

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING

Held at 2.00pm on 16 May 2019 at the Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH.

Present:

Alun Alesbury	Sebastian Anstruther	Heather Baker	Ken Bodfish
Tim Burr	Jo Carr	David Coldwell	Norman Dingemans
Chris Dowling	Neville Harrison	Barbara Holyome	Helen Jackson
Doug Jones	Russell Oppenheimer	Margaret Paren (Chair)	Ian Phillips
Pete West			

South Downs National Park Authority Officers:

Trevor Beattie (Chief Executive), Andrew Lee (Director of Countryside and Policy Management), Louise Read (Monitoring Officer), Alan Brough (Head of Business Services), Steven Bedford (Finance Officer), Robin Parr (Head of Governance), Richard Sandiford (Senior Committee and Member Services Officer).

Also attended by:

Anne Rehill (Performance and Project Manager), Ruth James (Communications and Engagement Manager), Kirsten Williamson (Planning Policy Lead).

OPENING REMARKS

208. The Chair informed Members that this meeting was the last National Park Authority (NPA) meeting for a number of Members. The Chair expressed her thanks and paid tribute to the following Members:

- Jo Carr as a founding Member of the SDNPA and for her work on the shared identity, as Chair of the Enterprise and Investment Task and Finish Group and as a trustee of the South Downs National Park Trust.
- David Coldwell as a much respected Member of Planning Committee
- Norman Dingemans for his dedication and for the extensive work done as a founding Member of the SDNPA and prior to the NPA on the South Downs Joint Committee and on the Sussex Conservation Board.
- Mark Dunn
- Philip Ede
- Neville Harrison as a founding member of the SDNPA and as Chair of the Planning Committee for the past 4 year; also for his work previously as a Member of the South Downs Joint Committee.
- Roger Huxstep
- Gill Mattock for her valued work on the Authority.
- Anthony Watts Williams

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

209. Apologies were received from Daniel Humphreys, Tom Jones, Gill Mattock, Robert Mocatta and Anthony Watts Williams.

ITEM 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

210. The following declarations of interest were made:

- Russell Oppenheimer – Agenda Item 12, Public Service Interest as a Hampshire County Councillor.
- Sebastian Anstruther – Agenda Item 12, Pecuniary Interest as the owner of the Barlavington Estate.
- Chris Dowling – Agenda Item 17, Public Service Interest as an East Sussex County Councillor and Pecuniary Interest as the spouse of the East Sussex County Council Lead Member for Transport and the Environment. Will withdraw from the meeting for Agenda Item 17.

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2019

211. The minutes were approved as a correct record of the Authority meeting held on 28 March 2019.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

212. There were none.

ITEM 5. URGENT MATTERS

213. There were none.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

214. There were no public speakers.

ITEM 7. NEED FOR PART II EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

215. Members were asked to consider the exclusion of the public, including the press, from the meeting for Agenda Items 16 and 17.
216. The Monitoring Officer outlined the reasons for the consideration of this exclusion under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
217. It was proposed and seconded that the meeting move into private session to consider Agenda Items 16 and 17.
218. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved to move into private session for Agenda Items 16 and 17 and that the public, including the press, would be excluded from the meeting at the appropriate time.

ITEM 8. AUTHORITY CHAIR UPDATE

219. Authority Members considered the report from the Authority Chair (Report NPA09/19).
220. The Authority Chair updated Members on the following:
- A meeting with Councillors from Hampshire County Council discussing funding and partnership working on rights of way.

ITEM 9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S PROGRESS REPORT

221. Authority Members considered the report from the Chief Executive (Report NPA10/19).
222. Pete West arrived at 2.15pm.
223. The Chief Executive updated Members on the following:
- Thanks were expressed on behalf of officers to departing Members.
 - The authority would be holding workshops on the Tests and Trials for the new Environmental Land Management system (ELMs). Details of locations could be obtained from Member Services.
 - ESSO had submitted the Development Consent Order application for the Southampton to London pipeline on 15 May 2019.

- Ongoing plans for the National Parks 70th Anniversary celebrations.
224. Members made the following comments:
- Were the planning and landscape implications of Youth Hostel Association developments at Truleigh Hill being discussed?
 - The Chair of Planning Committee expressed his thanks for a wonderful experience as a Member of the SDNPA and commended the excellent working relationships with planning officers.
 - How were we considering feedback on the National Park entry signs?
 - Officers who organised the National Park roadshows were commended on the timing, locations and organisation of these events.
225. In response to questions Members were advised:
- The Truleigh Hill Landscape Project was in place to ensure all aspects of improvements were fully considered and were informed by the landscape context.
 - The lessons learned from phase 1 of the entry signs project would be considered by P&R Committee in June, then the lessons learned plus a decision on whether to undertake phase 2 of the project would be considered by the NPA in July.
226. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved to note the progress made by the South Downs National Park Authority since the last report.

ITEM 10. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

227. There were none.

ITEM 11. GOVERNANCE MATTERS AND STANDING ORDER UPDATES

228. Authority Members considered the report from the Head of Governance (Report NPA11/19).
229. It was proposed and seconded to vote on the recommendation.
230. Members made the following comments:
- Emails were often received by Members of Planning Committee at short notice before the meeting of the committee. Would the proposed amendments to Standing Orders still allow Members to seek clarification at the meeting?
231. In response to questions Members were advised:
- Members could still seek clarification on any matters at the meeting, however, the amendments would give officers the ability to respond to submissions of information that were received too late to be professionally evaluated.
232. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved to:
1. Agree the changes to Standing Orders for the Regulation of Authority Proceedings and Business (“Standing Orders”) set out at para 2.1 of this Report including the allocation of “proper officer” functions as set out at para 4.2.
 2. Agree, in relation to the NPA meeting on 2nd July 2019 only, to amend paragraphs 1(b) and 1(c), of Appendix 2 of Standing Orders (Rules on Elections) so that for the purposes of the election of both the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Authority (under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Appendix 2 respectively):
 - The deadline for nominations be extended until 4pm on the 1st July 2019,
 - Nominations will be notified to Members by the end of the day on 1st July 2019; and
 - The requirements for nominations to be proposed and seconded be removed,

with such amendments having effect until 3rd July 2019 and other requirements of Standing Orders continuing to have effect throughout.

3. Agree the position regarding committee membership set out at para 5.4.
4. Agree that in accordance with Standing Order 8.3 the Policy and Resources Committee may appoint up to 2 Deputy Chairs of the Committee.

233. Sebastian Anstruther and Jo Carr left the meeting at 2.29pm.

ITEM 12. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE REVIEW OF HAMPSHIRE'S MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN

234. Authority Members considered the report from the Planning Policy Lead (Report NPA12/19).

235. Members made the following comments:

- Would the Authority consider undertaking a Minerals and Waste Plan for the National Park rather than separate ones with each County Council?
- Was the Purple Haze site in Ringwood, referenced on P27 of the report, in the New Forest National Park?
- As the Minerals and Waste Plan period went up to 2030 it was sensible to take this approach to enable reviews in 2020 and 2025.
- It was disappointing the see halting the use of landfill hadn't be included in the process.

236. In response to questions Members were advised:

- The Authority would look to continue working in partnership with the County Councils on Minerals and Waste Plans.
- The Purple Haze site was just outside the boundary of the New Forest National Park.
- There was a move away from the use of landfill sites in the South East, however, regional need also needed to be met.

237. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved, subject to the amendment of recommendation 2 to state that the summary would be "published on the Hampshire County Council website" rather than the "SDNPA website", to:

1. Agree that an update to the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (2013) is not required at this time, but that a further Review will begin in 2020.
2. Approve that a summary of the review process and the decisions be consolidated and published on the Hampshire County Council website as the '2018 Review of the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan'.
3. Agree that a programme of on-going engagement with interested parties commences following publication of the '2018 Review'.

ITEM 13. APPROACH TO PRODUCING THE REVISED PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

238. The Chair invited Helen Jackson, Chair of the Partnership Management Plan Task and Finish Group, to introduce the item. Authority Members considered the report from the Director of Countryside Policy and Management (Report NPA13/19).
239. Members made the following comments on appendix 3, Reporting:
- The approach to reporting was commended. This was a work in progress, but it was essential that the information was useful, accurate and able to be read by the general public.
240. Members made the following comments on appendix 4, Communication Structure:
- When considering landscape and beauty, should landscape be considered in a broader scope? Although beauty was important landscape included much more.
 - The phrase could be changed to “natural beauty”.
241. In response to questions Members were advised:
- It was felt not enough was made of the beauty in the landscape and beauty was also included to maintain consistency with the 25 year plan.
 - The short headings set out were only for the public, the longer description would be included with the short heading.
242. Members made the following comments on appendix 2, action plan:
- Representation had been made to the Glover Review on the status and deliverability of National Park management plans and whether they should be given more formal levels of authority.
 - Outcome 5 was vital in meeting the climate emergency.
 - It was good to see the significant severance caused by the A27 was recognised.
 - The potential projects resurfacing some of the cycle paths was a positive as there had been some issues with surfacing.
 - Further consideration needed to be given to signposting for minor cycle routes to raise public awareness.
243. In response to questions Members were advised:
- The next 5 years would be about extending the cycle network with partners and applying learnings from previous projects in matters such as surfacing.
244. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved to:
1. Agree the draft outcomes and priorities for inclusion in the Partnership Management Plan (PMP) (Appendix 1).
 2. Note the current draft Joint Action Plan (Appendix 2).
 3. Agree the approach to reporting on the PMP to the Authority, partners and wider public (paras 3.4 -3.7 and Appendix 3).
 4. Agree the approach to restructuring and to communicating the PMP (para 3.7 and Appendix 4).
 5. Delegate authority to the Director of Countryside Policy & Management, in consultation with the Chair of the PMP Task & Finish Group, to make any further changes to the draft joint action plan arising from the Authority’s deliberations prior to final submission to the Authority in July.

ITEM 14. PLANNING COMMITTEE

245. Authority Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 13 March 2019 and 11 April 2019.

ITEM 15. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

246. Authority Members noted the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 28 February 2019.
247. The meeting was closed to the public, including the press, and moved into private session at 3.02pm.