



## Lake District National Park

Authority: 20 September 2017  
Draft Minutes Subject to Committee Approval

Agenda Item: 2

### Lake District National Park Authority

MINUTES of a meeting of the Lake District National Park Authority held at the National Park Office, Murley Moss, Kendal at 10.00 am on 21 June 2017.

#### Present

Mr J P Allen MBE	Mr D Fletcher (in attendance from 11.20 am)
Dr A J Barker	Mrs B C Gray
Mr J Bland	Mr M MacInnes
Mr H Branney	Mr M S McKinley
Mr N Cumberlidge	Mrs V J C Rees
Dr S J Curl	Mr J G Thompson
Dr G L Davies	5 vacancies
Mr J M Farmer	

#### Apologies

Mr W Jefferson OBE

#### 33/17 Appointment of Chairman

Mr Branney nominated Mr McKinley to continue as the Authority's Chairman and Dr Curl seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

**Decided:** That Mr M S McKinley be re-appointed Chairman of the Authority for the coming year.

#### 34/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Jefferson.

#### 35/17 Minutes

**Decided:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 36/17 Appointment of Deputy Chairman

Mr Thompson nominated Dr Barker to continue as the Authority's Deputy Chair and Mr Cumberlidge seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

**Decided:** That Dr A J Barker be re-appointed Deputy Chair of the Authority for the coming year.

### **37/17 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Waterhouse who, following the recent Parish Council elections was voted the new representative to the South Distinctive Area. As confirmation by the Secretary of State was still awaited, Mrs Waterhouse was attending as an observer to the meeting.

The Chairman advised of the Director of Communications and Resources forthcoming wedding and, on behalf of all Members, wished both her and future husband all the best for the future.

Mr Allen informed of Mrs Anne Hall, a former Authority Member, being awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. The Chairman would contact Mrs Hall to offer everyone's congratulations.

The Chairman announced to Members and members of the public that a digital sound recording of the meeting would be made.

### **38/17 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of a registrable interest or disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any of the business of the Committee.

### **39/17 Questions**

There were no questions relating to the business of the Authority.

### **40/17 Public Participation**

There were no questions, petitions or deputations of a general nature relating to the business of the Authority.

### **41/17 Appointment of Members**

#### **a) Local Authority Appointees**

Members noted the re-appointment of Mr Thompson as Eden District Council's representative on the Authority.

The Chairman updated Members on the current position with regards the appointment of Cumbria County Council representatives to the Authority.

#### **b) Secretary of State Appointees – Parish and National Members**

The Chairman updated Members on the current position with regards the Secretary of State's confirmation of the appointment of the Parish Council representative together with the appointment of our National representative.

### **42/17 Chief Executive's Update**

In addition to the content of the report, and following the recent General Election, the Chief Executive advised of changes to the Ministerial team, with Michael Gove MP being

appointed to the role of Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. A letter of congratulations had been sent by the Chair of National Parks England, on behalf of all National Parks, with the offer of assistance on ways forward on the topics of agriculture and Brexit. It appeared that the same Junior Ministerial team had been retained, but no confirmation of whether their portfolios remained exactly as before. Lord Gardiner of Kimble would, he believed, continue in his role.

The Chief Executive also advised of correspondence with Karen Bradley MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the prospects offered by the emergency services network to extend broadband and mobile phone coverage into the not spots within National Parks. An opportunity for early engagement and discussions with all teams had been sought.

The Chief Executive wished to record his thanks and congratulations to the National Parks Partnership, and in particular, Steve Curl, for bringing the fantastic opportunity with Columbia Sportswear to the table. Members were shown a short video of the launch event for the partnership which took place in London on 23 May.

In answers to questions raised, the Chief Executive advised on –

- progress being made to correct the factual inaccuracies within the World Heritage Site draft report and the way forward with regards to reconciliation on those areas incompatible with the Partnership Plan to satisfy the additional ICOMOS recommendations; and
- the ongoing work with key businesses and interested parties in the National Park to support and make financial contributions to the Lake District Pound.

**Decided:** Members noted the update on key topics since the last meeting.

#### 43/17 **National Parks England**

**Decided:** The draft minutes of the National Parks England meeting held on 5 April 2017 were received and noted.

#### 44/17 **Lake District National Park Partnership**

**Decided:** The draft minutes of the Lake District National Park Partnership meeting held on 20 March 2017 were received and noted.

#### 45/17 **Minutes of Committees**

The Minutes of the meetings of the following Committees were laid separately before the meeting and in respect of each Committee it was agreed that the Minutes should be approved and recommendations relating to the functions not delegated to a Committee should be confirmed.

##### a) Rights of Way Committee

Dr Davies presented the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017;

b) Park Strategy and Vision Committee

Dr Barker presented the minutes of the meetings held on 9 February and 27 April 2017;

c) Resources Committee

Mr Farmer presented the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2017; and

d) Development Control Committee

Mr Allen presented the minutes of the meetings held on 1 March, 5 April and 3 May 2017.

**46/17 Members Representation on Outside Bodies and Partnerships**

Verbal updates were given from Members on meetings attended as the Authority's representative:

a) Cumbria and Lake District Local Access Forum

Dr Davies advised that the format of the new meetings of the combined Local Access Forum (LAF) were same as those previously adopted by Cumbria with a site inspection followed by formal meeting, the recent meeting being in and around Coniston. Ongoing discussions continued with regards the Authority sending a substitute when Dr Davies could not attend.

b) Cumbria Local Nature Partnership

Mr Farmer advised, that following a recent meeting, it had been agreed that no Authority Member representative was required going forward. However, this would be kept under review.

The meeting was adjourned and reconvened after a 5 minute break.

**47/17 Proposal to Lease Glenridding Common to the John Muir Trust**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Pearson, Chairman, Mr Andrew Bachell, Chief Executive and Steve Green, Trustee, of the John Muir Trust to the meeting.

The Chief Executive introduced the report which advised of a public consultation on a proposal to lease Glenridding Common to the John Muir Trust (JMT) for an initial period of three years. The paper assessed the outcome of the consultation and made recommendations relating to the future management of the Common.

The Property Services Manager informed Members of the consultation process which had commenced in January giving the community and stakeholders an opportunity to understand more about the proposal and of the continued discussions with the two commoners who graze the land and representatives from the farming community whom had made useful contributions towards the content of the draft lease.

Whilst acknowledging the objections of the Federation of Cumbria Commoners, Members welcomed and were content in supporting the proposal knowing that both the grazers and farming community were now on-board with the future management arrangements.

Members voted 11:0 in favour of the recommendations. 3 Members did not vote, 1 of which was not present during the entire presentation of the agenda item.

On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman thanked the Property Services Manager for his contribution during his time with the Authority and wished him a long and happy retirement.

- Decided:**
- a Members considered the outcome of the public consultation;
  - b Members endorsed the recommendation that the Authority leases Areas A & B of Glenridding Common to the John Muir Trust for an initial period of three years; and
  - c Members delegated responsibility for sign-off of the final version of the lease to the Head of Resources.

#### 48/17 **Appointment of Members to Serve on Committees**

The Chairman presented the report which invited the Authority to appoint the current Members to serve on its Committees from 1 July until 20 September 2017, and explained the reasons for proceeding with the suggested arrangements outlined in the report.

- Decided:**
- a Members agreed to the appointment to Standing Committees, serving from 1 July until 20 September 2017 as shown in Annex 1.

#### 49/17 **Appointments to Outside Bodies and Partnerships, Task and Finish Groups/Project Boards and Distinctive Area Teams**

The Chairman presented the report requesting the appointment of Members to represent the Authority at meetings of various other organisations (Outside Bodies and Partnerships), to our internal Task and Finish Groups/Project Boards and Distinctive Area Working Teams.

- Decided:**
- a The composition of appointments to Outside Bodies and Partnerships as set out in Annex 1 is agreed;
  - b The appointment of representatives of the Authority to the Outside Bodies and Partnerships, Task and Finish Groups/Project Boards and Distinctive Area Teams as set out in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 is agreed; and
  - c Attendance at meetings of the Outside Bodies and Partnerships, Task and Finish Groups/Project Boards and Distinctive Area Teams be an approved duty for the purpose of the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances.

**The Committee passed the following Resolution:**

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items. This was because exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A of the Act, may be disclosed during discussions.

**Part 2**

**50/17 Brockhole Redevelopment**

The Director of Communications and Resources introduced the report which outlined and proposed a three year investment programme for our Brockhole site. This would transform our visitor service offering, fix the current decaying infrastructure and deliver a consistently, sustainable and profitable operation by the end of that period.

The Head of Resources gave an audio visual presentation to support the information, recommendation and options within the report.

The Acting Chairman of the Programme Board wished to record his thanks and appreciation to Tim Knowles as previous Chairman for all his work on the project together with the Head of Resources and his team. He added his endorsement to the way forward, which he believed made evolutionary progress, was affordable and deliverable, and which genuinely transformed the site into the 2020s.

In welcoming the report, Members discussed in detail the offer currently on site and its potential growth at non-peak times, our contracts with other attraction providers, the necessary improvements to the adventure playground and car park infrastructure together with the robustness of the income projections.

- Decided:**
- a Members agreed the recommendation to progress the redevelopment of Brockhole in line with Scenario 1;
  - b Members approved the additional £480,000 investment above current plan in order to deliver this; and
  - c Members noted the other options evaluated in detail and the rationale for not recommending these as a way forward at this time.

**51/17 Property Review Proposal**

The Head of Resources presented the report which set out a proposal to commence the process to seek an alternative owner for Craggy Wood, Staveley.

Members welcomed and endorsed the proposal to sell the woodland.

- Decided:**
- a Members approved that we serve notice to South Lakeland District Council of our intention to sell Craggy Wood and via the Asset of Community Value (ACV) seek to reach agreement on a sale to a community interest group;

- b If such a community interest sale is not possible, Members approved the sale of Craggy Wood on the open market after the ACV process is exhausted; and
- c Members approved the necessary steps to achieve this and delegated negotiations to the Head of Resources, and final decision to the Director of Communications and Resources, in consultation with the Authority Solicitor.

### **Staff in Confidence**

#### **52/17 Delivering Investing for our Future**

The Director of Communications and Resources presented the report which proposed a significant development in the management and delivery structure of the Communications and Resources Directorate to improve delivery of the Authority's Organisational Strategy.

Members welcomed and supported the content of the report, acknowledging the need for the restructure in order to make headway with our commercial delivery in the future.

**Decided:** a Members approved the changes to the organisational structure set out in Annex 2.

(The meeting finished at 1.32 pm)