

North York Moors National Park Authority

19 December 2016

On the Record

1. **NPE Minutes**

The minutes from the National Parks England meeting held on 18 October 2016 are attached as **Appendix 1**.

2. **Miscellaneous Items**

a) **Public Rights of Way Legal Events**

1. Diversion of Bridleway 2 Kirby Knowle (Manor House Farm)

Background

Letter to Legal Services on:

<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
8/11/2016	5050/4/18/DIV 2

b) **Public Rights of Way Delegation Agreement**

1. Concluded with North Yorkshire County Council on 3 October 2016

c) **Emergency Closure of Public Rights of Way**

1. Footpaths 33 Goathland and 81 Grosmont (LYthe Beck) from 1 to 21 December due to danger to the public following loss of footbridge and abutment after recent

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**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND
MEETING**

**Minutes of meeting held on 18 October 2016 between 11.00am-15.30pm at Mary Sumner House,
Westminster, London**

Items listed in order of discussion

	Present			
	<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>	
	Jacquie Burgess	John Packman	Broads Authority	
	Bill Hitchins		Dartmoor NPA	
	Andrea Davis		Exmoor NPA	
	Michael McKinley	Richard Leafe	Lake District NPA	
	Edward Heron (alternate Director)	Alison Barnes	New Forest NPA	
	Jim Bailey	Andy Wilson	North York Moors NPA	
	Glen Sanders		Northumberland NPA	
	Lesley Roberts	Sarah Fowler	Peak District NPA	
	Margaret Paren (Chair)	Trevor Beattie	South Downs NPA	
	Carl Lis	David Butterworth	Yorkshire Dales NPA	
	<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>		
	Paul Hamblin	National Parks England		
	Amanda Brace	National Parks England		
	Sophie Gledhill (minutes)	National Parks England		
	Lord Gardiner of Kimble	Defra Minister (attended for item 12)		

Item		Agreed Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all attendees, in particular Carl Lis and Bill Hitchins as returning Chairs, and introduced Edward Heron, who attended as an alternate Director for Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies and Introductions</p> <p>Apologies were received from Oliver Crosthwaite Eyre (New Forest National Park Authority), Tony Gates (Northumberland National Park), Nigel Stone (Exmoor National Park Authority) and Kevin Bishop (Dartmoor National Park Authority).</p> <p>Sarah Fowler was giving evidence at the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee Oral Evidence Session on the Future of the Natural Environment after the EU Referendum and joined the meeting post evidence.</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>AB informed the Board that she is a Trustee of the Greater London National Park City. There were no other declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p>Approve minutes from meeting held on 08 June 2016</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Planning Bill</u> The Neighbourhood Planning Bill has been reduced in its legislative scope since initial</p>	

	<p>discussions at the NPE AGM in June 2016. The Bill no longer has an infrastructure focus and it is now anticipated that risks associated with the Bill for NPAs are diminished. There are no significant impacts for NPAs or National Park purposes and this will allow for decreased monitoring by NPE. LR explained the Peak District has encountered issues covered by the Bill as there are some neighbourhoods who are located in villages that are split between two parishes and this requires extra consideration. These parishes often turn to the NPA for support.</p> <p>PH agreed to follow up with John Scott regarding the Neighbourhood Planning Bill, to discuss the issues raised by LR and the impact on the Peak District.</p> <p><u>Digital Economy Bill (GS)</u> GS requested for an update on the Digital Economy Bill from NPE to relay to his members, who have a particular interest in this Bill. PH informed him that NPE has submitted a proposal to the DCMS for a bespoke fund for the roll out of rural broadband in National Parks. However, PH indicated that this was not a legislative proposal. GS stated he had received feedback from his members who wish for a proactive approach when talking to their constituents. It was agreed that NPE would produce a short note for NPOs to share with NPA members as they see fit on the Digital Economy Bill and the work conducted by NPE on rural broadband.</p> <p><u>National Trail (TB)</u> TB informed the Board of a recent meeting he attended with the National Trails, focusing on National Trails' finances. TB reported that there has been significant pressure on NE to withdraw the National Trail 50% funding cut. However a threat of a funding cut remains for next year and there was generally uncertainty around the duration of this change of heart. A working group of six National Trails (Chaired by the South Downs NPA) is looking at various income generating proposals. The group will also look at how to monetise the benefits of National Trails to show their added value, using the principles of natural capital. All 15 National Trails partners will be meeting on 20th October with Natural England. The National Trails are also talking to Defra to see if it makes more sense to transfer funding for National Trails to a hosting protected area, thereby cutting Natural England out of the process. These are high level negotiations and TB will report back to the Board on developments.</p> <p><u>CNP Attendance at NPE Board meetings (MP)</u> The Chair drew the Board's attention to the fact that Fiona Howie (CNP) was not present at the meeting. She explained that NPE values the work of CNP and would have regular meetings with them in the future but that it was not appropriate that they attended Board meetings. It was agreed that CNP would be invited exceptionally rather than through a standing invitation.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>PH / AB</p> <p>All</p> <p>TB</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Lead NPO report</p> <p>This was the first instance of this report being presented to the Board by the Lead NPO, TB. The paper provided an overview of the work conducted by the lead officer, updating the Board on discussions and activities undertaken since the last Board meeting.</p> <p>Relations with Whitehall have improved, continuing to strengthen our relationship with Defra, and other Governmental departments. This success is highlighted, for example, by the engagement to Defra with National Parks Week. TB also informed the Board that he meets the Chief Planning Officer of DCLG on a regular basis to push NPE's agenda and concerns. PH has recently met with the Department for Transport, to feed into the walking and cycling strategy. PH also met with Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate, Sarah Richards, and conveyed the point that NPAs are different from other planning authorities.</p> <p>PH also informed the Board of a future campaign by Defra, which would focus on children connecting with nature and involve Natural England, Defra and possibly the Department of Education. MM requested that although NPE is making inroads with Defra, there should be a focus on raising the profile within other departments not just Defra. After a discussion it was agreed that Chairs and NPOs should use their opportunities with other government</p>	<p>All</p>

	<p>departments to convey NPEs messages.</p> <p>With regards to the work of specialist groups TB updated the Board on the progress of the Groups and reiterated the importance of them. The Groups enable policy agendas to be discussed, to have professional input into the development of NPE positions and the sharing of best practice across NPAs.</p> <p>TB corrected the paper as the Ranger Services Group meeting was being held in November, not having already met in Snowdonia, as stated.</p> <p>CL requested that in the future the Chair of NPE produce a similar update and the Board agreed that the Lead NPO paper was welcomed. It was agreed to continue the lead NPO report and that there would be an oral report from the Chair to the Board in future.</p> <p>TBs position on the Defra's internal Environment Committee is an appointment of the Lead NPO. TB would be replaced by AW when he commences his Lead NPO term, unless AW wishes for TB to remain the representative.</p> <p><u>Links with NPUK and NPPL</u></p> <p>Post National Parks Week media analysis was conducted by NP-UK and it was found that the campaign contributed to roughly £3 million advertising equivalent. The Board discussed the various levels of branding for the National Park family, and potential effect of confusing and diluting the brand. The LYNP brand was developed to raise the profile of NPAs within England. It was agreed that there is a need to ensure that in the future there are clear distinctions of branding at each level of the NP family.</p>	<p>TB/ AW and MP</p> <p>TB/ AW</p> <p>All</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Approval of revised Draft National Parks England Business Plan</p> <p>The Directors were asked to note the changes made to the business plan and approve the Plan. The Board were reminded that the three strategic aims remain the same. The Business plan has been shaped by the external priorities of the formation of a new Government post referendum, Brexit and the 8 Point Plan.</p> <p>Under Aim 1, which focuses on NPEs reputation, a new section had been added in reference to the importance of collaborative working, and what NPE hopes to achieve under this aim, in line with the Board's proposals outlined at the NPE AGM in June.</p> <p>The Business Plan was approved.</p> <p>It was agreed that PH would produce a briefing for all Board members, that set out NPE's priorities and that could be shared with local MPs if they wanted to.</p> <p>MP mentioned that whilst the prioritisation process meant that under Aim 3, Payment for Ecosystem Services would not be a major piece of work, it would be worthwhile just keeping a watching brief which was agreed.</p> <p>It was agreed that PH would circulate the approved business Plan to the Chairs and NPOs, including an updated link in the Newsletter.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>PH</p> <p>AB</p> <p>PH</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Implications of Brexit on National Parks</p> <p>PH introduced this item alongside TB. The Board were informed that NPE have already conducted a considerable amount of work assessing the implications of Brexit for National Parks and NPAs. Thanks were minuted to the Professional Workings Groups who had helped NPE to prepare a well-informed assessment. Risks and opportunities were identified for NPAs. The role of NPE was agreed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence gathering at a National level (supported by intelligence gleaned by NPAs) • Facilitate collective positioning (where possible) • Engage with Ministers and Officials on the detailed implementation of proposed changes • Promoting National Parks as test-beds 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking existing research and analysis within individual Parks to create a common, shared evidence base. <p>After a brief discussion the Future of Farming Groups Terms of Reference were approved and the group formally established by the Board. It was suggested that the Future of Farming Group and the other Professional Working Groups could provide access to departments and provide new avenues of influence.</p> <p>It was agreed that PH working with NPOs would produce short sharp messages on NPEs four policy areas (set out in the paper) and Brexit, to create a narrative, for the next Board meeting. This can then be used by Chairs and NPOs when discussing with stakeholders.</p> <p>There is a need for the NPE Board and the Future of Farming Group, on behalf of the NPA family, to prepare the high level narrative focused on farming before Article 50 is triggered by the Government. JB (as Chair of the Future of Farming Group) proposed the following format of meetings before March 2017;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introductory meeting for the group 2) An invite to parks to provide evidence/ contributions 3) A third meeting to prepare a high level workable proposal <p>JBu proposed that at a future Board meeting the potential implications of Brexit on tertiary education and funding avenues should be looked at. The Board would focus initially on the four priority areas agreed, but the proposal was noted as it is essential that we maintain relationships with funding providers that support work within NPAs.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>PH</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Implementing the 8 Point Plan – summary of internal stocktake</p> <p>PH introduced this item. Work was undertaken by Officers in preparing submissions on how their NPA would deliver the 8 Point Plan, and SG had collated this information. Every Authority had contributed and the Officers had provided a rich resource of material. PH wished for thanks to NPA staff to be minuted. The importance of the Plan to the Government was cemented when the Secretary of State referred to the plan as “good practise”. This provided reassurance that the Plan would remain on the agenda in the future. It was agreed that NPE and the Board needed to ensure that the plan is delivered by all agencies involved not just NPAs. It was also agreed to maintain momentum and profile for the Plan, and seek Ministerial support for NPA activity that contributes towards implementing the Plan. The Board were also asked to note the commitment to prepare a high level summary of activity against the Plan for the first anniversary of the publication of the Plan in March 2017.</p> <p>The Board were informed that there has been a change in the apprenticeships scheme and the tax systems around it. NPA are attempting to offer new apprenticeship opportunities (as per the 8 Point Plan objectives) but are currently being taxed on the particular levee. JP informed the Board that there are opportunities to claim the Apprenticeship Levy back, however at present this only applies to apprenticeships that are not offered in the National Parks.</p> <p>MP would like to continue work on promoting National Park produce especially post Brexit, and it was agreed that PH would invite the Defra food unit to a meeting of the Board.</p> <p>SF updated the Board on the oral evidence session to the Environmental Audit Committee that she had just been at. This followed the submission of oral evidence. Unfortunately, the previous evidence session overran and the Committee did not get to ask her how NPAs might be arbiters for managing agri-environment schemes. It was agreed that SF would draft, with PH, some NPE supplementary evidence on this point.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>PH</p> <p>SF / PH</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Preparation for meeting Lord Gardiner</p> <p>An agenda had been proposed and shared with the Minister. Discussion by the Board reinforced a need to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brexit and the opportunities presented for changing legislation • The 8 Point Plan and the Government is delivering its part of the Plan 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avenues for establishing and maintaining a good relationship with Lord Gardiner and Government officials. • The planning issue the NYMNPAs had been encountering was discussed and it was agreed to raise this with the minister. <p>A collective approach was identified as the best way forward, and we would invite him to visit all 10 English National Parks.</p>	
11.	<p>National Park Authority Appointment Process</p> <p>MP introduced this item. Defra have proposed to revamp the appointment process for SoS appointments in the interests of NPAs. As well as those changes already notified to Chairs, the following were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, Chairs and NPOs were asked whether they are happy for the appointment process to be reviewed annually which was agreed. Furthermore the Board agreed Defra's proposed proactive approach, for Chairs to review the criteria annually and to meet with the Minister on this topic alongside the Chairs of the two AONB Conservative Boards. • Secondly, the new, centralised, appointment unit at Defra was discussed. This unit will advertise posts and oversee the process. The Chairs were asked what steps they could take to ensure that high quality candidates apply for vacancies. The Board identified possible ways to engage local contacts. <p>GS formally thanked MP for all her hard work on SoS appointments.</p>	<p>All / PH</p> <p>ALL</p>
12.	<p>Meeting Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lord Gardiner</p> <p>The Board met with Lord Gardiner. The meeting was held under Chatham house rules. Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of National Park Authority Members, and the ability to appoint strong candidates • How to help ensure Defra Group benefit from the knowledge of NPAs whilst respecting the independence of NPAs • Brexit and the Future of Farming group • 25 year Environment plan • Liaison with CLG 	
14.	<p>Senior Projects Officer Business Case</p> <p>TB introduced this item. It was agreed that it would be a short term defined contract, and will ensure that the post will stick to the terms of employment. The Board were asked to agree the following;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Principle of a new Senior Projects Officer was agreed unanimously. 2) Each NPA was invited to contribute financially to the post. 8 out of 10 signalled agreement to contribute an equal proportion towards the cost of the post. The Peak District will notify Chair of their position after confirmation from their Authority. 3) AD agreed to update the Board on the possibility of ENPA making a financial contribution. 	<p>ALL</p> <p>AD</p>
15.	<p>Governance – Revising NPE's Standing Orders</p> <p>The Chair introduced this item. Standing Orders (SO) for NPE have been in place since 2008, and are limited in their scope. It was highlighted that there is no procedure for the election of the Chair or Deputy. The options for voting on proposals that would not impact on NPAs should also be examined. It was proposed that, if needed, the Board should amend the Standing Orders. NP-UK are intending to use NPEs framework for SO.</p> <p>LR thanked MP for bringing this item to the meeting and for all the work she has already conducted on the potential revision of the SO. JBU offered the services of the Broads</p>	

	<p>Authority in-house lawyer to look at the SO and make any suggestions for the NPE Board to consider.</p> <p>It was agreed that the item would feature on the agenda of the next NPE Board meeting, and include recommendations from the solicitor for the Board to consider.</p>	<p>JBu</p> <p>PH</p>
16.	<p>Date of NPE AGM 2017</p> <p>The NPAs AGM are held in July and it was agreed that NPEs AGM should be held in late September/October to allow for new members a grace settling in period.</p> <p>It was agreed that SG would distribute a Doodle poll to determine the Board's winter video conference meeting.</p>	<p>SG</p> <p>SG</p>
17.	<p>Possible New National Parks</p> <p>The Chair introduced this item. JBu expressed concern about the dilution of the National Park image, with the introduction of new Parks. It was agreed that the Board of NPE should take the following stance when asked about the proposal of new National Parks, including that of the Greater London National Park City; <i>'It is an interesting idea and one that we will follow with interest'</i>.</p> <p>DB reminded the Board that NP-UK has a policy that actively promotes the proposal of the Mourne Mountains National Park in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>All</p>
Items for Information		
18.	<p>Engagement with the New Government</p> <p>Since the change in Prime Minister and members of the Government, NPE undertook a number of activities in order to engage with new Ministers and officials in key positions. NPE is working hard to improve links and the reputation of NPAs and the Board are aware that the all have a responsibility to promote NPAs to ministers when opportunities arise.</p>	
19.	<p>Notes of E-NPOG Meeting 07.09.16</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p>	
20.	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>No other business was raised.</p>	
21.	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>NPE Board meeting Video Conference in Dec/Jan NPE Board meeting Thursday 9th February (London) NPE Board meeting Wednesday 5th April (London) NPE Board meeting Monday 19th June (National Park TBC) NP-UK Board meeting Tuesday 20th June (National Park TBC) NPE Board meeting (AGM) Wednesday 27th September (TBC)(London) NPE Board meeting Video Conference (Dec)(Date TBC)</p>	