensure the smooth operation of the entire team.

Linda Nunn – Director

LN has worked through having a broken wrist and amongst a long list of projects that need overseeing, including end of year budgets, writing reports, and attending Dark Night Sky events
LN highlighted some of her work.

LN has completed the job roles for each member of staff.

LN has worked on the Dark Night Skies project; she has been overseeing the AONB Management Plan review; the potential Agri-environment pilot; and the appointment of a new Chairman.

ACTION 6

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board notes ongoing progress on the Delivery Plan 2017-18 and the full work programme being undertaken by all members of the AONB team on behalf of the Partnership |
|--|

7. AOB

GF (EDDC) explained how the Dorset Unitary proposal will impact on EDDC.
He also stated that the contribution from EDDC for the financial year 2018/19 has been agreed.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Partnership Board will be on 10th December.

The meeting ended at 11.17

Minutes signed as a true record

(Chairman).....