

# North York Moors National Park Authority

14 December 2015

## On the Record

### 1. **ANPA Induction Course March 2016**

The next ANPA Induction Course is due to take place as follows: Tues 8 – Thurs 10 March 2016 – Dartmoor. Any members wishing to attend should contact Vanessa, Committees Officer, for further information. This is an ideal course for new members or those wishing to refresh their knowledge.

### 2. **Secretary of State Member Appointments 2016**

After extending the deadline by a further week, the application window for Secretary of State Member vacancies for 2016 closed on 9 November. NYMNPA has one vacancy for a Secretary of State member, 12 applications for the position have been received. The interview for this new NYMNPA Secretary of State Member is due to take place on 26 January 2016, at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley. Initial appointments are for a period of up to 4 years. Appointments will take effect from 1 April 2016.

### 3. **E-agendas only from January 2016**

E-agendas have been in use at main Authority Committee meetings for nearly a year now. As from January 2016 we are proposing to only produce a very few paper copies of agendas for use by members of the public attending meetings, with Members making full use of the electronic technology on offer to them via the Members Extranet. Any Members requiring additional Extranet training should contact Simon Baum, ICT Manager to arrange.

### 4. **Minutes of National Parks England Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2015 at Bovey Castle, Dartmoor can be found at **Appendix 1**

### 5. **Review of New Members Induction Process**

Following the introduction of the members extranet earlier this year, the Customer Service team turned their attention to the Members' Induction process, with a view to simplifying processes, cutting down on paperwork and making better use of IT. The outcome, a shorter, more efficient, streamlined process, linked to the members extranet has enabled smarter working between the Customer Service Team and new Members joining the Authority. There is now a specific page on the Members Extranet dedicated to New member needs, providing links to key documents/websites and specific start up documentation. Several of our newest members have now completed their inductions using the revised process and feedback has been favourable.

### 6. **Update from Members of the Trust Working Group**

The move to set up a charitable trust is progressing with NPA Members Bryn Griffiths, Sarah Oswald, Malcolm Bowes, and CEO Andy Wilson being appointed as the first directors of the North York Moors National Park Trust which was registered as a private company limited by guarantee on 6 November 2015. The next steps are to appoint five more directors, and then apply to the Charity Commission to register the company as a charitable trust.

7. **Update from Members of the Visitor Centres Working Group**

Following a paper and business plans for the visitor centres being approved by Members in December 2014, a task and finish working group was created to develop a vision for the Sutton Bank National Park Centre and subsequently a plan to implement this. To date the group has met four times, produced a draft vision paper and had informal discussions with others. It is planned to discuss the proposals with staff and volunteers (7 January) then present a paper outlining the vision and proposals to the FRAS Committee on 1 February 2016, and then the full Authority on 21 March. Members should be aware that alongside this, officers are actively seeking funds to extend facilities at Sutton Bank from a variety of sources in line with its business plan objectives.

8. **Miscellaneous Items**

a) **Emergency Closure of Public Footpath**

Public Footpath 17 Eskdaleside cum Ugglebarnby at Iburndale (Zetland House) from 7 July 2015 for 21 days due to a large fallen tree and restricted access for clearance. An alternative route was available via two public footpaths, Tom Bell and Seggimire Lanes.

b) **Public Path Orders taking Effect after their Date of Confirmation**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Took effect on</u>	<u>Description</u>
1379	3/10/DIV 50	6/8/2015	20/09/2015	Diversion of Footpath 50 Egton (Watergate Farm)

c) **Gates/stiles authorised under s 147 HA 80**

1. 12' metal field gate with 3'6" wooden hand gate alongside on Footpath 23 Farndale West at Low Harland Cottage Grid Reference SE 66791 92958

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND  
MEETING**

**Minutes of meeting held on 14 October 2015 between 9.30-12.00 at Bovey Castle, Dartmoor**

**Items listed in order of discussion**

<b>Present</b>		
<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>
Jacquie Burgess	John Packman	Broads Authority
Peter Harper (PHr)	Kevin Bishop	Dartmoor NPA
Nick Holliday (in place of Andrea Davis)	Nigel Stone	Exmoor NPA
Mike McKinley		Lake District NPA
	Alison Barnes	New Forest NPA
Jim Bailey (Chair)	Andy Wilson	North York Moors NPA
Glen Sanderson	Tony Gates	Northumberland NPA
Lesley Roberts	Sarah Fowler	Peak District NPA
Margaret Paren	Trevor Beattie	South Downs NPA
Peter Charlesworth	David Butterworth	Yorkshire Dales NPA
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Amanda Brace (AB)	National Parks England	
Meriel Harrison	National Parks England	
Anne Robinson	Campaign for National Parks (Item 9 onwards)	
Fiona Howie	Campaign for National Parks (Item 9 onwards)	
<u>Apologies</u>		
Andrea Davis	Exmoor NPA	
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre	New Forest NPA	
Richard Leafe	Lake District NPA	
Paul Hamblin (PH)	National Parks England	

Item		Agreed Actions
1.	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>  The Chair welcomed Glen Sanderson (Northumberland NPA) and Nick Holliday (Exmoor NPA) to the meeting.	
2.	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Andrea Davis (Exmoor NPA), Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (New Forest NPA), Richard Leafe (Lake District NPA) and Paul Hamblin (National Parks England).	
3.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>  NH declared an interest under Item 12 as Vice Chair and Trustee of the Campaign for National Parks. He stated that he was also a Trustee of the National Association for AONBs.	
4.	<b>Approve minutes from meeting held on 10 June 2015</b>  The minutes were <b>approved</b> .	
5.	<b>Matters arising</b>  <u>Fracking</u>	

	<p>TB gave an update on discussions the South Downs NPA was having and the legal advice being received. It is anticipated that as fracking would be development, it would require a planning application.</p> <p><u>National Parks and health</u>  AB gave an update from PH. The BIG bid partners had met last week and the focus would be on a collective bid around young people’s mental health. Based on the feedback from BIG, it may not be possible to go ahead with a joint bid that includes all NPAs. The total amount that would be available looked to have an upper limit of £500k. It was noted that Mosaic were also approaching BIG with a potential bid on young people involvement in NPA governance that had created some confusion.</p> <p>It was recognised that the nature of the bid and the amount of potential funding shifted from that originally envisaged. It was <b>agreed</b> that NPOs should continue to be kept informed of progress with any major decisions needed to be brought to the Board. It was noted that a smaller bid involving a number of Parks could still be a useful pilot that could lead to something bigger in future.</p> <p><u>PR for National Parks England</u>  MH gave an update. PH and NS had discussed options and Forster Communications had been engaged. A positive initial meeting between the Forster and NPE teams had taken place the previous day. Forster had a clear understanding of the brief and good ideas for how to deliver. NPE staff would keep NPA communications teams informed and NPOs would ensure their teams were ready to help. NPE staff would liaise with National Parks Partnerships who were also working with a PR company.</p> <p><u>Working with AONBs</u>  The Chair noted that he and the Deputy Chairs would be attending the AONB annual conference on 19<sup>th</sup> November. It was possible that further NPA Chairs would attend. AB noted that the accord with NAAONB had been signed off on both sides and NPE would circulate copies of this.</p>	<p>PH / NPOs</p> <p>PH / NPOs PH</p> <p>AB</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Update on Spending Review and how to respond</b></p> <p>NS introduced the paper and highlighted that NPE has just written to the Minister seeking a meeting with the Chair and Deputy Chairs. Defra would be having ongoing negotiations with Treasury and there was pressure on unprotected expenditure. The Chair thanked Directors and NPOs for their constructive approach in using the agreed narrative. It was recognised that while NPAs’ independence means that we are not drawn into formal discussions with Defra on budgets, there is ongoing contact at official level and this has been useful.</p> <p>Potential reactions to spending review announcements were discussed, and while the paramount importance of maintaining a common narrative was agreed, it was also recognised that circumstances of individual NPAs are variable and this could lead to pressure to react in different ways. It was <b>agreed</b> that NPOs should discuss this issue of differential circumstances and decide whether a more formal process to address it is needed, and if so by whom.</p> <p>It was agreed that maintaining close links with Defra would be valuable. The idea of a charity model (as proposed on the recent Costing the Earth programme) was recognised as a non-starter given that a planning authority could not be a charity. The list at Annex II of the paper was discussed and it was agreed that these items should be grouped under a smaller number of headings: power to diversify; new burdens; light-touch regulation;</p>	<p>NPOs</p> <p>NS/ PH</p>

	and long-term planning. NPE should continue to pursue these themes in its discussions with Defra.	
7.	<p><b>NPA appointments process and the 4 year rule</b></p> <p>NS noted that an email from Defra yesterday had launched the process, with an application deadline of 2 November. The four year rule remained an outstanding issue, though the Minister had recently overseen extensions of some appointments to overcome short-term problems. It was <b>agreed</b> that the Minister should be thanked for this, and asked to look again at the rule to resolve the problems that it created. There was no limit to the time that non-Secretary of State members could serve, and so a discrepancy was in existence and it would prove virtually impossible for any Secretary of State member to rise to the position of Chair of a NPA. On process, the launch of the appointment process was a week later than expected and the deadline was therefore a short one. It was <b>agreed</b> that an application window of less than one month was problematic and this point should be made.</p> <p>JP raised a concern that NPAs were unable to pay caring costs for non Local Authority members. This had impacts on efforts to broaden the range of applicants, particularly as women were more likely to have caring responsibilities. The Chair asked that NPOs establish whether this was a shared issue and what steps to take.</p>	<p><b>JB at conference dinner</b></p> <p><b>PH</b></p> <p><b>JP</b></p>
8.	<p><b>NPA involvement in devolution</b></p> <p>NS noted that PH advised that it would be important to keep an eye on the opportunities and any potential threats for NPAs in the devolution process. Directors and NPOs gave an update around the table on their involvement with local bids. It was recognised that NPAs were engaging in different ways depending on what was appropriate to their locality and the bids being submitted. South Downs NPA and New Forest NPA were formal signatories to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight bid, and as this was the closest involvement to date it was noted that it would be helpful to learn from these NPAs as the bid progresses.</p> <p>The Chair noted that different bids would be looking to take different powers from Government, and that NPAs should continue to share intelligence from their own experience. There were opportunities to influence bids to make the case for rural priorities and the place of NPAs. Different local arrangements could mean that NPAs' capability to operate would be more locally-shaped; however there was also an opportunity to fly the flag and make the most of National Parks' national 'brand'.</p>	<b>NPOs</b>
9.	<p><b>Guide for NPE Directors</b></p> <p>The Chair explained that this paper provided an important guide for NPE Directors to their role and responsibilities in relation to the organisation. The guide was <b>approved</b>.</p> <p>PHr requested that NPE staff check whether AGM minutes are posted to the Companies House website. Post meeting note - PH has clarified the situation as follows:  <i>We supply an Annual Return and Accounts to Companies House each year. NPE qualifies for being a small company and is, therefore, exempted from certain provisions of the Companies Act 2006. This includes not submitting a Directors report. The requirement is for Companies to be explicit that the Accounts have been prepared in this way and our Accounts include a statement to this effect, using text prepared by our Auditors.</i></p>	

10.	<p><b>NPE Executive Director update</b></p> <p>The paper prepared by PH was introduced by NS. The Chair noted the amount of activity and thanked the NPE team, who he said were working well. The timetable for revising the NPE Business Plan was <b>approved</b>, with recognition that some adjustment to the timetable may be needed towards the end of the period depending on the effects of decisions resulting from the Spending Review.</p>	PH
11.	<p><b>Feedback from CNP on current issues and programme of work</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Anne Robinson and Fiona Howie of Campaign for National Parks and stated that he had joined the recent organised walk coordinated by CNP and 38 Degrees and it had been a valuable event. FH gave an update on CNP's current work programme, including work to protect and enhance National Parks and to catalyse debate about National Parks in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.</p> <p>The working relationship between CNP and NPE was discussed and it was recognised that it would be helpful to reflect in the coming days on ways that this could be improved, recognising that the two organisations have different set-ups and therefore are active in different ways. There was discussion of the ways in which the campaigning landscape has changed recently with the advent of groups such as 38 Degrees and new mechanisms such as social media and e-petitions.</p> <p>The recent Costing the Earth Programme, and the Mosaic-led BIG Lottery bid, were raised and it was agreed to continue discussions over the coming days on these.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Notes of E-NPOG meeting 08.09.15</b></p> <p>The notes were received without discussion.</p>	
13.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>The Chair noted that the conference days to follow would provide a good opportunity to think about NPE's objectives.</p> <p>TG requested that all Chairs and NPOs assemble in the Cathedral Room at 6.45pm for a photograph to mark the signing of the Joint Statement on the Historic Environment in UK National Parks.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>The 2016 meeting dates were confirmed post-meeting as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) NPE Board meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February (London)</li> <li>b) NPE Board meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April (London)</li> <li>c) NPE Board meeting: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June (Broads – TBC)</li> <li>d) NPE AGM and Board meeting: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October (London)</li> </ul>	