

BLACKDOWN HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP

**Minutes of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership Management Group held on
Thursday, 4th July 2019 at Hemyock Parish Hall**

Present:

Cllr John Thorne	Somerset County Council
Cllr John Berry	Devon County Council
Cllr Ross Henley	Somerset West & Taunton Council
Cllr Graham Long	Blackdown Hills Parish Network
Cllr Bob Nelson	Blackdown Hills Parish Network
David Northcote-Wright	Somerset Wildlife Trust
Heather Stallard	Blackdown Hills Business Association
Chris Lewis	CPRE, Somerset
John Greenshields	Blackdown Hills Woodland Association
Gordon Field	Blackdown Hills Artist & Makers
Martin Turner	Blackdown Hills Hedge Association
Paul Diviani (Chair)	Co-opted

Blackdown Hills AONB staff team: Tim Youngs (**TY**), Jackie Vaughan (**JV**), Lisa Turner (**LT**), Peter Chamberlain (Devon County Council), Kristen Lambert (**KL**)

Apologies: Cllr Martin Wale (South Somerset District Council); Cllr Simon Clist (Mid Devon District Council); Donna Gowler (Natural England); Mark Pope (National Farmers Union); Penny Mills (CPRE, Devon); Clare Groom (Blackdown Hills AONB); James Maben (Development Manager, AONB); Bruce Payne (Special Appointee & Vice Chair); Elaine Hayes (Special Appointee); Simon Larkins (National Trust)

Members of the public: Penny Lawrence

ITEM 1	By whom
<p>Due to the outcome of the recent local elections the representative for East Devon District council has changed. On the 10th May 2019 the vice chair of the AONB emailed all members of the Management Group with the proposal that Paul Diviani should be co-opted on to the AONB Management Group and continue in his role as chair until the next round of chair/vice chair elections in September 2020. Twelve responses were received with eleven of these being in favour of the proposal.</p> <p>A further proposal was made at the meeting by Bob Nelson that as a co-opted chair Paul Diviani should be given a vote and when required have the casting vote if the circumstances for one arise.</p> <p>This proposal was seconded by Heather Stallard.</p> <p>A vote on this proposal took place and the result was eight in favour and two against.</p> <p>AGREED: Paul Diviani, as a co-opted member, will have a vote and the casting vote for the remainder of his term in office.</p>	
ITEM 2 Introduction	
<p>The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were carried out.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>ACTION: Register of interest forms must be returned to the AONB office by Friday 2nd August 2019.</p>	ALL

ITEM 3 (Workshop 1): AONB Delivery Plan 2019-24 Actions	
Presentation given at the meeting	
<p>TY seeking support and involvement of management group members for the AONB Delivery and Business Plan.</p> <p>Cllr Thorne (JT) showed interest in supporting the broadband theme. Cllr Long (GL) suggested that social and economic themes drive the Parish Network and it should be representing this theme along with the Business Association. Chris Lewis (CL): CPRE has appointed a new planning officer who will be contacting the AONB to develop work. Bob Nelson (BN): The Parish Network could be involved in the 'Partnership and Promotion' theme. Bob Nelson (BN) suggested that the self-help in parishes guidance (produced by Otterford Parish Council and discussed at a recent Parish Network AGM) would be a useful way for the AONB/parish network to get involved.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Produce a visual guide showing how the AONB projects are aligned against objectives in the management plan ii) Contact Cllr Mike Canham for further details on the parish self-help conference 	<p>ALL</p> <p>TY</p> <p>TY</p>
ITEM 4 Devon Climate Declaration	
<p>Peter Chamberlain gave an overview of the Devon Climate Change Declaration and suggested that the AONB considered signing up to the declaration and endorsing its principles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to lobby government on climate change issues 2. that each organisation will review their own plans to reduce carbon emissions in the next six months in line with the IPCC government targets 3. to work together to produce a Devon carbon plan that would be relevant and agreed with everyone in Devon 4. to work together to review the impacts that result from a climate that is 1.5 degrees higher <p>BN suggested that the declaration should be supported and objectives that meet the principles should be written in to the AONB work. Parish Councils can also respond to tangible things that can be done.</p> <p>AGREED that the AONB should sign up to and endorse the Devon Climate Change Declaration and look at actions for the delivery plan that meet the principles of the declaration.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
ITEM 5 Questions from the public	
No questions raised.	
ITEM 6 Minutes and matters arising from 7th March 2019	
Minutes circulated prior to the meeting	
<p>Minutes</p> <p>Amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) ITEM 3 (page 1) should be amended to read 'BN suggested that the 30th anniversary of the AONB designation in 2021 should be celebrated by focusing on what has been achieved over the last 30 years along with a photographic display'. 	<p>JV</p>

<p>ii) ITEM 8.2 (page 4) should be amended to state 100 years since the beginning of the Calf Club not 200 years.</p> <p>The minutes were signed by the chairman as a true record.</p>	<p>JV</p>
<p>ITEM 7 Presentation: Nature and Wellbeing</p>	
<p>Kristen Lambert gave an update on the AONB Nature and Wellbeing project.</p>	
<p>ITEM 8 AONB Team</p>	
<p>8.1 AONB Team report Report circulated prior to the meeting</p>	
<p>BN offered to work on a briefing paper for the AONB once the Glover Review has been published in the Autumn.</p> <p>HS suggested a drone could be hired for aerial shots of the landscape.</p> <p>No further questions received on the team report.</p>	<p>TY/BN</p>
<p>8.2 Financial Summary to date Papers circulated prior to the meeting</p>	
<p>No questions raised.</p>	
<p>ITEM 9 AONB Partnership</p>	
<p>9.1 Making it Local programme update</p>	
<p>No further funding available at present.</p>	
<p>9.2 NAAONB – 2018/19 summary of achievements</p>	
<p>No questions raised.</p>	
<p>9.3 Briefings from partners</p>	
<p>Heather Stallard: Honiton show is on Thursday 1st August and all members are welcome to visit the Blackdown Hills Business Association marquee. The unveiling of the Calf Club sculpture has been delayed until May 2021 and crowd funding for the sculpture will begin in August 2019.</p> <p>Cllr John Thorne: Somerset County Council (SCC) are improving financially with a £5.5 million underspend in the last financial year. Each SCC councillor has been given a grant pot of £2,000 that will be awarded to projects that bring people together and tackle isolation.</p> <p>Cllr Graham Long: In April the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) carried out a review of rural broadband and the Parish Network submitted a consultation paper as part of this review.</p> <p>Chris Lewis: CPRE have appointed a new planner, Judith Whittle.</p>	

<p>Martin Turner: A very successful 'Skills of the Hills' event was held in March with over 1000 attendees.</p>	
<p>ITEM 10 Any Other Business</p>	
<p>10.1 The Management Group are in favour of site visit themed Management meetings (in the Spring/Summer).</p> <p>10.2 Speakers from government level on broadband should be encouraged/ invited.</p>	<p>TY to arrange</p>
<p>ITEM 10 Date of the next meeting</p>	
<p>Next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th November 2019 from 10am – 1:30pm, venue to be confirmed.</p>	

Signed as a true record:

Chairman.....

Date.....