

## North York Moors National Park Authority

23 March 2015

### Progress Toward Establishing the North York Moors National Park Trust

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on progress toward setting up a Charitable Trust since the last report on 15 December 2014.
- 1.2 To present Members with draft Company Articles of the North York Moors National Park Trust (NYMNPT) for discussion and approval.
- 1.3 To seek Members approval to the proposed governance arrangements and financial input set out in this paper.
- 1.4 To seek Members approval to authorise the Chair, Deputy Chair and the Chief Executive to appoint trustees.
- 1.5 To seek Members approval to apply to Companies House and the Charity Commission to register the Trust.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 After Members approved the idea of setting up a charitable trust on 22 September 2014, and discussed proposed charitable objects on 15 December, the next steps were to;
  - i) make an initial approach to the Charity Commission on the principle of setting up a trust.
  - ii) further develop the charitable objects and consult Members by email.
- 2.2 At the September meeting, Members also approved the recommended model for the Trust as a Charity which is also a Company Limited by Guarantee.

#### 3. Response from the Charity Commission

- 3.1 A letter was sent to the Charities Commission by the Authority's Solicitor (week commencing 10 November 14) along with suggested charitable objects and the proposed governance arrangements relating to Trustees that were approved by Members.
- 3.2 The Authority solicitor had some discussion with a Charity Commission Legal Advisor and their response was encouraging. The advisor said they supported the establishment of the trust but suggested being more specific in the wording of the charitable objects and to include some examples of the type of activities that the Trust may wish to undertake in pursuance of those objects (see pt 4).
- 3.3 The Charity Commission advice on governance is that the proposal to set up a Trust with the **majority** of trustees taken from the Park Authority, (three Members and the CEO, plus 3 drawn from the public) is not now an acceptable arrangement for a

public authority. They recommend that the Trust be established with 4 trustees from the National Park Authority and 5 external trustees (see pt. 5.2).

#### 4. **Developing Charitable Objects**

- 4.1 Following Member's discussion on the proposed charitable objects at the NPA meeting on 15 December, those relating to the advancement of religion and amateur sport have been removed. The wording of a reduced number of six objects was refined and circulated to Members and staff for comment on 18 February 2015 with a deadline for responses of Monday 2 March. The subsequent revisions are at **Appendix 1**.

N.B. The charitable objects are included at Article 4 in the Articles of Association for the Charitable Company (see **Appendix 2**)

- 4.2 The 'North York Moors' is taken to be the geographical area comprising the National Park and all neighbouring land (which shall include towns and villages but not cities) which the Trust considers is associated with it.

#### 5. **Revised Governance Proposals**

- 5.1 The trustees are also known as the directors. Each trustee will also be a member of the Charity. Whilst the rights and obligations of the trustees and the members are set out in the Articles, the main points are set out below for clarity.

- 5.2 The Charity Commission recommends that the number of trustees is increased to nine, four from the Authority (including the post of Chief Executive) and five external trustees. However, given that the Articles refer to a **maximum** of nine, it will be possible to appoint only the original proposed 7. The majority must always be in favour of the external trustees.

- 5.3 The trustees and members have multiple roles which are referred to in the Company Articles and Memorandum of Association. For clarity these are as follows;

- The Trustees are effectively the Company Directors and must act solely in the interests of the Trust and in accordance with the Articles and carry out the Trust's charitable objects. They have powers and duties to run the Trust and make day-to-day decisions.
- By law the Trust also has to have a Membership. Members have different rights and responsibilities than the Trustees as detailed in the Articles (such as voting on major decisions and having limited liability) and must still act solely in the interests of the Trust and in accordance with the Articles. The Trustees will be the sole Members. It is not proposed at this stage that the Trust should have a wider membership though it is possible to vary this if considered desirable in the future.
- The Memorandum of Association details the Trustees (i.e. individuals and not companies or other organisations) at the time of application, and refers to these as 'Subscribers'.
- Therefore, in acting as Trustees, the Trustees have three titles which are interchangeable – Trustees, Directors and Subscribers. In acting as Members, the Trustees will be known as the Members.

- 5.4 For the purposes of the application to register the Trust, at least three Trustees must be appointed initially. The method of appointing the initial Trustees approved at the NPA meeting on 22 September is as follows;

'In order to establish the trust, it is proposed that in the first instance the Chair, Deputy Chair and Chief Executive of the Authority nominate appropriate individuals to be approached as potential trustees having canvassed ideas from Members and others. Once the trust is established, filling any vacancies will be a matter for the remaining trustees.'

If Members accept the recommendations contained in this paper they will be contacted by email for such suggestions.

- 5.5 It is desirable to initially create a staggered term of office for trustees in order that a situation is not reached where all the trustees retire at once. Therefore it is proposed that in the first instance the Chair, Deputy Chair and Chief Executive would 'appoint' all trustees for a term of 2, 3 or 4 years. These would retire at the end of their term and may not re-stand for a one year period.
- 5.6 The suggested rotation for trustees is; 'that from the second agm, not less than 25% of trustees will retire in rotation. This will be those trustees who are either at the term of their office or, if these are less than 25% then those who have been longest in office since their last appointment'.
- 5.7 In practice, this would ensure that a natural succession would be in place, and if for any reason only one trustee was due to retire, the longest serving other trustee would also have to retire, potentially before the end of their term. After the fourth annual general meeting, it is possible that four trustees may retire at once, but by then there will either be new trustees wanting to join, or some of the original trustees will be able to re-stand reducing the likelihood of an insufficient number appointed at any one time. In any event, article 32 of the Articles requires at least three trustees to be in office (as the quorum for meetings is three), so any trustee due to retire may not be able to retire and would continue in office so that there are three trustees.
- 5.8 Amongst other circumstances, a trustee will cease to be a member of the Trust if they are no longer a trustee. A trustee will no longer be a trustee if they cease to be a member of the National Park Authority, unless the trustee becomes a director drawn from elsewhere in accordance with the Articles.

## 6. **Application to Register the Trust and Company Limited by Guarantee**

- 6.1 The process of registering a Trust which is also a Company Limited by Guarantee involves finalising the draft Articles of Association for a Charitable Company and registering these at Companies House to secure incorporation. A draft for discussion is attached at **Appendix 2**). The same document will be used to subsequently register the Trust with the Charity Commission.
- 6.2 There are online applications to fill in which will be prepared and sent by the Authority's solicitor. All Trustees will be asked to sign a Trustee Declaration form (see **Appendix 4**).
- 6.3 A Memorandum of Association is also to be submitted which details the Trustees at the time of application and a model memorandum is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- 6.4 In order to register the Trust, it must prove that it has an income of not less than £5000 per annum which initially will need to be funded by the Authority

## 7. **Next Steps**

- 7.1 When the Articles and other procedures referred to in this paper are finalised the next steps will be to;

- Appoint trustees.
- Apply to register the Company/ Trust with Companies House and then the Charity Commission.
- Produce an outline operational plan of how the Trust can develop in terms of staffing, finance and other resources for the first 3 years of operation.
- Hold a first meeting of trustees, possibly prior to Trust registration to discuss business planning.
- Continue to produce regular updates on progress for discussion by Members.

## 8. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

8.1 The cost of setting up the trust has increased due to the amount of legal input needed but will be capped at £4500. In addition, an initial income of not less than £5000 from the Authority will need to be supplied in order to register the Trust.

8.2 There will be the commitment of staff time of the CEO and others as delegated and appropriate to establish the trust. Once established, a programme of work will be developed and agreed by the CEO and Directors which will require staff time to implement and be reported to Members in due course.

## 9. **Contribution to National Park Management Plan**

9.1 The establishment of a trust as approved by Members is directly supportive both in principle and practice of the National Park Management Plan objectives and delivery of National Park purposes.

## 10. **Legal Implications**

10.1 Though the trust, once set up, will:

- be an independent body responsible for its own legal and statutory returns;
- have trustees and members who must act solely in the interests of the Trust and in accordance with the Articles and carry out the Trust's charitable objects;

the involvement of officers from the Authority, as outlined in the paper to the NPA on 22 September 2014 (points 6 and 9.2) and point 5 in this paper, maximises the likelihood that the two organisations will remain mutually supportive in the long term for the benefit of the area.

## 11. **Recommendation**

11.1 That Members approve the revised charitable objects and draft Company Articles of the North York Moors National Park Trust (NYMPT).

11.2 That Members approve the proposed governance arrangements and financial input set out in this paper.

11.3 That Members, (subsequent to recommendation 11.1 & 11.2) authorise the Chair, Deputy Chair and Chief Executive to appoint trustees.

11.4 That Members authorise Officers to instruct the Authorities solicitor to apply to the Companies House and the Charity Commission to register the Trust

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**Background papers to this Report**

**File ref**

1. 22 September NPA  
Establishing a Charitable Trust to Fund Activity in the North York Moors
2. Various Charity Commission guidance documents

### **North York Moors National Park Trust revised (draft) charitable objects following consultation with Members and Staff (as extracted from the (draft) Company Articles of Association)**

The Charity's objects ('Objects') are specifically restricted to the following:

- 4.1 To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and enhancement of the physical, natural and cultural environment of the area known as the North York Moors, including its landscape and wildlife, in particular but not exclusively by the carrying out of work to improve the landscape and conserve habitats and species;
- 4.2 To advance the education of the public about the physical, natural and cultural environment of the North York Moors, in particular but not exclusively by raising awareness of the importance of those environments and delivering educational programmes in schools and local communities and elsewhere;
- 4.3 To promote opportunities for raising awareness of local art, culture and heritage to benefit the public, in particular but not exclusively by recording local traditions and customs, promoting traditional building styles and promoting art inspired by the North York Moors;
- 4.4 To promote sustainable development in the North York Moors for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by the promotion of research and innovation that is compatible with sustainable development and the protection of the environment. Sustainable development means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- 4.5 To develop and promote ways of improving the health and wellbeing of the public, in particular but not exclusively through the provision of access to, and engagement with the environment of the North York Moors;
- 4.6 To support the members of the community of the North York Moors to identify, and help meet, their needs to the extent that they are compatible with the aims of the Charity, in particular but not exclusively by promoting the development of community groups and facilities within the North York Moors.

**Draft Articles of Association of the North York Moors National Park Trust**

**COMPANY NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION FOR A CHARITABLE COMPANY**

**Articles of Association of**

**NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK TRUST**

**1 The company's name is:**

North York Moors National Park Trust  
(and in this document it is called the 'Charity')

**Interpretation**

**2 In the articles:**

'address' means a postal address or, for the purposes of electronic communication, a fax number, an email or postal address or a telephone number for receiving text messages in each case registered with the Charity;

'the articles' means the Charity's articles of association;

'the Charity' means the company intended to be regulated by the articles;

'clear days' in relation to the period of a notice means a period excluding:

- the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given;
- the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

'the Commission' means the Charity Commission for England and Wales;

'Companies Acts' means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Companies Act 2006) in so far as they apply to the Charity;

'the directors' means the directors of the Charity (as distinct from its members / subscribers as referred to in the articles). The directors are charity trustees as defined by section 177 of the Charities Act 2011;

'document' includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form;

'electronic form' has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Companies Act 2006;

'the memorandum' means the Charity's memorandum of association;

'North York Moors' means the geographical area comprising the North York Moors National Park, England and all neighbouring land (which shall include towns and villages but not cities) which the Charity considers is associated with it;

'officers' includes the directors and the secretary (if any);

'the seal' means the common seal of the Charity if it has one;

'secretary' means any person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Charity;

'the United Kingdom' means Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and

words importing one gender shall include all genders, and the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

Unless the context otherwise requires words or expressions contained in the articles have the same meaning as in the Companies Acts but excluding any statutory modification not in force when this constitution becomes binding on the charity.

Apart from the exception mentioned in the previous paragraph a reference to an Act of Parliament includes any statutory modification or re-enactment of it for the time being in force.

Any phrase introduced by the terms "including", "include", "in particular" or any similar expression shall, where the context permits, be construed as illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.

### **Liability of Members**

**3** The liability of the members is limited to a sum not exceeding £1, being the amount that each member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Charity in the event of its being wound up while he, she or it is a member or within one year after he, she or it ceases to be a member, for:

- (1) payment of the Charity's debts and liabilities incurred before he, she or it ceases to be a member;
- (2) payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- (3) adjustment of the rights of the contributions among themselves.

### **Objects**

**4** The Charity's objects ('Objects') are specifically restricted to the following:

- (1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and enhancement of the physical, natural and cultural environment of the area known as the North York Moors, including its landscape and wildlife, in particular but not exclusively by the carrying out of work to improve the landscape and conserve habitats and species;
- (2) To advance the education of the public about the physical, natural and cultural environment of the North York Moors, in particular but not exclusively by raising awareness of the importance of those environments and delivering educational programmes in schools and local communities and elsewhere;
- (3) To promote opportunities for raising awareness of local art, culture and heritage to benefit the public, in particular but not exclusively by recording local traditions and customs, promoting traditional building styles and promoting art inspired by the North York Moors;

- (4) To promote sustainable development in the North York Moors for the benefit of the public, in particular but not exclusively by the promotion of research and innovation that is compatible with sustainable development and the protection of the environment. Sustainable development means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
- (5) To develop and promote ways of improving the health and wellbeing of the public, in particular but not exclusively through the provision of access to and engagement with the environment of the North York Moors;
- (6) To support the members of the community of the North York Moors to identify, and help meet, their needs to the extent that they are compatible with the aims of the Charity, in particular but not exclusively by promoting the development of community groups and facilities within the North York Moors.

## **Powers**

**5** The Charity has power to do anything which is calculated to further its Object(s) or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the Charity has power:

- (1) to raise funds. In doing so, the Charity must not undertake any taxable permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
- (2) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (3) to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the Charity. In exercising this power, the Charity must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 122 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (4) to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the Charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed or as security for a grant or the discharge of an obligation. The Charity must comply as appropriate with sections 124 – 126 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- (5) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;
- (6) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Object(s);
- (7) to acquire, merge with or to enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity;
- (8) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
- (9) to employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the Charity. The Charity may employ or remunerate a director only to the extent it is permitted to do so by article 7 and provided it complies with the conditions in that article;
- (10) to:
  - (a) deposit or invest funds;
  - (b) employ a professional fund manager; and

- (c) arrange for the investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a nominee;

in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000;

- (11) to provide indemnity insurance for the directors in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011;
- (12) to pay out of the funds of the Charity the costs of forming and registering the Charity both as a company and as a Charity.

### **Application of Income and Property**

**6** (1) The income and property of the Charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the Object(s).

(2)

- (a) A director is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the Charity or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Charity.
  - (b) A director may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the Charity's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.
  - (c) A director may receive an indemnity from the Charity in the circumstances specified in article 57.
  - (d) A director may not receive any other benefit or payment unless it is authorised by article 7.
- (3) Subject to article 7, none of the income or property of the Charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the Charity. This does not prevent a member who is not also a director receiving:
- (a) a benefit from the Charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Charity;
  - (b) reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Charity.

### **Benefits and Payments to Charity Directors and Connected Persons**

#### **7 (1) General Provisions**

No director or connected person may:

- (a) buy any goods or services from the Charity on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- (b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the Charity;

- (c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the Charity;
- (d) receive any other financial benefit from the Charity;

unless the payment is permitted by sub clause (2) of this article, or authorised by the court or the Charity Commission.

In this article a 'financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

### **Scope and powers permitting directors' or connected persons' benefits**

(2)

- (a) A director or connected person may receive a benefit from the Charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the Charity provided that a majority of the directors do not benefit in this way.
- (b) A director or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the Charity where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, sections 185 and 186 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (c) Subject to sub clause (3) of this article a director or connected person may provide the Charity with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the Charity by the director or connected person.
- (d) A director or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the Charity at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
- (e) A director or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the director or connected person to the Charity. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The director concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.
- (f) A director or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the Charity on the same terms as members of the public.

### **Payment for supply of goods only – controls**

- (3) The Charity and its directors may only rely upon the authority provided by sub clause (2)(c) of this article if each of the following conditions is satisfied:
  - (a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between the Charity or its directors (as the case may be) and the director or connected person supplying the goods ('the supplier') under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the Charity.
  - (b) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
  - (c) The other directors are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the Charity to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a director or connected person. In reaching that decision the directors must balance the

advantage of contracting with a director or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.

- (d) The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to the Charity.
  - (e) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting.
  - (f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the directors in the minute book.
  - (g) A majority of the directors then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by article 7.
- (4) In sub clauses (2) and (3) of this article:
- (a) 'charity' includes any company in which the Charity:
    - (i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
    - (ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
  - (iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company.
  - (b) 'connected persons' includes any person within the definition in article 61 'Interpretation'.

### **Declaration of Directors' Interests**

- 8** A director must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the Charity or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the Charity which has not previously been declared. A director must absent himself or herself from any discussions of the Charity directors in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the Charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest).

### **Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties**

- 9** (1) If a conflict of interests arises for a director because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person and the conflict is not authorised by virtue of any other provision in the articles, the unconflicted directors may authorise such a conflict of interests where the following conditions apply:

- (a) the conflicted director is absent from the part of the meeting at which there is discussion of any arrangement or transaction affecting that other organisation or person;
- (b) the conflicted director does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when considering whether a quorum of directors is present at the meeting; and
- (c) the unconflicted directors consider it is in the interests of the Charity to authorise the conflict of interests in the circumstances applying.

- (2) In this article a conflict of interests arising because of a duty of loyalty owed to another organisation or person only refers to such a conflict which does not involve a direct or indirect benefit of any nature to a director or to a connected person.

### **Members**

- 10** (1) The subscribers to the memorandum are the first members of the Charity.
- (2) Membership is open to other individuals or organisations who:
- (a) apply to the Charity in the form required by the directors; and
  - (b) are approved by the directors;
- (3) (a) The directors may only refuse an application for membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the Charity to refuse the application.
- (b) The directors must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty – one days of the decision.
- (c) The directors must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The directors' decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.
- (4) Membership is not transferable.
- (5) The directors must keep a register of names and addresses of the members.

### **Classes of membership**

- 11** (1) The directors may establish classes of membership with different rights and obligations and shall record the rights and obligations in the register of members.
- (2) The directors may not directly or indirectly alter the rights or obligations attached to a class of membership.
- (3) The rights attached to a class of membership may only be varied if:
- (a) three – quarters of the members of that class consent in writing to the variation; or
  - (b) a special resolution is passed at a separate general meeting of the members of that class agreeing to the variation.
- (4) The provisions in the articles about general meetings shall apply to any meeting relating to the variation of the rights of any class of members.

### **Termination of membership**

- 12** Membership is terminated if:
- (1) the member dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;
  - (2) the member resigns by written notice to the Charity unless, after the resignation, there would be less than three members;

- (3) the member is permitted by the directors, in their absolute discretion, to retire, unless the directors or the Charity in general meeting shall make other provision under Article 58, and provided that after such retirement the number of members is not less than three;
- (4) for any reason, the member is no longer a director;
- (5) any sum due from the member to the charity is not paid in full within six months of it falling due;
- (6) the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the directors that it is in the best interests of the Charity that his or her or its membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:
  - (a) the member has been given at least twenty one days' notice in writing of the meeting of the directors at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
  - (b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the charity) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting;

provided that the membership of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) of the North York Moors National Park Authority or any successor body ("the National Park Authority") may not be terminated.

### **General meetings**

- 13** (1) The Charity must hold its first annual general meeting within eighteen months after the date of its incorporation.
- (2) An annual general meeting must be held in each subsequent year and not more than fifteen months may elapse between successive annual general meetings.
- 14** The directors may call a general meeting at any time.

### **Notice of general meetings**

- 15** (1) The minimum periods of notice required to hold a general meeting of the Charity are:
  - (a) twenty one clear days for an annual general meeting or a general meeting called for the passing of a special resolution;
  - (b) fourteen clear days for all other general meetings.
- (2) A general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority in number of members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting, being a majority who together hold not less than 90 percent of the total voting rights.
- (3) The notice must specify the date time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an annual general meeting, the notice must say so. The notice must also contain a statement setting out the right of members to appoint a proxy under section 324 of the Companies Act 2006 and article 22.
- (4) The notice must be given to all the members and the directors and auditors.

- 16** The proceedings at a meeting shall not be invalidated because a person who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of an accidental omission by the Charity.

### **Proceedings at general meetings**

- 17** (1) No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) A quorum is:
- (a) three members (which shall include at least one member which is not drawn from the National Park Authority) present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting; or
- (b) one tenth of the total membership at the time;

whichever is the greater.

- (3) The authorised representative of a member organisation shall be counted in the quorum.

- 18** (1) If:

- (a) a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting; or
- (b) during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present;

the meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the directors shall determine.

- (2) The directors must reconvene the meeting and must give at least seven clear days' notice of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.
- (3) If no quorum is present at the reconvened meeting within fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting the members present in person or by proxy at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

- 19** (1) General meetings shall be chaired by the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) of the National Park Authority, or such other person who has been appointed by him or her to chair meetings of the directors in the absence of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) of the National Park Authority.

- (2) If there is no such person or he or she is not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a director nominated by the directors shall chair the meeting.
- (3) If there is only one director present and willing to act, he or she shall chair the meeting.
- (4) If no director is present and willing to chair the meeting within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote must choose one of their number to chair the meeting.

- 20** (1) The members present in person or by proxy at a meeting may resolve by ordinary resolution that the meeting shall be adjourned.
- (2) The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the date, time place at which the meeting is to be reconvened unless those details are specified in the resolution.
- (3) No business shall be conducted at a reconvened meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.
- (4) If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the members for more than seven days, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.
- 21** (1) Any vote at a meeting shall be decided by a show of hands unless before, or on declaration of the result of, the show of hands a poll is demanded:
- (a) by the person chairing the meeting; or
- (b) by at least two members present in person or by proxy and having the right to vote at the meeting; or
- (c) by a member or members present in person or by proxy representing not less than one tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at the meeting.
- (2) (a) The declaration by the person who is chairing the meeting of the result of a vote shall be conclusive unless a poll is demanded.
- (b) The result of the vote must be recorded in the minutes of the Charity but the number or proportion of votes cast need not be recorded.
- (3) (a) A demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the person who is chairing the meeting.
- (b) If the demand for a poll is withdrawn the demand shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.
- (4) (a) A poll must be taken as the person who is chairing the meeting directs, who may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and who may fix a time and place for declaring the results of the poll.
- (b) The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll is demanded.
- (5) (a) A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair a meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately.
- (b) A poll demanded on any other question must be taken either immediately or at such time and place as the person who is chairing the meeting directs.
- (c) The poll must be taken within thirty days after it has been demanded.
- (d) If the poll is not taken immediately at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.
- (e) If a poll is demanded the meeting may continue to deal with any other business that may be conducted at the meeting.

## **Content of proxy notices**

- 22** (1) Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing (a 'proxy notice') which:
- (a) states the name and address of the member appointing the proxy;
  - (b) identifies the person appointed to be that member's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
  - (c) is signed by or on behalf of the member appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine; and
  - (d) is delivered to the Charity in accordance with the articles and instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting to which they relate.
- (2) The Charity may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.
- (3) Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.
- (4) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as –
- (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
  - (b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

## **Delivery of proxy notices**

- 22A** (1) A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or at any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Charity by or on behalf of that person.
- (2) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Charity a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.
- (3) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.
- (4) If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointer's behalf.

## **Written resolutions**

- 23** (1) A resolution in writing agreed by a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution by a majority of not less than 75%) of the members who would have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be effective provided that:
- (a) a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to every eligible member;

- (b) a simple majority (or in the case of a special resolution a majority of not less than 75%) of members has signified its agreement to the resolution; and
  - (c) it is contained in an authenticated document which has been received at the registered office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date.
- (2) A resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members have signified their agreement.
  - (3) In the case of a member that is an organisation, its authorised representative may signify its agreement.

### **Votes of members**

- 24** Subject to article 11, every member, whether an individual or an organisation, shall have one vote.
- 25** An objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is tendered and the decision of the person who is chairing the meeting shall be final.
- 26** (1) Any organisation that is a member of the Charity may nominate any person to act as its representative at any meeting of the Charity.  
(2) The organisation must give written notice to the Charity of the name of its representative. The representative shall not be entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the Charity. The representative may continue to represent the organisation until written notice to the contrary is received by the Charity.  
(3) Any notice given to the Charity will be conclusive evidence that the representative is entitled to represent the organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked. The Charity shall not be required to consider whether the representative has been properly appointed by the organisation.

### **Directors**

- 27** (1) A director must be a natural person aged 16 years or older.  
(2) No one may be appointed a director if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of article 39.
- 28** The minimum number of directors shall be three and (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) the maximum number shall be nine, such numbers to be drawn from members of the National Park Authority (whose number shall include at all times the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) of the National Park Authority or his nominated deputy) and from elsewhere (whose number shall at all times be in the majority).
- 29** The first directors shall be those persons notified to Companies House as the first directors of the Charity.
- 30** A director may not appoint an alternate director or anyone to act on his behalf at meetings of the directors.

### **Powers of directors**

- 31** (1) The directors shall manage the business of the Charity and may exercise all the powers of the Charity unless they are subject to any restrictions imposed by the Companies Acts, the articles or any special resolution.
- (2) No alteration of the articles or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the directors.
- (3) Any meeting of the directors at which a quorum is present at the time the relevant decision is made may exercise all the powers exercisable by the directors.

### **Retirement of directors**

- 32** At the second and subsequent annual general meetings not less than one quarter of the directors (other than the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) of the National Park Authority or his nominated deputy) must retire from the office, unless by the close of the meeting the members have failed to elect sufficient directors to hold a quorate meeting of the directors. If there is only one director he or she must retire.
- 33** (1) The directors to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment and shall remain in retirement for at least twelve months. If any directors became or were appointed directors on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.
- (2) If a director is required to retire at an annual general meeting by a provision of the articles the retirement shall take effect upon the conclusion of the meeting.

### **Appointment of directors**

- 34** The Charity may by ordinary resolution:
- (1) appoint a person, subject to article 33(1), who is willing to act to be a director; and
- (2) determine the rotation in which any additional directors are to retire.
- 35** No person, other than a director retiring by rotation (subject to article 33(1)), may be appointed a director at any general meeting unless:
- (1) he or she is recommended for re-election by the directors; or
- (2) not less than fourteen nor more than thirty – five clear days before the date of the meeting, the Charity is given a notice that:
- (a) is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;
- (b) states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a director;
- (c) contains the details that, if the person were to be appointed, the Charity would have to file at Companies House; and
- (d) is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.

- 36** All members who are entitled to receive notice of a general meeting must be given not less than seven nor more than twenty – eight clear days' notice of any resolution to be put to the meeting to appoint a director other than a director who is to retire by rotation.
- 37** (1) The directors may, subject to article 33(1), appoint a person who is willing to act to be a director.
- (2) A director appointed by a resolution of the other directors must retire at the next annual general meeting and must not be taken into account in determining the directors who are to retire by rotation.
- 38** The appointment of a director, whether by the Charity in general meeting or by the other directors, must not cause the number of directors to exceed any number fixed as the maximum number of directors.

### **Disqualification and removal of directors**

- 39** A director shall cease to hold office if he or she:
- (1) ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Acts or is prohibited by law from being a director;
  - (2) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 and 179 of the Charities act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of those provisions);
  - (3) ceases to be a member of the charity;
  - (4) ceases to be a member of the National Park Authority (unless he becomes a director drawn from elsewhere in accordance with the articles);
  - (5) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months;
  - (6) resigns as a director by notice to the Charity (but only if at least three directors will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
  - (7) is absent without the permission of the directors from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the directors resolve that his or her office be vacated.

### **Remuneration of directors**

- 40** The directors must not be paid any remuneration unless it is authorised by article 7.

### **Proceedings of directors**

- 41** (1) The directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of the articles.
- (2) Any director may call a meeting of the directors.
- (3) The secretary (if any) must call a meeting of the directors if requested to do so by a director.

- (4) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes.
  - (5) In the case of equality of votes, the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
  - (6) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the directors in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.
- 42**
- (1) No decision may be made by a meeting of the directors unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made. 'Present' includes being present by suitable electronic means agreed by the directors in which a participant or participants may communicate with all other participants.
  - (2) The quorum shall be three or the number nearest to one – third of the total number of directors, whichever is the greater, or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the directors.
  - (3) A director shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that director is not entitled to vote.
- 43**
- If the number of directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing directors or director may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.
- 44**
- (1) The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) of the National Park Authority or his nominated deputy shall chair meetings of the directors.
  - (2) If the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) of the National Park Authority or his nominated deputy is unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the directors present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
  - (3) The person appointed to chair meetings of the directors shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by the articles or delegated to him or her by the directors.
- 45**
- (1) A resolution in writing or in electronic form agreed by all of the directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the directors and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors duly convened and held.
  - (2) The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more directors has signified their agreement.

### **Delegation**

- 46**
- (1) The directors may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee of two or more directors but the terms of any delegation must be recorded in the minute book.
  - (2) The directors may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:
    - (a) the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate;

- (b) no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the Charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the directors.
- (3) The directors may revoke or alter a delegation.
- (4) All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the directors.

### **Validity of directors' decisions**

**47** (1) Subject to article 47(2), all acts done by a meeting of directors, or of a committee of directors, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a director:

- (a) who was disqualified from holding office;
- (b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;
- (c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise;

if without:

- (d) the vote of that director; and
- (e) that director being counted in the quorum;

the decision has been made by a majority of the directors at a quorate meeting.

(2) Article 47(1) does not permit a director or a connected person to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the directors or of a committee of directors if, but for article 47(1), the resolution would have been void, or if the director has not complied with article 8.

### **Seal**

**48** If the Charity has a seal it must only be used by the authority of the directors or a committee of directors authorised by the directors. The directors may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a director and by the secretary (if any) or by a second director.

### **Minutes**

**49** The directors must keep minutes of all:

- (1) appointments of officers made by the directors;
- (2) proceedings at meetings of the Charity;
- (3) meetings of the directors and committees of directors including:
  - (a) the names of the directors present at the meeting;
  - (b) the decisions made at the meetings; and

- (c) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.

### **Accounts**

- 50** (1) The directors must prepare for each financial year accounts as required by the Companies Acts. The accounts must be prepared to show a true and fair view and follow accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board or its successors and adhere to the Recommendations of applicable Statements of Recommended Practice.
- (2) The directors must keep accounting records as required by the Companies Act.

### **Annual Report and Return and Register of Charities**

- 51** (1) The directors must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the:
- (a) transmission of a copy of statements of account to the Commission;
- (b) preparation of an Annual Report and the transmission of a copy of it to the Commission;
- (c) preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.
- (2) The directors must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the Charity's entry on the Central Registrar of Charities.

### **Means of communication to be used**

- 52** (1) Subject to the articles, anything sent or supplied by or to the Charity under the articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the Companies Act 2006 provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of that Act to be sent or supplied by or to the Charity.
- (2) Subject to the articles, any notice or document to be sent or supplied to a director in connection with the taking of decisions by directors may also be sent or supplied by the means by which that director has asked to be sent or supplied with such notices or documents for the time being.

**53** Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the articles:

- (1) must be in writing; or
- (2) must be given in electronic form.

**54** (1) The Charity may give any notice to a member either:

- (a) personally; or
- (b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or
- (c) by leaving it at the address of the member; or
- (d) by giving it in electric form to the member's address; or

- (e) by placing the notice on a website and providing the person with a notification in writing or in electronic form of the presence of the notice on the website. The notification must state that it concerns a notice of a company meeting and must specify the place date and time of the meeting.
- (2) A member who does not register an address with the Charity or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the Charity.
- 55** A member present in person at any meeting of the Charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.
- 56** (1) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.
- (2) Proof that an electronic form of the notice was given shall be conclusive where the company can demonstrate that it was properly addressed and sent, in accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006.
- (3) In accordance with section 1147 of the Companies Act 2006 notice shall be deemed to be given:
  - (a) 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted; or
  - (b) in the case of an electronic form of communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

### **Indemnity**

- 57** (1) The Charity shall indemnify a relevant director against any liability incurred in that capacity, to the extent permitted by sections 232 to 234 of the Companies Act 2006.
- (2) In this article a 'relevant director' means any director or former director of the Charity.
- 57A** The Charity may indemnify an auditor against any liability incurred by him or her or it:
  - (1) in defending proceedings (whether civil or criminal) in which judgment is given in his or her or its favour or he or she or it is acquitted; or
  - (2) in connection with an application under section 1157 of the Companies Act 2006 (power of Court to grant relief in case of honest and reasonable conduct) in which relief is granted to him or her or it by the Court.

### **Rules**

- 58** (1) The directors may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the Charity.
- (2) The bye laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:
  - (a) the admission of members of the Charity (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and the conditions of membership and the terms on which members may resign or have their membership terminated, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made to members;

- (b) the conduct of members of the Charity in relation to one another, and to the Charity's employees and volunteers;
  - (c) the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Charity's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
  - (d) the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the directors in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Companies Acts or by the articles;
  - (e) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.
- (3) The Charity in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye laws.
- (4) The directors must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye laws to the notice of members of the Charity.
- (5) The rules or bye laws shall be binding on all members of the Charity. No rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the articles.

### **Disputes**

- 59** If a dispute arises between members of the Charity about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members of the Charity under these articles, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

### **Dissolution**

- 60** (1) The members of the Charity may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the Charity be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:
- (a) directly for the Objects; or
  - (b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
  - (c) to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.
- (2) Subject to any such resolution of the members of the Charity, the directors of the Charity may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Charity after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on or before dissolution of the Charity be applied or transferred:
- (a) directly for the Objects; or
  - (b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
  - (c) to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

- (3) In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the Charity (except to a member that is itself a charity) and if no resolution in accordance with article 60(1) is passed by the members or the directors the net assets of the Charity shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the Court or the Commission.

### **Interpretation**

**61** In article 7, sub clause (2) of article 9 and sub clause (2) of article 47 'connected person' means:

- (1) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the director;
- (2) the spouse or civil partner of the director or of any person falling within sub clause (1) above;
- (3) a person carrying on business in partnership with the director or with any person falling within sub clause (1) or (2) above;
- (4) an institution which is controlled –
  - (a) by the director or any connected person falling within sub – clause (1), (2), or (3) above; or
  - (b) by two or more persons falling within sub clause 4 (a), when taken together
- (5) a body corporate in which –
  - (a) the director or any connected person falling within sub clauses (1) to (3) has a substantial interest; or
  - (b) two or more persons falling within sub clause (5) (a) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

Sections 350 – 352 of the Charities Act 2011 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this article.



Trustee Declaration Form

## Trustee declaration

**Organisation name**

This organisation has a corporate trustee and its directors are making this declaration (tick if applicable).

**Trustee eligibility and responsibility**

By signing this form, you declare that you:

- are willing to act as a trustee
- understand your organisation's purposes (objects) and rules set out in its governing document
- are not prevented from acting as a trustee because you:
  - have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception
  - are currently declared bankrupt (or subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order)
  - have an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) to pay off debts with creditors
  - are disqualified from being a company director
  - have previously been removed as a trustee by us or the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement
  - are disqualified or barred from acting as a trustee of this charity under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

You also jointly and individually declare that:

- the information you provide is true, complete and correct
- you understand that it's an offence under section 60(1) (b) of the Charities Act 2011 to knowingly or recklessly provide false or misleading information
- your organisation's funds will be held in its name in an account in England or Wales
- personal information and residency details for trustees named in your application are correct and you don't plan to add or change trustees or their residency in the near future
- you will comply with your responsibilities as trustees set out in the Charity Commission's guidance 'The essential trustee (CC3)'

**Personal benefit**

If your organisation pays (or will pay) any trustee for being a trustee OR any trustee or person connected to them for providing goods and services, you jointly and individually declare that this will be reasonable, and:

- will help the organisation carry out its purposes, and/or
- is a necessary by-product of it carrying out its purposes

**Working with vulnerable groups**

Ticking this box indicates that your organisation works with vulnerable people (including children) and you jointly and individually declare that you:

- have read and understood the Charity Commission's safeguarding guidance
- have carried out all trustee eligibility tests the law requires

**Total number of trustees**

**Trustees named**

Trustee 1 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 2 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Trustee 1 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 2 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Trustee 3 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 4 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Trustee 3 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 4 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Trustee 5 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 6 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Trustee 5 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 6 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Trustee 7 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 8 name <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Trustee 7 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Trustee 8 signature <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>

