

# ***Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural***



## **Partnership Board Meeting Coombe Bissett Village Hall**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

13.45 start

### **MINUTES**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Nicholas Gosse	Chairman	√	
Cllr Barbara Manuel	East Dorset District Council	√	
Gary Foyle/Wilbert Smith	EDDC Officers	√WS	
Cllr Dick Skidmore	Mendip District Council		
Robert Palmer	Mendip DC Officer		
Cllr Audrey Burch	North Dorset District Council		
Cllr Catherine Langham	North Dorset District Council	√	
Cllr Audrey Skipwith Sub	North Dorset District Council		
Hilary Jordan/Ed Gerry	NDDC Officers		√ HJ
Roxanne Matcham	New Forest District Council		√
Martin Peacock	NFDC Officer		
Cllr Lucy Wallace	South Somerset District Council		
Rachael Whaites	SSDC Officer		
Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe	Wiltshire Council		√
Cllr Bridget Wayman	Wiltshire Council	√	
Cllr Jose Green	Wiltshire Council		
Richard Broadhead	Wiltshire Officer	√	
Cllr Andrew Cattaway	Dorset County Council	√	
Cllr	Dorset County Council SUB		
Dr Ken Buchan/Matthew Piles	DCC Officer	√KB	
Cllr Edward Heron	Hampshire County Council		√
Garry King	HCC Officer	√	

<b>ClIr William Wallace</b>		<b>Somerset County Council</b>		
<b>Barry James</b>		<b>Somerset CC Officer</b>		
<b>Susan Batstone</b>		<b>Natural England</b>		√
<b>Roger Griffin</b>		<b>Natural England</b>	√	
<b>Ian Briscoe</b>		<b>Forestry Commission</b>		
<b>Gerard d'Erlanger</b>		<b>Forestry Commission</b>	√	
<b>Alistair Fitzgerald</b>		<b>Independent</b>	√	
<b>Phil Matthews</b>		<b>Wiltshire Association of Town &amp; Parish Councils</b>		
<b>Mike Jones</b>		<b>Dorset Association of Town &amp; Parish Councils (DATPC)</b>	√	
<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Historic England</b>		
<b>Paul Cottington</b>		<b>National Farmers Union</b>		
<b>Francis Taylor</b>		<b>Campaign to Protect Rural England</b>	√	
<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Chair of LMAF</b>		
<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Chair of Planning &amp; Transportation Topic Group /</b>		
<b>Vacant</b>		<b>Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust</b>		
<b>AONB Team</b>		<b>Position</b>		
<b>Linda Nunn</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>AONB Director</b>	√	
<b>Anne Carney</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>Funding / Partnership Officer</b>		√
<b>Richard Burden</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>Principle Landscape and Planning Officer</b>	√	
<b>Tracy Adams</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>Farmland Conservation Officer</b>		√
<b>Harry Bell</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>GIS Officer</b>		√
<b>Shirley Merrick</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>Team Support Officer</b>	√	
<b>Amanda Scott</b>	<b>PT</b>	<b>Dark Sky Officer</b>		√
<b>Roger Goulding</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>LPS Development Officer</b>		√

Zam Baring has relinquished the role as Chairman/Vice Chairman now a new Chairman is in place.

Gerard d'Erlanger is standing in as a substitute for Ian Briscoe.

Julie Harding, Communications Officer, has left the AONB.

Amanda Scott has joined the AONB team as Dark Sky Advisor.

Ken Buchan and Matthew Piles are the newly appointed officer representatives from Dorset County Council, replacing Phil Stirling and Peter Moore who have both left DCC.

## 1. Welcome

Nicholas Gosse welcomed everyone to his first meeting as Chairman. The Chairman passed out a one page document to members with some of his thoughts regarding the work of the AONB.

The Chairman explained that after a discussion with LN that they'd mutually agreed that the appointment of two vice chairs could be of real benefit to the work of the AONB. To be discussed later in the meeting

The creation of a countryside centre for this AONB was discussed, with an example of an existing centre and how it operates explained. Education and communication was vital in what a countryside centre could deliver. The issue of litter and fly tipping with the cost to council's for clearing up rubbish was mentioned.

## 2. Minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and any matters arising

Minute 3.3 The Chairman reported that he had written to Minette Batters, the President of the NFU and Dr. Thérèse Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for DEFRA, regarding the potential work the AONB could contribute to their causes. A meeting with the Chairman of the Dorset NFU and a meeting with Louise Stratton are still to be arranged as an outcome of those representations.

Minute 3.5 The spelling of Dr Ken Buchan to be amended.

Minute 4 Discover Cranborne Chase – the date for the 'Follow the Fallow' project to be changed from 2019 to 2010 due to an increasing work load within the team.

Minute 5 The Management Plan 2019 - 2024 Review is now out for consultation. The final draft will need to be approved and adopted at all partner's committees by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. Members are requested to alert the clerks to their committees that this adoption of the Management Plan needs to be on their agendas.

Minute 6 The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation bid was unsuccessful.

Minute 6 Julie Harding left the AONB team in June. A suitably qualified replacement to fill this essential role has not be found to date, but will be advertised for again

<b>ACTION 2</b>
1. The Minutes were agreed as accurate and can now be put onto the web site.
2. Members to ensure that the Management Plan 2019-2024 is taken to their committees for adoption by 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### 3. Report A – Brief Team Work Update

#### Richard Burden – Principal Landscape and Planning Officer

**RB** responded to the NPPF 2018 review and the concern of all AONBs that the purpose of designation, to enhance and conserve, was missing from that draft has been included in the final version. This NPPF is a positive document containing the definition of ‘major development’ and an element of development within AONBs being limited. RB handed out a copy of the standard paragraphs that he uses when responding to planning applications.

The Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth Waste Plan consultation was responded to with an in principle objection. RB attended the Examination in Public. The site at the Sunrise Business Park that is identified for development of a major waste recycling and transfer plant for the area is of concern to the AONB. RB continues to work with the Dorset Waste Partnership to ensure if the site is developed then any impacts are mitigated. RB highlighted the Duty of Regard in Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for all organisations to follow when dealing with AONB matters. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/85>

**RB** has drafted a Position Statement on Housing within the AONB and this will come to Members at the next Board meeting for endorsement. RB has been responding to planning applications regarding replacement dwellings and agricultural workers dwellings that are not suitable for the AONB and this issue will be addressed within this Position Statement.

#### Amanda Scott – Dark Sky Advisor

**AS** is newly appointed and is taking forward the submission for an International Dark Sky Reserve for this AONB. Events are being planned and the application will be submitted in January.

#### Tracy Adams – Farm Conservation Officer

**TA** is working to support the farmer cluster groups which now cover an area of 30,000ha. There are four clusters and it is hoped a fifth cluster will be formed soon. TA continues to monitor farmland birds.

#### Anne Carney – Funding and Partnerships Officer

**AC** works with the Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust (CCLT) who have given a grant to create a dew pond, using volunteers, on the Drove Road. The CCLT are looking at a Rights of Way project to place way marks on the posts that will indicate the path is within this AONB. The Chairman attended the CCLT meeting last week.

AC helped to put together the 1<sup>st</sup> Round Heritage Lottery Fund bid and is working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> round bid with RG and LN.

#### Roger Goulding – Landscape Partnership Development Officer

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Round bid to HLF involves a large amount of work. A full draft of all of the projects has to be produced within a very short time scale, as this element of the bid only came to LN’s attention a couple of weeks ago. HLF have agreed a new time scale to produce the reports. LN is working closely with RG to meet the new deadline.

**RG**'s contract comes to an end on 26<sup>th</sup> October and LN requested that the Board agree to a one month extension. RG has had the bid to the North Dorset Leader project approved for a £131,000 grant to create a 'Time Traveller App'. This requires a full time person for five months and a part time position for 3 months.

Shirley Merrick – Team Support Officer

**SM** continues to support the team and deals with the office finance.

Linda Nunn – Director

As well as the work with RG, **LN** has been working on the redrafting of the AONB Management Plan. Paul Tiplady has produced a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) scoping report for each of the previous three Management Plans. PT is concerned that a full SEA is needed this time around. The cost of the scoping report is covered within the budget. The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is still to be produced. LN asked for advice from Members. RG (NE) agreed that he would look into the need for an SEA. LN to send him the names of people to contact. GK (HCC) clarified the process and said there is a team of experts at HCC that he can approach for an opinion. Wiltshire Council staff have agreed to check the HRA.

The new Agri-Environment Scheme tests/trials meetings are ongoing.

The Communication Officer interviews were unsuccessful and the advert will be placed again.

Office Accommodation for the AONB Team

If the HLF Landscapes Partnership Scheme is successful in its 2<sup>nd</sup> Round bid four extra positions within the team will be created. Therefore LN has been looking at other office locations; specifically three, all within Wiltshire. A debate on the requirements of the team and the suitability of the three locations took place.

The team will look to Wiltshire Council to supply their IT requirements. Storage is essential; as is a good broadband service.

RB (Wiltshire Council) explained his position and the services of the Tisbury Nadder Centre. With the AONB renting office space there it is hoped this will encourage other businesses to locate there. The prices quoted can be negotiated.

A number of members observed that the Tollard Royal site was by far the most cost effective option. Councillor Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council) proposed, seconded by Mike Jones (DATPC), that the AONB team moves to the offices in Tollard Royal. Members queried whether a caveat to this was required. Therefore the following was proposed

***Based on the information in the report by LN commercially the Tollard Royal site at Rushmore Farm is the location of choice. However, Wiltshire Council services department will access the property to ensure that the buildings are of a suitable standard for employees to work in, or could be brought up to a standard.***

A vote on this proposal was taken with 10 Members for and none against.

### **ACTION 3**

1. The Board notes the ongoing progress of the team's work
2. The Board agreed for LN to fund one month's extra salary for RG.
3. Members to note the Management Plan is out for consultation to their organisations.
4. Board members to notify their committee clerk that the AONB Management Plan needs to be on the agenda by 1<sup>st</sup> April for adoption.
5. The Board considered the three office options currently available and offered an opinion on their preferred way forward.
6. Members voted 10 for and 0 against to progress the Tollard Royal site for the new offices for the AONB team.
7. RB (WC) to arrange for Wiltshire's services department to visit the Tollard Royal site and to report back.

#### **4. Report B – The Review of Protected Landscapes**

LN highlighted the reasons for this report and the creation of the review panel, led by Julian Glover. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-parks-review-launched>

The NAAONBs has a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September to discuss what AONBs would like to come out of this review. A lengthy discussion took place on what the review would look at and what new ideas have been raised so far. Members looked at the fifteen bullet points itemised and gave opinions on these. There appeared to be agreement on

- the need to focus on what the AONB does well;
- a need to clarify what AONBs do;
- the need for Section 85 Duty of Regard to be reinforced;
- the need to strengthen their responsibilities and their resources;
- to become statutory consultees;
- developer payback (Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL]) for AONB purposes
- Government appointees on the Board;
- LEADER replacement to be given to AONBs to administer;

LN requested that those Members present to email her with their top 6 issues from the list of 15, or any new ideas, by 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Members commented on the words 'landscape' and 'conservation area' and the lack of understanding of different designations, local or national.

### **ACTION 4**

1. Members to send LN their choice of six issues from the list of 15 bullet points to send to the NAAONBs for their deliberations on the changes they seek from the review of protected landscapes.

**5. Any Other Business**

The Chairman stated that he would like to have two vice chairs. He gave a brief report on MS and TC, who both applied for the role as chairman of the AONB. Separate job description could be written so there was no clash of responsibilities. With the increased work rate of the AONB team these candidates could be of immense help with their different skill sets. RB (WC) stated that he was on the interview panel and all the candidates were very good.

<b>ACTION 5</b>
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<b>1. In principle, the Board agree to the chairman appointing two vice chairs.</b>
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The details they provided previously to be circulated to members.
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The Chairman to approach each person to see if they are willing to serve as a vice chairman.
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The Chairman to report back to the Board before the next meeting.
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**6. Date of next meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (venue TBC)

The meeting ended at 4.15.

Minutes signed as a true record

**Nicholas Gosse (Chairman)**.....

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2018**