

Annual General Meeting (AGM) National Parks Partnerships

Date: 29 November 2022

Timing: 9.30am – 11.00am

Via video

Attendees :

Trevor	Beattie	South Downs NPA
Dennis	Mullan	Northumberland NPA
Andrew	McCloy	Peak District NPA
Will	Potter	NPP
Alison	Barnes	New Forest NPA
Briony	Fox	North York Moors NPA
Catherine	Hawkins	NPP
Catherine	Mealing-Jones	Brecon Beacons NPA
Gordon	Watson	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs NPA
Grant	Moir	Cairngorms NPA
James	Stuart	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs NPA
Jim	Bailey	North York Moors NPA
Naomi	Conway	NPP
Pamela	Woods	Dartmoor NPA
Xander	McDade	Cairngorms NPA
Richard	Griffiths	Pembrokeshire Coast NPA
Richard	Leafé	Lake District NPA
Tom	Hind	North York Moors NPA
Tony	Gates	Northumberland NPA
Vanessa	Rowland	South Downs NPA
William	Hawes	NPP
Emyr	Williams	Snowdonia NPA

Apologies:

Kevin Bishop (Dartmoor NPA); Sarah Bryan (Exmoor NPA); Robin Milton (Exmoor NPA); Gavin Parker (New Forest NPA); Tegryn Jones (Pembrokeshire Coast NPA); Di Clements (Pembrokeshire Coast NPA); David Butterworth (Yorkshire Dales NPA); Neil Heseltine (Yorkshire Dales NPA); John Packman (The Broads NPA); Bill Dickson (The Broads NPA); Lisa Sensier (NPP); Kevin Bishop (Dartmoor NPA); Phil Mulligan (Peak District NPA); Annwen Hughes (Snowdonia NPA); Tiffany Hunt (Lake District NPA); Jean Davidson (Northumberland NPA); Aled Edwards (Brecon Beacons NPA); Justin Keeble (NPP); Kristine Kolson-Chapman (NPP); Peter Harper (Dartmoor NPA & NPP); Sue Albion (NPP).

1. Appointment of Chairperson

Catherine Hawkins was proposed as Chair of the Meeting by Gordon Watson (Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park) and seconded by Emyr Williams (Snowdonia National Park), both Designated Members.

This was unanimously approved by Members.

The Chair welcomed Members to the AGM and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Chair's Welcome and Introduction

Thank you to Gordon Watson who Chaired NPP through a successful period in 21/22.

CH outlined that the aim of the AGM today is to approve the annual report and accounts, and to give a review of the last 12 months.

3. Quorum

With 23 Member representatives, including two Designated Members present, the meeting was declared quorate.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the AGM held 29 October 2021 were approved.

6. Review of the last 12 Months (Annual Report)

Chair cited four notable milestones of past 12 months:

- Successful operating model consultation process with members;
- DEFRA financial support bid positively progressed;
- Revere demonstrating the power of parks as a collective and established as a progressive thought leader within the sector;
- Foundations laid for conversation with BMW; reactivation of partnerships including Forest Holidays & Sykes; as well as new partners including The Great Outdoor Gym Company & Epam Systems.

Congratulations to NPP team, including recent additions and promotions.

Tom Hind: Defra funding discussions - appreciate feedback and updates. Question around Revere – where do we take it next? Response: NPP will aim to take options to to parks for

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their feedback. In the past year Revere can be characterised as delivering fast moving and varying opportunities developing in different parks at different paces. Likely that larger commercial projects will develop in a small number of parks in the coming period which could be replicated in other parks later. There is no 'one size fits all' in this area of work.

Andrew McCloy in role as Chair of NPE said he was pleased to see progress of organisations (NPE & NPP) working closely together, especially around DEFRA discussions. Financial struggles of English parks was raised as well as the importance of working as a collective during this difficult period.

Vanessa Rowlands asked for more details on NbS-Lead role, William Hawes. Key part of his role is to talk with every single park and to build a community of practice that will deliver knowledge share and upskilling for NPAs in the area of nature based solutions.

Tony Gates was encouraged by the emerging flexibility in in Revere. Question on strategy of NPP – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

With proposed DEFRA funding this approach would be backed up through more NPP resource.

Alison Barnes – importance of having clear defined strategy for multiple strands of nature recovery work. Cat Hawkins said that collaborative session/s on this theme with parks should be scheduled for 2023 (ACTION).

Catherine Mealing-Jones: Agreed that it is essential to support collective strategy, knowledge-share and to strengthen the collective voice of the UK National Parks. In difficult times NPP has a key role in helping to build a more secure future for all parks.

7. Annual Accounts and Audit

Dennis Mullan question: There is a discrepancy in the annual review of profits between page 10 and 11. Query whether recorded income from NPP is accounted for correctly when passing directly on to parks.

Trevor Beattie comment: Important that funds going to parks are shown in NPP accounts as it is generated by the activity of NPP. A lot of work goes into the passing through of funds and it is a proper reflection in the accounts of this process.

Andrew McCloy question: [REDACTED] for repairs and maintenance. NC asked to revert on this point.

Pamela Woods question: Staff costs up by [REDACTED] page 9 – travel & subsistence increase; small amount of funds back to parks.

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- Travel & subsistence has increased to previous levels post-COVID – conference appearances have also proved an important and successful strand of work.
- Staff salaries increase consistent with pay rise across parks, the new (in 21-22) Development Officer posts accounts for the increase on previous years staff cost.
- Some grant giving was paused due to COVID [REDACTED] or due to end of a partnership [REDACTED] Grant giving levels will be significantly increased in 22/23 due to resumption of Forest Holidays and start of BMW partnership.

Gordon Watson comment on staff salaries and job descriptions: job descriptions were reviewed and benchmarked with Board approval during 21/22.

Grant Moir comment: In relation to the funds from Santander for Cairngorms peatland project – Grant agreed that the funds should be reflected in NPP's accounts as they were solicited by NPP.

It was agreed that the annual accounts would be submitted for approval post AGM with some notes to clarify on questions asked. ACTION: NPP to circulate accounts for approval with any notes post AGM.

8. Any Other Business

None.