

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

National Parks Partnerships



24th October 2023, 2.30-3.45pm

In person location: Peak District National Park Authority offices, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1AE

Online: Microsoft Teams

Attendance:

In-person attendees:

Briony Fox	North York Moors
Cat Hawkins	NPP
David Bourque	NPP
David Butterworth	Yorkshire Dales
Gavin Capstick	Lake District
Gordon Watson	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
Jayne Butler	National Parks England
Ken Smith	Peak District
Naomi Conway	NPP
Nathan Sharp	NPP (Minutes)
Phil Mulligan	Peak District
Richard Leafe	Lake District
Tim Jones	Eryri
Tom Hind	North York Moors
Vanessa Rowlands	South Downs
William Hawes	NPP

Online attendees:

Dan James	Exmoor
Di Clements	Pembrokeshire Coast
Grant Moir	Cairngorms
Hamish Ward	NPP Finance
Hilary Makin	New Forest
Jacob Parry	NPP
Jayne Wilkinson	NPP
Jean Davidson	Northumberland
Laura Williams	NPP
Lewis Charters	NPP
Lisa Sensier	NPP
Pamela Woods	Dartmoor
Sandy Bremner	Cairngorms
Tegryn Jones	Pembrokeshire Coast
Tiffany Hunt	Lake District
Tony Gates	Northumberland
Trevor Beattie	South Downs
Vanessa Mahoney	NPP
Will Potter	NPP

Apologies:

Aled Edwards (Bannau Brycheiniog), Alison Barnes (New Forest), Amy Brittain-Carlidge (Peak District), Andrew McCloy (Peak District), Bill Dickson (Broads), Catherine Mealing-Jones (Bannau Brycheiniog), Annwen Hughes (Eryri), Eleanor Mackintosh (Cairngorms), Emyr Williams (Eryri), Gavin Parker (New Forest), Heather Reid (Loch Lomond & The Trossachs), Jim Bailey (North York Moors), John Packman (Broads), Kevin Bishop (Dartmoor), Martin Earl (Loch Lomond & The Trossachs), Neil Heseltine (Yorkshire Dales), Robin Milton (Exmoor), Sarah Bryan (Exmoor), Sue Albion (NPP)

1. Appointment of Chairperson

Catherine Hawkins was proposed as Chair of the meeting by Gordon Watson (Loch Lomond & The Trossachs NPA). This was seconded by Phil Mulligan (Peak District).

2. Chair's Welcome and Introduction

Catherine Hawkins welcomed attendees in the room and online. Catherine noted that the pre-AGM meeting had covered the detail of NPP's strategies and plans going forward, including time for discussion, so the purpose of the AGM was to reflect on NPP's activity over the last year and approve the Annual Accounts.

3. Confirmation of Quorum

With three Designated Members (Loch Lomond & The Trossachs NPA, Eryri NPA, and the Lake District NPA) and representatives of ten Members in attendance, the meeting was declared quorate.

4. Declaration of Interests

None.

5. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th November 2022 were unanimously approved.

6. Review of Annual Report

Naomi Conway summarised the Annual Report under five headlines:

1. Securing funding from Defra
2. Establishing the Nature-based Solutions function
3. Commercial partnership success, particularly the BMW partnership
4. Record level of funds distributed to National Park Authorities
5. Large grants secured for the National Parks Foundation

Catherine Hawkins congratulated NPP team on an impressive and successful year.

7. Annual Accounts and Audit

Hamish Ward provided an overview of the Annual Accounts, including an explanation of funding and expenditure spread across different years. Hamish finished by saying that NPP was in an overall strong position.

Tom Hind requested that future Accounts provide a clearer picture of year-on-year underlying performance. Hamish Ward confirmed that this was the purpose of the accompanying Performance Report.

Action: Hamish Ward to refine how this is presented in next year's Performance Report.

The Accounts were unanimously approved.

8. Any Other Business

Naomi Conway and Catherine Hawkins presented NPP's goals for the remainder of the Defra-funded period and financial scenario planning thereafter.

Tim Jones: Eryri National Park is now the official name of that Member National Park.

Gordon Watson highlighted the success of, and the opportunities for NPAs presented by, the BMW partnership. Catherine Hawkins explained that the marketing around the partnership was excellent exposure for future partnership approaches.

Tom Hind: NPP must maintain a strong bond with Members and understand their priorities. NPP must also leverage funding to the scale that the heritage sector does. Tim Jones noted the nuances between different Parks across the three nations, with different public funding available. Naomi Conway suggested this was a strength for NPP as it can take a whole-UK approach, which funders like.

David Butterworth: staff at NPAs are interested in NPP's work but it can be hard to feel close to it. Engagement should be increased. Suggestions included: NPP staff joining working groups; NPP staff to have "buddy" Parks; annual or bi-annual drop-in webinars to provide updates on NPP activity for all NPA staff. NC agreed and said that a range of internal communications tactics are needed and this is something to progress in the coming period.

Action: NPP to share presentations from AGM with Parks to distribute to staff.

Richard Leafe: Park communications can be fragmented, particularly on social media. New Communications Director can take lead. Catherine Hawkins suggested a central CRM system could also support this.

Gordon Watson: Scotland is looking to expand number of National Parks so this may need to feed into strategies – currently inviting formal nominations. Tim Jones confirmed Wales are undergoing a similar process.

Gordon Watson: two outstanding actions to be taken to an Extraordinary General Meeting:

1. Appointment of new NPP Board Member
2. Amendment to NPP Articles of Association regarding Chairperson term

Catherine Hawkins closed the meeting.