

North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty PARTNERSHIP

Friday 18th May 2018
Westward Ho! Baptist Church

MINUTES

Meeting Attendees

Steve Mulberry (Chairman)
Steve Pitcher (Community Rep.)
Cllr Rodney Cann (North Devon Council)
Rose Day (Community Rep.)
Cllr Andrea Davis (Exmoor NPA)
Richard Prowse (Tarka Country Trust)
Rob Joules (National Trust)
John Rous (CLBA)
Sarah Jennings (Devon CC)
Paula Ferris (Coastwise)
Chris Preece (Voluntary Sector – NDAS)
Trevor Stanbury (North Devon Marketing Bureau)
Paul Green (Community Rep.)
Pamela Mills (CPRE)
Dr Eirene Williams
Dr James Szymankiewicz
Martin Batt

Apologies

Andy Bell (ND Biosphere)
Alison Boyle (Community Rep)
Barbara Fryer (Community Rep)
Brett Grosvenor (EA)
Christine Goodall (NE)
Terry Green (Community Rep.)
Peter Burgess (Devon Wildlife Trust)
Cllr Linda Hellyer (Devon CC)

Officers

Jenny Carey-Wood (Manager)
Dave Edgcombe (Projects Officer)
Cat Oliver (Education Officer)
Laura Carolan (Communications Officer)
Andy Jones (NDC)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chairman welcomed all Partnership members, the new AONB staff member Laura Carolan and prospective Partnership candidates invited to observe the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 2nd February 2018 and matters arising. Minutes agreed

Actions / Matters arising;

- Community Representatives - All seven of the existing members agreed to stay on the Partnership for a further 2 years (until May 2020)
- New Members – Outstanding actions are to progress a Young people forum or representative and to identify Parish representatives – JCW received advice from Devon Association of Local Councils but they cannot assist. **Action: Chair and Manager**
- New chair of the SDF Panel is Barbara Fryer
- New NFU representative to be confirmed **Action: Manager**
- Estuary Flooding – update from Paula Ferris that Environment Agency will not formally review state of inner bank until 2022, whilst carrying out some interim repairs; good progress on the sluice gate; request for regular updates to the AONB Partnership from EA or Biosphere Manager. **Action: Regular agenda item**
- **Leader 5** – Agreed to invite Louise Adams to September Partnership

3. Governance

a) Vote on 4 applications to join Partnership:

(Dr Eirene Williams, Pamela Mills and Martin Batt left the room)

- Application by the Devon branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England with a named representative of Penny Mills. There was some discussion of potential conflicts of interest with a campaigning group joining the Partnership. JCW shared some information on CPRE involvement with other AONBs: **Vote:** For 11, Abstention 1, Against 0
- Applications from 3 individuals:-
Dr James Szymankiewicz as the Health and Wellbeing representative
Dr Eirene Williams as a Community Representative
Mr Martin Batt as a Community Representative
Vote on all 3 candidates: For 12, Against 0

Proposal that additional guidance is required for all Partnership members regarding roles and conflicts of interest. **ACTION: Chair and Manager.**

(Dr Eirene Williams, Pamela Mills and Martin Batt re-joined the meeting)

The Chair confirmed all four appointments and welcomed them to the Partnership. JCW confirmed that there is still one further position for a community representative.

b) **Election of Partnership Vice-Chair** – The two candidates were invited to make a short presentation and then asked to leave the room.

(Dr Eirene Williams and Martin Batt left the meeting)

Following some discussion, it was proposed to have two Vice Chairs to benefit from the very different skills and knowledge of the two candidates. This had been done before when Rose Day was chair. **Vote:** Unanimous agreement.

(Dr Eirene Williams and Martin Batt re-joined the meeting)

c) **Nominations to the SDF Panel** – JCW clarified expectation of SDF panel members. Dr Eirene Williams agreed to join the Panel.

4) Management Plan Review

d) **Consultation Proposal and Timetable** (JCW tabled the proposal) JCW explained that the approach this time was towards focussed consultations with local and regional experts to produce the first draft, that could be formally consulted on with the wider public over 6 weeks in the Autumn. SP supported this saying we should make use of the skills and knowledge of Partnership members. AJ requested that workshops were linked together by themes to ensure staff time is allocated efficiently. RJ requested sufficient notice periods to ensure good attendance. TS highlighted the need to get more of the public engaged with the AONB. JCW highlighted Coastal Creatures and Plastic Free North Devon as good examples of engagement using current public interests. RJ agreed that Partnership members need to be more reactive and would be able to do this with a “lighter” plan. RD showed Partnership the new Exmoor NP Partnership Plan which was much simpler and more accessible. JCW confirmed that all Partnership members will be invited to all of the Expert Opinion Debates. **Proposal Agreed**

Due to a lack of time, JCW suggested that the planned workshop with the members on issues / forces for change should not go ahead now as this could be covered in the ‘Expert Opinion Debates’ rather than duplicating work in this meeting - All agreed.

5) Landscape Report and Planning Update

DE thanked the members of the Planning Panel who had helped with high quality responses, earning the respect of local planning authorities and high level of success. The North Devon

Coast AONB has signed up to the NAAONBs response to the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework and has also submitted comments of our own regarding sections 115 and 116 as concerned at potential loss of statement that AONBs and NPs “have highest status of landscape protection”.

Mortehoe and Croyde line undergrounding works nearly completed. The 12 Fixed Post photography surveys now completed for 2018. **Action: DE** to upload evidence of changes to website.

PM requested update on the planning application for the Beckland Farm slurry lagoon - still not determined, but no TDC representatives at the meeting. JCW reported that a formal letter from the Partnership had been written to TDC over a year ago requesting a decision and the Executive had been advised last month that progress was being made, awaiting final legal advice. Agreed to wait one more week before writing to TDC again about this matter.

PF highlighted issues re “Millionaires row” in Saunton. AJ confirmed that there is to be a review of the visual impacts on landscape and guidelines produced within 12 months.

6) Naturally Healthy Activities

- **Presentation by Karen Evans** of community consultation findings on barriers and opportunities for naturally healthy activities in the AONB and the Report’s recommendations including setting up a Task and Finish Group.
- **Dr James Szymankiewicz** provided view from the health sector - discussed challenges in relation to physical and mental health issues in UK and Devon; preventative approach an increasing priority but challenge to translate this into delivery; lots of small scale initiatives including the Connecting Actively to Nature project targeting inactive over 55’s; a Devon bid for a social prescribing model using a ‘community connector’ between health services, individuals and other agencies; role for green prescriptions and re-connecting people with the natural environment; need to focus on people’s values as research and evidence does not change behaviours; all ages need to be targeted; partnership working across sectors and agencies including DCC Health and Wellbeing Board, CCG, One North Devon, GP services and the AONB and Biosphere.
- **Comments:** Chairman highlighted the fact that Health and Wellbeing should be a stronger part of the new Management Plan.
 - PM highlighted the challenges that CPRE have had engaging with the public and schools.
 - AD described the successful project work that Exmoor and Dartmoor National Parks have done with DCC funding but no ongoing funding to continue. Need to use Section 106 funds to support wellbeing but not happening yet. She did not support further work to pilot ‘place based’ approaches
 - SJ explained DCC involvement in Health & Wellbeing through Devon Local Nature Partnership for example with Naturally Healthy May and successful behaviour change support through Active Devon’s Toolkits <http://activedevon.org/toolkits/>; the ‘One Small Step’ Devon CC website <https://www.onesmallstep.org.uk/> and Pinpoint – the online information about community services in Devon <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/>
 - RJ highlighted the need to link everything back to the AONB and look towards collaborative work between Partners to do a few things well
 - Chairman asked for volunteers for a **Task and Finish Group – ACTION: JCW** to set up group with following members **AD, PF, RD, SJ, JS and RJ** to take forward recommendations and partner working.

7) AONB Manager's Report - no questions from Partnership

- **Coastal Creatures** – presentation by Cat Oliver. Highlighted that all targets have been exceeded with a busy Summer ahead. Thanks extended to Cat for her superb work, successful results and considerable impact with schools, communities and wildlife.
- **Clovelly Dykes Hillfort** – Presentation of survey results and proposed work plan by Chris Preece, Chairman of the North Devon Archaeological Society. Evidence of ditches, possible Iron Age rounds and maybe a settlement. Field could be excavated late autumn 2018 depending on permissions.
- **Sustainable Development Fund** – JCW gave brief update and introduced LC who will be managing the grants
- **Communications Reports and AONB Events listing** – website engagement has declined but priority for LC to update content; social media engagement growing; invite to Partners to help at events in June and the summer – **Action: All** to advise team

8) National Association of AONBs - RD summarised her report

9) Brief News from Partners

- PF – Praised and thanked CO for all of her work with Coastwise as part of the Coastal Creatures Project, and raised concerns about filling the gap on her departure
- RP – Life on the Verges – Jo Pullen is the new Project Officer see <http://www.tarkacountrytrust.org.uk/love-b.html> for more information and updates
- PM – CPRE has commissioned an investigation into the need for additional housing in Devon. Results next month
- TS – Directed members to download the North Devon Food Trail app or visit the website <https://www.northdevonfoodtrail.co.uk/>
- JS – mentioned Plastic Free North Devon and the great support from the public
- RJ – National Trust and Parkrun are looking for volunteers to help set up a Parkrun in Woolacombe
- AJ – NDC local plan still not published, likely to now be July/ Aug. Going ahead **with other policies in the interim.**

10) Any Outstanding Business – Chairman confirmed none

11) Dates of Next Meetings:

Friday 28th September 2018

Friday 25th January 2019