

MINUTES OF THE 77th MEETING OF THE NAAONB MANAGEMENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HELD AT BVSC, BIRMINGHAM
HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH JUNE 2018

Attendees - Board Members Philip Hygate, Chris Woodley-Stewart, Rose Day, Nick Holliday, James Williamson, Lucy Barron, Mat Roberts (by telecon), Denise Hewlett (by telecon), Paul Walton (by telecon)

Attendees - Staff Howard Davies - Chief Executive, Jill Smith - Communications & Events Manager, Richard Clarke - Policy & Development Manager, Amber Carter - Office & Membership Manager

Attendees - Observers Lisa Tomos - NRW, David Henshilwood - NE

Apologies - Observers Jordan Stanley - Defra

Attendees - Speakers Daniel Johansen, Ingrid Bjørklund - The AONB model - applicable to Norway?

1. Apologies

Jordan Stanley, Defra

2. Declarations of Interest

Nick Holliday declared he is no longer a member of the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

CE, Howard Davies will send a form to all Trustees to complete for declarations of interest.

ACTION: HD

3. Minutes and matters arising (PH)

Minutes agreed as accurate.

Matters arising

Page 4 **Reserves policy** - CE, Howard Davies sought clarification of what was agreed at the last meeting.

Resolution: The Board confirmed that CE, Howard Davies will work with Honorary Treasurer, James Williamson to draft a reserves policy. This will be circulated to the Board via Basecamp for discussion and agreement.

Action: HD and JW

Page 8 **Agri-environment offer** – CE, Howard Davies reported that the work of drafting the AONB responses has been contracted out to David Blake, formerly of Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership.

Resolution: The NAAONB will present the AONB Family offer to Defra by 22nd June. This will consist of a document which summarises the principles agreed by the AONB Family plus an appendix of trials/pilots.

Action: HD

**The National Association for
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Belmont House, Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6LG
07964 535166

amber.carter@landscapesforlife.org.uk

Twitter @NAAONB

A company limited by guarantee no: 4729800

Charity Number: 1158871

Registered office as above

Signed..........11th October 2018

4. Review of Designated Landscapes in England (HD)

An announcement of the launch of the Review was made in the Sunday Telegraph on May Bank Holiday Sunday. The announcement included the confirmation that Julian Glover will chair the Review. The Board papers show the scope of the review. Chairman, Philip Hygate, has written to Julian Glover inviting him to contribute to Landscapes for Life Conference 2018.

Resolution: The Board had a detailed discussion and agreed to use their scheduled meeting on Thursday 26th June at Clayton Hotel, Birmingham to consider a response to share with the membership at L4L2018 and subsequently feed into the Review.

5. Landscapes for Life Conference 2018 briefing (CWS)

Board accepted report.

6. NAAONB Business Review update - verbal (HD)

Taken in camera. Staff were requested to leave.

Outline of discussion – CE, Howard Davies, updated trustees on the current situation with regards employment of staff and the challenges associated with moving staff to new job descriptions. He outlined the constraints this placed on delivery at a time of great opportunity. Trustees suggested the use of £6,000 of funds set aside for contingency to be used to support the development of advocacy work and effectively maximise the impact of the NAAONB over the coming year. Additionally, the CE highlighted the clear need to focus action on the opportunities afforded by the Glover Review of Designated Landscapes in England and the ambition set out in the 25YEP. This would have an impact on current plan delivery and some actions in the business plan would not now take place. Trustees agreed to help prioritise future actions. The CE agreed to initiate this process. This prioritisation would bring the business review to its conclusion.

Resolution: Board agreed that 6,000 of funds set aside for contingency to be used to support the development of advocacy work

Proposed: James Williamson

Seconded: Chris Woodley-Stewart

7. HLF update - verbal (RC)

The application to HLF Resilience Fund builds on the Future Landscape work – building resilience and securing assets

Application went in on 30/3 – 8 wks to make a decision but then goes to committee plus sign-off by Deputy Director

Committee decision w/c 11/6/2018

Deputy Director sign off w/c 18/6/2018

The bid is £164,300 against total cost of £200K representing a grant request of 83%

Two elements to the bid

- improving sustainability/governance of NAAONB
- Personal/professional development prog for up to 40 AONB staff

Number of notable things emerged. 1. Pub fact in last 20 yrs HLF has invested over £80m in AONBs

Vice Chairman, Chris Woodley-Stewart expressed his gratitude for this work on behalf of the Board and asked for this to be minuted.

Signed 11th October 2018

8. GDPR update - verbal (AC)

The NAAONB have a privacy policy written and in place on www.landscapesforlife.org.uk
Tailored privacy notices dependent on the subject matter (Basecamp, Conference, Newsletter etc) have been issued.

9. Strategic Risk (HD)

The Strategic Risk document is updated before each Board meeting and placed on Basecamp for consideration and comment by the Board.

The Board currently consider the top three risks and discuss whether mitigation put in place is adequate. These are

1. Environmental funding declines
2. Major partners withdraw from use of NAAONB services (e.g. Defra)
3. Over reliance on one source of funding (e.g. grants)
If we get the HLF bid, we will be required by law to have a risk management statement within its annual accounts.

There was a discussion about whether the Board should be considering more than the top three and whether as part of the Board meeting they should look forward more and consider mitigation.

Resolution: Board agreed that Honorary Treasurer, James Williamson would reflect on the risks and feed back to the Board.

Proposer - Chris Woodley-Stewart

Seconded - Nick Holliday

10. Management Accounts (AC)

The accounts were accepted as accurate.

Proposed: Rose Day

Seconded: Nick Holliday

Agreed: Unanimously

11. NAAONB Portfolio & Staff Activity Report (Portfolio holders & staff)

CE, Howard Davies reported that no activity is currently flagged red. Income is flagged amber because the bid to NRW was unsuccessful and reported that we are working hard to rectify that. Development Manager, Richard Clarke reported on a positive meeting with Defra which showed parallels between the metrics the NAAONB are developing and those that Defra are developing for the 25 YEP.

CE, Howard Davies reported that the NAAONB are working with Juliet Williams, a friend of the Chairman, to help develop the Charity. Her initial thoughts are

1. The brand is muddled unclear - what is NAAONB and what is AONB Family should be clearer. She has looked at the branding guidelines. She understands why we did what we did in 2010 and sees how it has taken us forward but thinks it needs revisiting to make further progress
2. As an organisation we have never managed to turn the individual relationships we have developed into assets for the Charity.

She is excited to be working with us and is undertaking the work gratis.

Signed 11th October 2018

12. Defra Report - verbal (JSt)

No report and apologies from Jordan Stanley.

13. Natural England Report (DH)

The Suffolk Coast and Heaths formal consultation is complete. It is unclear whether the Review of Designated Landscapes will make a difference to any variation order.

Lucy Barron raised a question about the demise of MEOPL David Henshilwood responded that it is understood that this is ill timed, as the AONB Partnerships/Conservation Boards review their Management Plans but Natural England resources are stretched.

Lucy Barron offered said that a central service is more efficient and less costly than the proposed local level alternative.

Chairman, Philip Hygate reported that he and National Parks England Chairman, Margaret Paren are writing to Natural England Chairman Andrew Sells expressing our strong sentiment that MEOPL needs to be retained.

14. Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru - Natural Resources Wales Report - verbal (LT)

Liza apologised for the result of the NAAONB's bid to NRW and added that none of NRW's national landscapes partners was successful. They are working closely with the NAAONB to find alternative funding.

NRW CEO, Clare Pillman has sent her apologies for conference as it clashes with her attendance of the Royal Welsh Show but a senior official will attend. She has also requested a meeting with Chairman, Philip Hygate as soon as diaries permit.

The roll out of the All Wales Conservation Delivery project which the NAAONB is leading on is at diary consultation stage with NRW and Welsh Government. Once dates have been agreed, invitations for involvement will be issued. The project will boost biodiversity across all the designated landscapes in Wales.

AOB

None

15. The AONB model - applicable to Norway? - verbal (DJ/IB)

Trustees were asked to consider the 5 questions posed by the Norwegian's presentation.

Communications Manager, Jill Smith suggested adding the presentation to the Board's basecamp section so they could respond having given more thought to the questions.

Signed..........11th October 2018