

To: All Members  
of the Dartmoor National Park Authority

(see below)

**Please quote: NPA/05/Agenda**

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Date: 22 March 2005

## **DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**Friday 1 April 2005**

A meeting of the Dartmoor National Park Authority will be held on the above date at 12 noon or on the rising of the Planning Committee, whichever is the later **in the Meeting Room at Parke, Bovey Tracey** to consider the following matters.

Nick Atkinson

Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

### **Access to Information - Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)**

#### **Agenda and Reports**

Copies of the Agenda and Part I reports are available for members of the public to inspect prior to the meeting. Copies will also be available for reference use at the meeting.

#### **Background Papers**

The Background Papers to the Part I Reports, excluding those papers that contain Exempt information, can be inspected by members of the public at the above address between the hours of 9:00am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, by prior arrangement.

# AGENDA

## **PART I - OPEN PROCEEDINGS**

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2005 - attached (Page 1)

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

Members are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interest relating to any agenda item at this stage in the meeting.

### **3 Items requiring urgent attention**

### **4 Public Question Time**

### **5 Member Appointments**

(i) To appoint a Secretary of State (National) Member to serve on the Standards Committee in place of Reverend Stanton .

(ii) To appoint a member to assist with the new National Park Authorities Performance Assessment Regime. Duties will include participating in a Peer Review visit to another National Park in England. Appropriate training is being arranged.

### **6 Future of the Association of National Park Authorities – Establishment of an England Body**

Chief Executive (National Park Officer) to report

### **7 Proposed Temporary Closure of Chagford Bridleway 27**

Last year the Chagford Recreational Trust asked for a temporary closure of the enclosed section of Bridleway 27, leading from the road to the recreation field, for the purpose of making improvements to the surface (which provides vehicular access to the recreation field). Despite much less than the preferred six weeks' notice being given, a temporary closure was arranged, under delegated powers, to enable the works to go ahead.

Unfortunately, there is no alternative route to avoid the enclosed section of bridleway.

Though it was closed to horses (and vehicles) for approximately eight days, it was open for walkers within three days, once the concrete surface had begun to harden.

The work was not completed last year and the Trust has asked for a further closure this year, this time giving only 28 days' notice. Again acting under delegated powers, procedures have been put in place to publish intent to make an order, which it is hoped will enable the statutory procedures to be completed in time for the closure to come into effect on 13 April and to last for up to 10 days, again with pedestrian access being permitted earlier. The Recreational Trust has scheduled this work within a small window of time between the main use of the field for football and cricket activities and failure to undertake the works at this time would lead to the work being postponed to a time when it might have a more disruptive effect upon the community.

**8 Historic Buildings Grant Aid Scheme**

Report of the Director of Understanding & Enjoyment (NPA/05/013) (Page 4)

**9 National Parks Week 22-29 July 2005**

Director of Understanding & Enjoyment to report

**10 Dartmoor Local Access Forum**

Draft Minutes of the Dartmoor Local Access Forum meeting held on held on 8 March 2005 attached at page 5.

**11 Working Panels**

Notes of the meeting of the Conservation Working Panel held on 10 March 2005 attached at page 9.

**12 Members' Attendance at Outside Bodies**

To receive reports of salient matters from Members attending meetings of outside organisations.

**PART II - ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ON THE GROUNDS THAT EXEMPTED INFORMATION MAY BE DISCLOSED.**

**13 Part II – Items which may be taken in the absence of the Press and Public on the grounds that Exempt Information may be disclosed**

It is recommended that, in accordance with s.100A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, the following Agenda item is taken in the absence of the Press and Public, on the grounds that exempt information within the meaning of Part I Paragraphs 8 and 9 to Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act will be discussed, namely:

*8. The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.*

*9. Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.*

**14 Right of Way Access Improvements**

Director of Understanding & Enjoyment to report

## **MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

Membership:

T Archer, S D Barker, G Bateman, Ms L Bennett, B H Berman, W G Cann OBE, N G Clarke, J Elson, M E French, P W Hitchins, L J G Hockridge, N Hoskin, D Houseago, M Jeffery, Miss H Jenny, Mrs G Madigan, Mrs C Marsh, E T Mitchell, Dr I Mortimer, Miss D Moyse, M H Retallick, J Shears, T Smale, R J Souness, F Symons, Mrs J Waterhouse

## DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Friday 4 March 2005

**Present:** T Archer, S D Barker, W G Cann OBE (Chairman), N G Clarke, P W Hitchins, N Hoskin, Miss H Jenny, Mrs G Madigan, Mrs C Marsh, Dr I Mortimer, M H Retallick, J Shears and Mrs J Waterhouse

**Apologies:** G Bateman, Ms L Bennett, B H Berman, J Elson, M E French, L J G Hockridge, M Jeffery, E T Mitchell, Miss D Moyse, R J Souness and F Symons

### **1706 Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 4 February 2005**

#### **RESOLVED:**

It was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4 February 2005 be signed as a correct record.

### **1707 Declarations of Interest**

None

### **1708 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) reported that the Secretary of State had appointed two new members of the Authority, Trevor Smale and Daniel Houseago, with effect from 1 April.

Two visitors in the public gallery were introduced as members of the New Forest National Park Implementation Team, observing the process of Authority meetings. The New Forest designation order was made on 1 March and the Authority comes into being on 1 April. It is hoped that New Forest Members will attend the next joint Dartmoor/Exmoor training event, provisionally arranged for 14/15 June.

### **1709 Public Question Time**

None

### **1710 Mobile Vending 2005/2008**

The Authority received the report of the Director of Understanding and Enjoyment (NPA/05/008).

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Authority accepts the highest tenders in respect of the sites set out in the schedule detailed in the report and notes that Tourism officers will contact businesses to discuss environmental practice through the Dartmoor Charter for Sustainable Tourism.

**1711 Countryside Agency Consultation – Criteria for Undertaking a Review of a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Boundary**

The Authority received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/05/009). Mrs Madigan requested that agreement be reinforced.

**RESOLVED:**

That the criteria be agreed and the Agency advised that boundary modifications should only be pursued very sparingly where exceptionally good case can be made.

**1712 The Two Moors Threatened Butterfly Project**

The Authority received the report of the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) (NPA/05/010).

**RESOLVED:**

That the allocation of £5,000 to support the first year of this partnership project be approved and a similar allocation for a further two years, funds permitting, be approved in principle.

**1713 Sustainable Tourism: Proposed Bid for Assistance Under the European Objective 2 Programme**

The Authority received the report of the Director of Understanding and Enjoyment (NPA/05/011).

**RESOLVED:**

That support be expressed for a bid for Objective 2 funding to support sustainable tourism project work.

**1714 Financial Monitoring Statement and Forecast Outturn Report 2004/05**

The Authority received the report of the Director of Corporate Services (NPA/05/012).

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) The content of the report be noted.
- (ii) The approach as outlined for the allocation of funds arising from additions to grant, investments and 2004/05 savings be approved.

**1715 Performance Indicators 2004/05 (Third Quarter)**

A schedule showing the Authority's reportable PIs with qualifying commentary was distributed to Members showing the situation at the end of the third quarter of the year.

It was proposed that a review of the Local Indicators was an appropriate topic for the working panels in their respective areas and it was agreed that this be on the agenda for the next meeting of each of the working panels.

## **1716 Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 Mapping Appeals Update**

The Director of Understanding and Enjoyment reported that 103 appeals were lodged, three were withdrawn leaving 100 which have now been determined: 69 were allowed in full, 12 in part and the rest dismissed. The appeal at Merrivale Newtake was dismissed, but the Vixen Tor Farm appeals were allowed on all but 'Field 6'. The appeal decision means the land containing Vixen Tor itself will not appear on the conclusive maps and it is intended to hold voluntary discussions with the owners to determine the arrangements under which the owners may consider access to 'Field 7' in which the tor is located. Contrary to recent media reporting the Authority emphasised its preference and desire for a voluntary solution to the ongoing issue of access to Vixen Tor.

## **1717 Dartmoor Local Access Forum**

The Authority received the draft Minutes of the Dartmoor Local Access Forum meeting held on 20 January 2005.

## **1718 Working Panels**

The Authority received the notes of the Visitor Services Working Panel meeting held on 19 January 2005 and the Planning and Socio Economic Working Panel meeting held on 15 February 2005.

## **1719 Members' Attendance at Outside Bodies**

Mr Barker referred to a document regarding a proposal to provide funding to the region for housing, transport and some planning issues, on which the SW Regional Assembly require a response by 10 March. It was agreed the Director of Planning and Community would respond.

## DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

1 April 2005

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS GRANT AID SCHEME**Report of the Head of Archaeology & Historic BuildingsRecommendation : **That the grants made under delegated powers be noted.****Grants made under Delegated Powers**

Cossick Farm, Moretonhampstead	£2,600	Towards roof repairs Eligible costs:	£16,465
33 Ford Street, Moretonhampstead	£1,300	Towards roof repairs Eligible costs:	£14,144
Beacon Lodge, South Zeal	£800	Towards roof repairs Eligible costs:	£9,874
Church Rooms, South Brent	£740	Towards lime plaster and window repairs Eligible costs:	£2,980

DEBORAH GRIFFITHS  
**Head of Archaeology & Historic Buildings**

(For further information please contact Valerie Harrison)

## Draft Minutes

### DARTMOOR LOCAL ACCESS FORUM Tuesday 8 March 2005

**Present:** John Ballantyne, Clare Boughey, Kevin Chamberlain, Samantha Collins, John Earle, Philip French, Peter Harper, Lady Kitson, Donald Millgate, Rosemary Mudge, Diana Moyse, Joanna Radford, Maurice Retallick, Judith Rickets, Alan Taylor

**Apologies:** Jonathan Aylett, Chris Bittlestone, Tom Roskilly

#### **82 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2005**

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 January 2005 be signed as a correct record.

#### **83 Urgent business**

The Chair welcomed Miss Collins and Mr Chamberlain to their first meeting.

Members were reminded to complete and return the questionnaires circulated by the University of Gloucestershire.

The Secretary circulated details of CLA Briefing workshops for landowners and land managers, scheduled for several locations in the South West in April and May. Members were grateful to be given the opportunity, by the CLA, to request a special meeting specifically for LAF members, but decided that there would be sufficient opportunity for them to attend the scheduled events, including the meeting at Two Bridges on 4 May. Members were reminded to register individually for any Briefing.

Members welcomed the suggestion, made by the Deputy Chair, that they should have a field meeting to view and consider the on-the-ground preparations for CRow Act access commencement, which would ideally incorporate a presentation from officers from another access authority, such as the Peak District National Park Authority, which already had experience of managing the commencement of this new right. The Secretary was asked to make arrangements, if possible, for this to precede the next meeting on 7 June.

Members welcomed another suggestion that they might be afforded the opportunity to experience an army training exercise on Dartmoor. The Secretary confirmed that he would discuss this with the MoD.

The Secretary explained that the Open Access Contact Centre was now open for processing applications for access restrictions within the South West. The National

Park Authority, as relevant authority under the legislation, has only four months to determine applications for any 'long-term' restrictions and the 'consultation window', during which the Local Access Forum will, by statute, be asked to express any views, will be only six weeks. At present, the number of applications anticipated is small. Accordingly, should such a consultation occur outside the normal meeting schedule, members **RESOLVED**: To hold a special full meeting of the Forum for the purpose of formulating its comments on any proposed long-term restrictions.

The Chair asked for a short report to the next meeting to summarise the financial resources allocated by the National Park Authority towards access (and recreation management generally) for 2005/6.

#### **84 Annual Report**

Members asked that the Report might be redesigned so as to incorporate additional illustrations, be published in colour and be widely distributed to stakeholders.

##### **RESOLVED:**

To approve the Annual Report for publication.

#### **85 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 mapping appeals update**

The Secretary reported that of the 103 appeals lodged on Dartmoor, three were subsequently withdrawn, 69 were allowed in full, 12 allowed in part, and 19 dismissed. He reported that the National Park Authority would be discussing the access management of Merrivale Newtake with the owner. It would also be talking to the owners of Field 7 at Vixen Tor Farm (the land parcel containing Vixen Tor itself, which is not to be shown as open country and to which the new right of access will not apply) with a view to negotiating access by agreement. The Secretary confirmed that it was the Authority's policy to seek access by voluntary means.

#### **86 Footpath and bridleway signage**

In response to a request for advice from the NPA's Director of Understanding and Enjoyment, members looked at examples of the normal signs used to identify rights of way deployed within the National Park (wooden finger posts) and elsewhere in Devon, outside the National Park (green and white signs). Members accepted the premise that all signing within the National Park area should be uniform. Whilst agreeing that the green and white signs are more noticeable, and that this could be of benefit both to land managers and to users, they confirmed the view that the existing wooden finger posts were more in keeping with the landscape. Whilst expressing this preference for the existing signing, members noted that visibility could be increased, either through infill painting of the letters or by other means.

#### **87 Development of the Local Access Forum**

Facilitated by the National Park Authority's Education Manager, Orlando Rutter, members split into groups to consider the questions 'what is access', 'who is access

for', and 'who is missing', all as preparation for discussing a Background Paper, which had been prepared and circulated by the Secretary, on developing the role of the Forum. This paper set out a range of issues and options designed to stimulate discussion. A transcript of the main points fed back during this discussion session follows below. The Chair proposed that he, the Deputy Chair and the Secretary get together before the next meeting of the Forum, to draw out a framework for future development of the Forum, for discussion both within the Forum and with members of the Authority's Visitor Services Working Panel in due course.

### **Points noted in relation to Background Paper headings**

#### *Development or retreat?*

- Development – LAF to become more engaged, rather than less engaged
- More meetings might be required, but only if a real purpose identified

#### *More 'training' presentations?*

- LAF to have broader understanding of access issues and other (and potential) user groups
- Dialogue with other groups to promote understanding
- Proactive and reactive 'training' ... to prepare LAF for future needs

#### *Reactive or proactive?*

- Proactive, assertive
- Insist LAF is heard, using rational, well-researched arguments
- Seek feedback following LAF's giving of advice or views
- A louder voice for access
- Being clear about user responsibilities

#### *Independence?*

- Members currently have ability to set agenda and present reports
- DNPA host allows efficiency, ensuring money available for work on the ground
- Possibly have one meeting each year elsewhere
- LAF website better seen separate from DNPA

#### *An 'independent' Secretary*

- Having DNPA officer, at appropriate level, is a strength, for understanding viewpoints
- Opportunity to engage with other officers?

#### *Keeping in touch with information and each other*

- Need to understand wider/national access issues and disseminate 'news from the LAFs'
- Possibly use SW LAF Coordinator

#### *Keeping in touch with the public*

- Consulting with users, possibly use existing mechanisms
- Understanding the needs of all users (individuals as well as organisations)
- Use of website as consultation tool?

- Public comment meeting – should LAF raise profile at local shows?

*Handling more challenging tasks*

- Opportunities in National Park Management Plan consultation and NPA performance assessment
- Social inclusion ... identify the 'less obvious' potential users and support their ability to access Dartmoor

*What else?*

- Meeting with DNPA Visitor Services Working Panel and understanding of resources to support access

## **Dartmoor National Park Authority**

### **Notes of meeting of the Conservation Working Panel**

**held on 10 March 2005**

**Members Present:** Maurice Retallick (Chairman), Diana Moyse, Nigel Hoskin, Helen Jenny, Linda Bennett

**In attendance:** Nick Atkinson, Sue Eberle, Sue Goodfellow, Debbie Griffiths

#### **1 Notes of the Meeting held 11 November 2004, and update:**

- (i) Woodlands: The Woodland Strategy final report from the consultant was imminent, and would be circulated to Panel members. Endorsement by the Authority would be the subject of a report in early summer. The Ancient Woodland Project, which is prominent in the Strategy, awaited confirmation of partner funding.
- (ii) Pony Support: Copy of Commoners Council Working Party meeting notes to be circulated for information (the Working Party is currently being reconstituted, NPA member representation to be confirmed). Sue Eberle reported favourable progress with the two support schemes related to ESA grazing, and the DPS gene pool herds.
- (iii) Dartmoor Historic Environment Record: Debbie Griffiths reported action in hand to establish the Dartmoor HER based upon transferred records from DCC's Sites and Monuments Register. The establishment of draft criteria for eligibility on a list of buildings of local importance remained a task in hand.
- (iv) Ecology Section: Action for Wildlife 2 launch will be at Broadaford on 21 June to which Panel members would be invited. A Moorland Management Forum will be held at Ugborough provisionally on June 6 – date and invitation to Panel members to be confirmed. Good progress on the Operation Wader Project was discussed.
- (v) Agri BIP: Members enquired about Agri BIP activity related to the NPA grant approved at the last meeting. The recent Agri BIP newsletter would be circulated with the notes of this meeting.

#### **2 Moor Futures:**

The Vision for moorland Dartmoor was near final agreement, and formal endorsement by all relevant statutory agencies and bodies, including the Commoners Council, was imminent. A copy of the final map would be circulated to members of the Panel, and a formal report on the Vision and its uses would be made to the May meeting of the Authority. The Vision map would be supported by guidance and pictorial information, currently under preparation. Grazing levels necessary to deliver the Vision, and the economic implications of sustaining this stocking were under research, and of significant relevance to hill farmers affected by the Single Farm Payment Scheme.

The Dartmoor Hill Farm Project continued to be well received. A recent focus group of farmers gave valuable guidance related to future priorities, and the current work programme, and confirmed a highly favourable response within the hill farming community to the project.

### **3 Defra Modernised Rural Delivery:**

Nick Atkinson updated the Panel on the draft Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill, the GoSW Regional Rural Delivery Framework, and the confederation of the regional arms of English Nature, the Countryside Agency and Defra (RDS) forerunning the formal creation of the new Integrated Agency in 2007. National Parks have a well recognised potential as a front line first stop shop delivery agent and future developments were expected as practical implications of the changes became more manifest.

### **4 Climate Change:**

The Panel considered its brief from the January meeting of the Authority related to the Devon Community Strategy Climate Change challenge and Defra regional guidance. Members considered that the Authority's response should be very focussed on specific areas where action will make a difference, avoid duplication and over debate, and be fully relevant to Dartmoor. Helen Jenny as the member Champion would attend an Informal Staff Meeting presentation by Ian Bateman of Devon County Council on 11 April at 2pm. Areas of focus identified included clarity about the evidence base, the implications for Dartmoor of anticipated change, renewable energy policies and actions, internal energy saving measures, and the Authority's potential to communicate messages and actions to local and visitor communities. The review of the DNP Management Plan would be the appropriate umbrella for establishing the Authorities climate change response programme.

### **5 Future Panel Business:**

- (i) Conservation Section Service Plans, Work Programmes and Performance Indicators.
- (ii) Climate change (ongoing)
- (iii) Woodland Strategy – costs and actions
- (iv) Conservation work within the Ranger service.
- (v) Positive communication of the NPA's conservation activities
- (vi) Moor Futures (ongoing)

It was agreed that the next meeting be a full day meeting on Tuesday 29 June, incorporating a field visit to consider the moorland Vision in practice, and the Wader Project.