

BLACKDOWN HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership Management Group held on Thursday, 8th November 2018 at Broadhembury Memorial Hall, Broadhembury

Present:

Cllr Paul Diviani (chairman)	East Devon District Council
Bruce Payne (vice-chairman)	Special Appointee
Cllr Frank Rosamond	Mid Devon District Council
Cllr John Thorne	Somerset County Council
Cllr Martin Wale	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Dave Durdan	Taunton Deane Borough Council
Donna Gowler	Natural England
Heather Stallard	Blackdown Hills Business Association
Mark Pope	National Farmers Union
Cllr Bob Nelson	Blackdown Hills Parish Network
David Northcote-Wright	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Cllr Graham Long	Blackdown Hills Parish Network

Also present:

Blackdown Hills AONB staff team: Tim Youngs (**TY**), Jackie Vaughan (**JV**), Lisa Turner (**LT**), Peter Chamberlain (Devon County Council); Emma Jones (National Trust)

Members of the public: None

Apologies: Cllr John Berry (Devon County Council); Elaine Hayes (Special Appointee); Martin Turner (Blackdown Hills Hedge Association); Jocelyn Pritchard (Blackdown Hills Parish Network); Gordon Field (Blackdown Hills Artist & Makers); Chris Lewis (CPRE, Somerset); Penny Mills (CPRE, Devon); Simon Larkins (National Trust); John Greenshields (Blackdown & East Devon Woodland Association); Kate Tobin (Forestry Commission); James Maben (Culm Community Crayfish project); Clare Groom (AONB staff team)

ITEM 1 Results of Management Group election for chairman and vice-chairman	
The results of the Partnership Management Group election for the role of AONB chairman and vice-chairman were announced as follows: Chairman: One nomination received for Cllr Paul Diviani Vice-chairman: One nomination received for Bruce Payne Cllr Paul Diviani accepted the post of chairman and Bruce Payne accepted the post of vice-chairman.	
ITEM 2 Welcome, introductions and apologies	
The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were carried out.	
ITEM 3 Questions from the public	
No Questions from the public.	

ITEM 4 Minutes and matters arising from 5th July 2018	
<p>Amendments: Bottom of page 2 should read 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' (not Cornwall).</p> <p>The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters arising: 6:2 Carry forward action to share information on the NAAONB conference with the Partnership Management Group.</p> <p>7: Carry forward action for all members to comment on suggested amendments to the Blackdown Hills AONB Terms of Reference.</p>	<p>TY/CG</p> <p>TY</p>
ITEM 5 Presentation – Emma Jones, Community Fundraiser and Engagement Officer (National Trust)	
<p>Emma has been in post since June 2018 and is tasked with raising funds and the profile of the Wellington monument restoration project. She is working with the local community and has already collected stories and ideas from local people which will help with future grant applications.</p> <p>A sponsored walk of either 10km or 20km will be held next year on 11th May 2019 to help raise funds; there is a limit of 300 people.</p> <p>Christmas cards are available at £1 each from emma.jones1@nationaltrust.org.uk</p> <p>Further information on the restoration project can be found at https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wellington-monument/features/a-step-closer-to-saving-wellington-monument</p>	
ITEM 6 AONB Team	
Report circulated prior to the meeting	
6.1 AONB team report, SDF and finances	
<p>6.1.1: Successful Catchment Communities conference held in October at the Deer Park Hotel, Honiton with 90 people attending. Blackdown Hills AONB organised the event, working with the East Devon Catchment Partnership https://blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/project/catchment-communities-conference/</p> <p>6.1.2: Culm Community Crayfish project finishes on 28 December 2018. Over 50 volunteers have been trained in crayfish surveying. Results indicate that there are no crayfish upstream of Hemyock, white clawed crayfish downstream of Hemyock and only signal crayfish in the Culm tributaries. Decisions are now being made on suitable positions for ARK sites which will help protect the white clawed crayfish.</p> <p>James Maben was congratulated on his excellent work on the project.</p> <p>6.1.3: 2019/20 AONB Business Plan key priorities discussed under the following headings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape • Sustainable Development • Communication and Management 	

<p>The following comments were made:</p> <p>BP: Headings should be Place, People & Working Together to align with the AONB 5 year Delivery Plan.</p> <p>BN: The responsibilities and roles of the Partnership Management Group and Officers Support Group should be clearer and minutes of meetings shared between the two groups.</p> <p>ACTION: TY to re-circulate the current terms of reference showing the roles and responsibilities for each group. The latest set of minutes for the Officers Support Group should also be circulated to the Partnership Management Group.</p> <p>ACTION: TY to circulate a draft 2019/20 Business Plan to the Partnership Management Group in December 2018.</p> <p>6.1.4: LT The 2019/24 Management Plan is now out for consultation until 30th November 2018.</p> <p>ACTION: Please encourage your organisations and communities to review the plan and respond with their comments.</p> <p>6.1.5: New AONB Office: Several premises have been considered or viewed and will be assessed under a set of agreed criteria (including cost/ value for money). Once rental and set up costs have been established for suitable options the criteria will be used within a matrix to find the best property.</p> <p>AGREED: A recommendation on the most suitable property for the new AONB offices will be made to the Officers Support Group by 30th November 2018 and copied into the Partnership Management Group.</p>	<p>TY</p> <p>TY</p> <p>TY</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>TY</p>
<p>6.2 18/19 Financial Update – including SDF & project pot</p>	
<p>No questions raised.</p>	
<p>6.3 2019/20 Draft Budget</p>	
<p>PC congratulated Taunton Deane Borough Council on maintaining their contribution to the AONB for 2019/20 at £10,000.</p> <p>Draft budget for 2019/20 was supported by the Partnership Management Group.</p>	
<p>ITEM 7 AONB Partnership</p>	
<p>7.1 Making it Local (MiL) programme update</p>	
<p>Making it Local is still number one in the country for delivery.</p>	

7.2 Briefings from partners	
<p>Cllr John Thorne: Somerset County Council are holding a scrutiny meeting on Tuesday 13th November to discuss the performance of Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS). Somerset County Council have adopted a pollinator action plan http://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s8491/Somerset%20Pollinator%20Action%20Plan%20Draft.pdf</p> <p>Cllr Dave Durdan: The Boundary Commission will publish its final recommendations at the end of the month for the new electoral arrangements for Somerset West and Taunton.</p>	
7. Any Other Business	
7.1 Meeting Dates for 2019 agreed.	

Date of the next meeting	
Next meeting will be held on Thursday, 7th March 2019 from 10am – 1pm, at Churchinford Village Hall.	

Signed as a true record:

Chairman.....

Date.....