

North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty PARTNERSHIP

Friday 28th September 2018
Mortehoe Village Hall

MINUTES

Meeting Attendees

Steve Mulberry (Chairman)
Steve Pitcher (Community Rep.)
Cllr Rodney Cann (North Devon Council)
Rose Day (Community Rep.)
Richard Prowse (Tarka Country Trust)
Rob Joules (National Trust)
Cllr Tony Inch (Devon CC)
Peter Burgess (Devon Wildlife Trust)
Brian Butler (NFU)
Sarah Jennings (Devon CC)
Paula Ferris (Coastwise)
Trevor Stanbury (North Devon Marketing Bureau)
Dr Eirene Williams (Community – Vice Chair)
Dr James Szymankiewicz (Community Rep.)
Martin Batt (Community – Vice Chair)
Lewis Andrews (Torrige DC)

Guests

Ruth Testa (Devon GHB Project/DWT)
Malcom Wilkinson (Mortehoe PC)
Kirstie Pritchard (DCC – Partnerships)

Apologies

Cllr Andrea Davis (Exmoor NPA)
Alison Boyle (Community)
Brett Grosvenor (EA)
Christine Goodall (NE)
Paul Green (Community Rep.)
Terry Green (Community Rep.)
Tony Pratt (TTEF)
Penny Mills (CPRE)
Chris Preece (Voluntary Sector – NDAS)
Cllr Ken James (TDC)

Officers

Jenny Carey-Wood (Manager)
Dave Edgcombe (Projects Officer)
Joe Penfold (Heritage Officer)
Laura Carolan (Communications Officer)
Andy Jones (NDC)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chairman welcomed all Partnership members, the new AONB Heritage Officer Joe Penfold, new Partnership members Cllr David Inch for Devon County Council, Brian Butler for the NFU and Lewis Andrews representing Torrige District Council. Kirstie Pritchard, officer at Devon County Council and Malcolm Wilkinson from Mortehoe Parish Council – were invited to observe the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 18th May 2018 and matters arising. Minutes agreed

Actions / Matters arising;

- New Members – Outstanding actions are to progress a Young people forum or representative and to identify Parish representatives. **Action: Chair and Manager**
- Estuary Flooding – update from Paula Ferris that repairs being carried out to Sluice Gates in Inner Bank.
- Guidance on Conflicts of Interest for Partnership members – outstanding **Action: Chair and Manager**
- Naturally Healthy Task and Finish Group to meet in October

3. Governance

- **Nominations to the SDF Panel** – Barbara Fryer has resigned from the Partnership to have time to pursue other interests – the Chairman expressed his thanks for her long-term contribution to the Partnership as well as her roles on the Planning and SDF panels
New members nominated - Steve Mulberry, Richard Prowse and Martin Batt - **AGREED**
- **Nomination to the Planning Panel** - Dr Eirene Williams - **AGREED**

4. AONB Manager's Report – presented, with additional comments below

- 4.1 Coastal Creatures** – legacy activities – SDF grant to the Marine Conservation Society to develop and pilot in North Devon, primary school resources on Seaweeds with the Natural History Museum; Citizen Science report on CC project now on website.
- 4.2 Defra Pioneers – Landscape** workshop on Net Gain - **AJ** explained challenge of different policies requiring environmental versus biodiversity net gains, consultation forthcoming on whether Net Gain should be mandatory or negotiable. **ACTION** – **JCW & AJ** Briefing paper and presentation to next Partnership. **Marine** – second stakeholder workshop attended by **EW** on behalf of the Partnership.
- 4.3 Sustainable Development Fund** – **LC** gave brief update on all 12 projects offered grant and **JCW** thanked team and Panel for hard work, so all funds committed for this year.
- 4.4 Communications Reports** – **LC** gave brief update on social media and website engagement. Also presented 60th Anniversary ideas. **ACTION** – **ALL** to email **LC** with further suggestions. **LC** to present final ideas next meeting. Communications Working Group to meet in October – delayed due to focus on M. Plan Review.
- 4.5 State of the AONB Report** – discussion of how report should be used, just part of the Review or wider - **BB** suggested the report would be useful publicity to raise awareness and understanding of the AONB; **MB** supported use of graphics and images to make more accessible to the wider community; **SP** supported its use to highlight positive and negative impacts on AONB; **JS** requested explicit link to 25 YEP; **RJ** suggested looking at ENPA version; **SJ** requested more on biodiversity and **EW** suggested considering what would happen if AONB not conserved and protected.
- 4.6 Consultation Draft of the Management Plan 2019-2024** – **JCW** presented the key issues informing the Review process and the changes proposed from the internal discussions and workshops. There was positive support for the draft report. Discussion of Vision but decided to keep it the same. **SJ** requested broadening out of 'Work to Date' and 'Priority Actions' to include input from partnership organisations as a Plan for the area not just the AONB team - **Agreed**.

ACTION: ALL by Monday 10 October 2018

to send items for inclusion or edits to both documents to JCW.

SP and RD requested additional focus on Setting and Seascape.

5. Landscape Report and Planning Update

DE presented the current planning issues. The new National Planning Policy Framework is up and running and paragraph 172 is now the only one in the framework to refer to NP and AONBs (4 previously). Greatest loss is that there is now no reference to the setting therefore applications for outside of the AONB may cause issues. The Local Plan will be signed off end of Oct. Beckland slurry pit has been refused - owner has until end August 2019 to change farming practices and remove pit.

6. **Coastal Heritage Project** – Brief introduction from **JP** about the project and members invited to join any of the events and training being provided. See website: www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/coastal-heritage-0
7. **Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project** - Presentation from manager Ruth Testa. Community engagement good with 4 primary schools, Braunton Academy and Petroc students involved. Looking at modelling bat distribution and connecting landscape features. 31 farmers engaged through the Braunton Facilitation Fund to improve landscape and bat habitat. This winter, further work is going on in Braunton as well as Combe Martin where there seem to be more Lesser Horseshoe Bats or joint roosts.
8. **Review of National Parks and AONB's** – **SM** summarised current discussions, draft priorities from the Executive and confirmed that an invitation had been sent to Julian Glover to visit North Devon AONB. **RP** suggested that the partnership decide on their own priorities.
ACTION – **ALL** partnership members to submit thoughts via email to **SM** or **JCW** by end of October.
9. **National Association of AONBs** - **RD** summarised her report. Leadership training being provided by the NAAONB through their Heritage Lottery project will be attended by **JCW**.
10. **Brief News from Partners**
 - **JS** – good buy-in from GPs in Northern Devon to the principle of social prescribing and using the natural environment for its value. Positive feedback from Defra following LNP health and wellbeing event in Exeter and commitments from Health Minister Hancock.
 - **SJ** – possible pilot projects in North Devon from this Defra interest under the 25 YEP for health and wellbeing, awaiting more information
 - **RJ** – reported several tenancy changes creating new opportunities for habitat creation. Parkrun in Woolacombe likely to start in December providing weekly 5km run. Lundy celebrating 50th anniversary of Landmark Trust lease from NT.
 - **PB** – Ash-dieback spreading, indicating possible loss of 95% of trees so work on a national project to work with communities on replacements (request for information on Ash Dieback and advice **JCW** to circulate and presentation for January meeting). **DWT** campaigning on Environment Act to support ecological networks.
 - **RP** – Verges project looking to extend under officer Jo Pullin
 - **TS** - reported that Nick White has joined the Visit Devon Board on behalf of ND Marketing Bureau, so with Torbay and Plymouth, a much stronger marketing offer
 - **AJ** – reported NDC has appointed a Head of Place to cover planning and economy, and is doing visioning work which will include Natural Capital
 - **SP** – **NDAS and Clovelly Dykes Hillfort** – excavation findings reported on showing Iron Age finds and future work proposed. Publication to be written up by Chris Preece (NDAS). Thanks to Clovelly Estates and farmer on the site for their permissions.
 - **Cllr Tony Inch** reported he is on the DCC Public Rights of Way committee
 - **TS** – The Milky Way has taken steps to become plastic free including the use of Vegware cups however there is nowhere locally that recycles them. An issue to raise with the Plastic Free North Devon Consortium.
 - **MB** – suggested looking at experience in France with two-tier protected landscapes to inform AONB Review.

11. Any Outstanding Business – JCW – The AONB sit on the Plastic Free North Devon Consortium and would like the team and AONB Partnership to commit to reducing single-use plastic through the **attached policy**. **DE** made a short presentation on the changes following power line removal, to be seen on the ground during the walk after lunch.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

**Friday 25th January 2019 at 10.00am
(Venue TBC)**