

BLACKDOWN HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP

**Minutes of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership Management Group held on
Thursday, 2nd November 2017 at Ferne Animal Sanctuary, near Chard**

Present:

Cllr Paul Diviani (chairman)	East Devon District Council
Bruce Payne (vice-chairman)	Special Appointee
Cllr John Berry	Devon County Council
Cllr John Thorne	Somerset County Council
Cllr Martin Wale	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Dave Durdan	Taunton Deane Borough Council
Gordon Field	Blackdown Hills Artist & Makers
Heather Stallard	Blackdown Hills Business Association
Chris Lewis	CPRE, Somerset
Simon Larkins	National Trust
David Northcote-Wright	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Graham Long	Blackdown Hills Parish Network (BHPN)
Elaine Haynes	Special Appointees
John Greenshields	Blackdown & East Devon Woodland Association

Also present:

Blackdown Hills AONB staff team: Tim Youngs (TY), Jackie Vaughan (JV), Lisa Turner (LT),
Blackdown Hills Natural Futures Manager: James Maben (JM)

Members of the public: One member of the public was present

Apologies: Cllr Frank Rosamond (Mid Devon District Council); Rachel Williams (Natural England); Mark Pope (National Farmers Union); Clare Groom (AONB staff team); Martin Turner (Blackdown Hills Hedge Association); Jocelyn Pritchard (Blackdown Hills Parish Network); Peter Chamberlain (Devon County Council); Bob Nelson (Blackdown Hills Parish Network)

ITEM 1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were carried out.

ITEM 2 Questions from the public

Cllr Diviani was asked to leave the room and Bruce Payne chaired the discussion.

Question: Does the AONB committee consider Councillor Paul Diviani a fit person to chair the AONB, when he actively campaigned for, and voted for, a new, off existing line, 3 lane highway through the Blackdown Hills AONB designated land, rather than improvements or upgrades to the existing A303 around Monkton?

The Management Group commented that Cllr Diviani brings a wide breadth of experience to the Blackdown Hills AONB Management Group from his roles within other committees and has a large network in the area and nationally that helps support the work of the AONB. He is a very useful chair of the committee.

As a committee, the AONB looked at the impact of the proposed plans for the A30 and decided to respond on impact and mitigation of both routes rather than chose an option. There is a clear governance point that as a chair of a committee, Paul Diviani is appointed to pull together the views of the Management Group and as an individual his views are least observed.