

**MINUTES OF BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY NATIONAL
PARK AUTHORITY HELD AT CONFERENCE ROOM, PLAS Y FFYNNON,
CAMBRIAN WAY, BRECON LD3 7HP ON FRIDAY, 28TH MAY, 2021**

PRESENT:

Powys

Cllr M Jones, Cllr E Roderick, Cllr McIntosh and Cllr Williams

Monmouthshire

Cllr A Webb

Carmarthenshire

Merthyr Tydfil

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Cllr G Thomas

Torfaen

Cllr S Evans

Blaenau Gwent

Cllr J Hill

Members appointed by the Welsh Government

Mr Christopher Coppock, Mr James Marsden, Liz Davis, Canon Aled Edwards, Sue Holden and Mr Julian Stedman

In Attendance

Angharad Hawkes

Apologies

Cllr Ratcliffe, Cllr McNicholas, Cllr A James and Cllr Amos

66/21 Correspondence

The Deputy Chair, Liz Davis, chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair. She noted apologies and welcomed three new members as a result of changes in Local Authority appointments: Cllr Iain McIntosh (Powys), Cllr Jon Williams (Powys) and Cllr Julian Amos (Merthyr Tydfil). Cllr Amos was unable to join the meeting because of technical issues.

The Chair had written to the three members completing their terms of office: Cllr Phil Pritchard, Cllr James Evans and Cllr Malcolm Colbran.

67/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

68/21 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) **To approve the minutes of the National Park Authority held on 16th April 2021 and authorise the Chair to sign them as a correct record;**
- b) **To receive the minutes of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 29th January 2021.**

69/21 Public Speaking

There were no requests to speak.

70/21 Chair's Announcements

The Deputy Chair advised that she and the Chair had met with other Chairs recently to discuss some of the Audit Wales Report actions.

71/21 Transition Director's Announcements

The Transition Director updated members on a number of issues, the most significant being her decision to delay the timetable for completion of the Local Development Plan in response to the impact of phosphates on the Authority's business and the likelihood of the plan being unsound due to the level of constraints on this. She would be writing to Welsh Government on this, and a paper would be brought to the additional meeting of the Authority on 21 June 2021. Stakeholders would be consulted on the way forward.

Audit Wales had advised that their next three Park audit would be on sustainable tourism; an officer group would meet shortly to discuss how they would work with Audit Wales. It

was noted that the phosphate issue would also impact on tourism and the Transition Director agreed to advise Audit Wales of this.

It was noted that the Transition Director had secured additional support to enable progress to be made with the structure of the Leadership Team and to address key issues such as performance and risk. Mark Evans would be working part time and would be seeking meetings with members.

72/21 Evidence Position Statement

Members considered the draft Position Statement which had been deferred from the last meeting and subsequently considered again at Policy Forum.

RESOLVED: That Members endorse the Evidence Position Statement as the position of the Authority.

73/21 Interim Supplementary Planning Guidance: Retail Centres

Members were advised that following their agreement to consult on the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance in February, the situation had changed as Welsh Government had agreed a temporary removal of the need for planning permission for many time of proposal covered in the SPG. Officer proposed to revisit this once this temporary removal expired.

In response to a question officers confirmed that at that stage they would seek agreement to reconsult on any proposed changes.

RESOLVED: To revisit the merits of approving the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance on LDP Policy 42(C) Development in Retail Centres once lessons have been learned from implementing the current temporary permitted development rights as set out in Classes C–E, Part 4A of The Town and Country Planning (General permitted Development) (Amendment) (No.2) (Wales) Order 2021 (“the Amendment Order”).

74/21 Member Reports

The Landscape and Biodiversity Champion reported on a meeting of the Wye Nutrient Management Board and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water’s assessment of the source of phosphate pollution on the Wye catchment. In response to a question he advised that the data had been endorsed by regulators and checked by Natural Resources Wales. All reports had been passed to officers.

A member referred to being in possession of alternative data and was asked to forward this to the Policy Team.

In relation to a question about a potential challenge on the basis of lived experience an officer advised that as set out in the Position Statement on Evidence checks and balances would be carried out to ensure that nothing was taken at face value.

75/21 Gifts & Hospitality

No declarations were made.

76/21 Access to Information

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of item 12 in accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 13 and 14 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

The Deputy Chair advised that recording should now cease.

77/21 Recruitment of Ecologist (policy)

Members considered a proposal for an additional Ecologist post on the establishment to deal with policy development, implementation and monitoring to address the phosphate issue.

Members were generally supportive and recognised the advocacy part of this role. It was also suggested that the role should be general rather than specific so that it could be adapted to meet changing needs in future.

The point was also made that members needed to understand the cumulative financial impact on decisions to add to the staff establishment.

RESOLVED: That an Ecologist (Policy) is added as a full-time permanent post to the establishment.

78/21 Any Other Business

- I. A member raised issues in relation to phosphates and how the Authority was considering data, which he felt was not always presented in a balanced way. As this was not a scheduled item of business, with no supporting papers, the Deputy Chair asked him to share all the evidence he had and to discuss this with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Policy Forum.

2. The Democratic Services Manager highlighted the forthcoming AGM on 30 July and reminded members that in line with procedures agreed last year she would be seeking self-nominations for key posts at the end of June.

Signed as a correct record
Chairman of the National Park Authority