**BLACKDOWN HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP**

**Minutes of the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership Management Group held on   
Thursday, 10th March 2022, 9.30am – 11.30am, online via Teams**

**Present:**

Peter Chamberlain (Chair) Devon County Council (OSG)

Cllr Simon Clist Mid Devon District Council

Alice Hedges National Trust

David Northcote-Wright Somerset Wildlife Trust

Jenny Ash Blackdown Hills Transition Group

Penny Mills Campaign to Protect Rural England (Devon)

Omri Ben-Chetrit Somerset West & Taunton Council (OSG)

**Blackdown Hills AONB staff team:** Tim Youngs **(TY),** Lisa Turner **(LT)**,Jackie Vaughan **(JV)**

**Guest presenters;** Jenny Archard (Clarity CIC); Ed Parr-Ferris (Devon Wildlife Trust)

**Apologies:** Bruce Payne (Special Appointee and Chair); Cllr Bob Nelson (Blackdown Hills Parish Network and Vice Chair), Cllr John Berry (Devon County Council), Cllr John Thorne (Somerset County Council); Cllr Graham Long (Blackdown Hills Parish Network); Elaine Hayes (Special Appointee); John Greenshields (Blackdown Hills Trust and Vice Chair); Gordon Field (Blackdown Hills Artists & Makers), Patrick Markey-Bell (Natural England); Alison Blom-Cooper (South Somerset District Council); Chris Lewis (Campaign to Protect Rural England, Somerset); Cllr Michael Canham (Blackdown Hills Parish Network).

**Members of the public:** None

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| **ITEM 1 Welcome and Introductions** | **By whom** |
| **1.1:** The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given.  **1.2:** Declarations of interest: None.  **1.3:** Register of Interest forms: Members will be asked to renew these forms in April.  **1.4:** Governance in 2022: The AONB Terms of Reference (ToR) will be reviewed by the AONB Team and the chair/vice chairs and presented at the next management group meeting for discussion and approval. All present agreed the process for review of the ToR.  Consideration will be given to adding a paragraph, to the ToR, about the appointment of an independent chair.  Elections for the positions of chair/vice chair/s will be held in the Autumn; anyone who has an interest in these roles should speak to Tim Youngs. | **ALL**  **ALL**  **ALL** |
| **ITEM 2 WORKSHOP: Landscapes (Glover) review – live government consultation** |  |
| **TY** gave a presentation on the government’s response to the Glover review.  The Glover review made 27 responses however, the government have not responded to all of them.  The NAAONB will be submitting a response on behalf of the 34 AONBs and will be focussing on proposal 24 - ‘***AONBs should be strengthened with purposes, powers & resources and renamed as******national landscapes’.***  AONBs will also be submitting their own responses.  There are 15 sections within the government response that the Blackdown Hills AONB have made a draft comment on and after discussion the following points were made (and will be included in the response):  **Discussion points: (numbers relate to the presentation points)**   1. **Strengthened AONBs and new name**   All supported the change of name to National Landscapes although concern that this  should not be a rebranding exercise with nothing behind it   1. **Strategic direction (new national landscape partnership)**   Need to stress that local autonomy is important   1. **Strategic direction (new national landscapes strategy)**   Important to keep work locally driven   1. **A stronger mission for nature recovery (changed statutory purpose)**   Very supportive of a nature recovery purpose however show caution as the AONB is not a local authority  **13. Management Plans**  New guidance on management plans coming in January 2023 plus a new National  Landscapes Strategy, therefore suggested that the next management plan should run  from 2025-2030, agreed in principle by all present  **15. Sustainable financing**  All agreed that AONB budgets need to double over the next 3 years  Final version of the AONB’s response will be sent out to members for final comments by week ending 18th March 2022. The response will then be submitted before the deadline on 9 April 2022. |  |
| **ITEM 3 Questions from the public** |  |
| No questions received and none present. |  |
| **ITEM 4 Minutes and matters arising from 4th November 2021**  Minutes circulated prior to the meeting |  |
| The minutes were agreed and will be signed by the chairman as a true record when appropriate to do so.  **Matters arising and actions:**  **ITEM 4 (minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting):**  GL noted that the Parish Network website needs updating and through discussion, including at the forthcoming AGM, it could be established what AONB related information could usefully be included. Item still outstanding from July 2021 meeting TY to follow up.  **ITEM 6.1.2 (team report):**  **Action 4: TY** to discuss with membersCllr Wale and Cllr HaywoodtheTriple Axe projectwhich relates to current phosphate related discussions/Axenutrient management plan in their areas. | **TY/CG**  **TY** |
| **ITEM 5 Inclusion and diversity- what we can do better as an AONB Partnership** |  |
| **BP** congratulated Clarity CIC on the excellent piece of work that they have delivered.  **JA** talked through the Inclusion and Diversity report that has been presented to the AONB.  **ACTION: TY asked for members who have some knowledge or interest in inclusion and diversity to become involved in a facilitated session in April/May to take the report to the next stage and look at the 4 recommendations made within the report. DN-W suggested this should be expanded to the wider partnership** | **ALL** |
| **ITEM 6 Devon Nature Recovery Network** |  |
| Presentation given on the Devon Nature Recovery Network mapping by Ed Parr-Ferris from the Devon Wildlife Trust. Very closely linked to the Blackdown Hills Nature Recovery Area Delivery Plan. |  |
| **ITEM 7 AONB Team**  Papers circulated prior to the meeting |  |
| **ITEM 7.1 Team report** |  |
| **Action 1:** Discussion around the landscape review was completed earlier in the meeting.  **Action 2:** It was agreed that further discussions, about the review date for the management plan, could take place with the OfficerSupportGroup.  **Action 3:** Members were asked to pass on details of the funding available via the Farming in a Protected Landscape project (see AONB website for further information). [Farming in Protected Landscapes - Blackdown Hills AONB](https://blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/get-involved/farming-in-protected-landscapes/)  **Action 4:** TY is looking for suggestions on how to increase community engagement for the AONB champion species as part of the nature recovery plan. | **ALL**  **ALL** |
| **ITEM 7.2 Financial summary to end of September 2021** |  |
| No questions raised. |  |
| **ITEM 8 AONB Partnership** |  |
| **8.1 Briefings from partners**  **Blackdown Hills Transition Group**  The repair café has continued remotely throughout the pandemic and the next meeting in person is Saturday 26th March.  Apple Days have not been happening through the pandemic but the equipment has been hired out to groups.  The Eco Hub at Combe Raleigh is a new joint project between the transition group and Trim Plants which has been supported by a grant from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund. It has started with two projects, the making of biochar and peat free compost which have both been very successful. |  |
| **ITEM 8 Any Other Business** |  |
| Plans are to hold the next Management Group meeting on the 30th June in person in a village hall followed by a site visit to one of the AONB projects. Further details to follow. |  |
| **Date of next meeting** |  |
| Date of next meetings in 2022:  **Thursday 30 June**  **Thursday 3 November** | **ALL** |

**Signed as a true record:**

**Chairman………………………………… Date………………….**