

# Dartmoor National Park Authority

## Public Minutes of Meeting held on 26 July 2024

### Present:

Will Dracup, Peter Harper, Gay Hill, Mike Jeffery, James McInnes, Sally Morgan, John Nutley, Mark Owen, Guy Pannell, Lois Samuel, Philip Sanders, Mary Seddon, Catherine Shewan (Independent Person), Peter Smerdon, Mark Williams, Pamela Woods (Chair)

### Apologies:

Jerry Brook, Caroline Mott, Mark Renders, Dan Thomas

### Officers in attendance:

Kevin Bishop (Chief Executive (National Park Officer)), Richard Drysdale (Director of Conservation and Communities), Dean Kinsella (Director of Spatial Planning), Angela Stirland (Head of Business Support), James Sharpe (Strategic Planning and Projects Officer), Charlotte Easton (Head of Communications and Engagement), Cath Burnett (Business Support – Minutes)

### 3598 Declarations of Interest

Mr Dracup and Mr Owen declared an interest in Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL), both having received FiPL grants.

Mr Harper declared an interest in both FiPL and the Hill Farm Project (HFP), as he sits on the Steering Groups for both panels.

Mr Dracup declared an interest as a contributor to the HFP.

Mr Dracup and Mr Owen declared an interest in Dartmoor's Dynamic Landscape (DDL), relating to Central Dartmoor Farm Cluster CIC (both) and Shallowford Farm (Mr Dracup). Mr Dracup and Mr Owen confirmed that they would leave the room for this item.

### 3599 Minutes

The public minutes of the meetings held on 28 June 2024, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 3600 Chair's Report

The Chair reported the following:

- She met with Team Devon, with Mr Dracup (as an observer). The main topic of conversation was the Devolution Deal with negotiations on how the money would be spent and changes that might come about due to the new government.
- Attendance at a meeting with UK National Parks, the first family of National Parks in the world to join Race to Zero – a significant commitment.
- That DNPA were the first UK National Park to declare a Climate Emergency (in 2019).
- There will be an item on BBC Spotlight, and other media interest next week, regarding Dartmoor Marshals supporting the work of the Rangers. She thanked the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and other partners, for funding support towards this project.

The Chair welcomed Dr Seddon, this being her first meeting.

**3601 Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

None.

**3602 Public Participation**

**Speaker: Mr Steve Rowe, owner of Dunsford Reservoir, Dunsford EX6 7DR**

Mr Rowe said:

"Dunford Reservoir has a Permission in Principle (PiP) (ref 0051/24) for the re-use of an existing building to provide one domestic dwelling. Permission in principle was granted by an Inspector on appeal.

It is clear that the Inspector did not consider the proposed development to accord with the spatial and housing strategies of the development plan but did consider that the appeal proposal would reuse a redundant building, making efficient use of previously developed land, and material considerations (namely paragraph 80(c) of the then published NPPF existed allowing a decision to be made other than in accordance with the policies in the development plan.

At the second stage for the PiP, the Council's officers have requested obligations to be entered into requiring a local connection as well as affordable housing (which could be in the form of a financial contribution). However, and despite repeated requests for policy justification to support these requests, no reasonable explanation has yet to be provided.

Please can DNPA provide a reasoned response to the following question:

How can the Authority apply policies 1.2, 1.3, and 3.5 of their development plan in respect of the second stage of the PiP (technical details stage) for the reuse of a redundant building at Dunford Reservoir after the Inspector who determined the proposed development considered that the development failed to accord with those policies and granted the permission otherwise than in accordance with those policies. As stated above, the PiP was granted on the basis of para 80(c) of the NPPF (at the time) - which does not require affordable housing or a local connection."

The Chair thanked Mr Rowe for his representations, advising that Officers have been clear in their responses to date and will do so again in response to the question.

**3603 Financial Regulations**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/24/030).

**Resolved:**

Members approved the proposed amendments to the Authority's Financial Regulations.

**3604 Amendments to Fees and Charges**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Business Support (NPA/24/031) was presented by the Director of Spatial Planning.

In response to Member comments / queries, the Director of Spatial Planning responded as follows:

- Table 2 to be amended to change Class G: Household advice to Class I (typo)
- Text within table of charges to be clear that the Householder advice site visit charge of £50.00 + VAT is in addition to Householder advice of £150 + VAT
- With regards to Class H: Domestic Scale Renewable energy - to be reviewed and provide clarity regarding the wording 'free' and charges shown.

**Resolved:**

Members approved the amended 2024/25 schedule of fees and charges as per Table 2.

**3605 Dartmoor's Dynamic Landscape**

Considered:

The report of the Strategic Planning and Projects Officer (NPA/24/032).

Mr Dracup and Mr Owen left the meeting at 12.00.

In response to Member comments/queries, the Strategic Planning & Projects Officer responded as follows:

- The Central Dartmoor Landscape Recovery cash contribution of £4,400 is secured in principle but not yet approved.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) officers and mentors are aware of, and support, the increase in grant amount requested.
- Princetown has been chosen as a topographical gateway, the reasoning being that it is a place where one could start a journey of discovery of the 'High Moor'.
- DNPA contributions are cash, rather than 'in kind'. Officer/volunteer time will be included in the application/reporting.
- The Duchy of Cornwall is an interested party in the project and is fully informed.
- Comments about connecting and communicating with the MOD were noted.
- We are in communications with the Friends of the Dart, whose focus is on improving water quality.
- The Director of Conservation and Communities advised that there is a lot of work happening with partners around the River Dart catchment including other projects such as Dartmoor Headwaters and in association with the Environment Agency and landowners.

**Resolved:**

Members approved:

- (i) submission of a Stage 2 funding application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund during the 2024/25 financial year.
- (ii) A contribution from the Authority's financial reserves of up to £120,000 to be used as match funding, during the 2025/26 – 2029/30 financial years, in the event of the Stage 2 application being successful.

Mr Dracup and Mr Owen rejoined the meeting at 12.30.

The Strategic Planning and Projects Officer thanked Hannah Kingsbury, Dartmoor Dynamic Landscape Project Officer. Hannah has worked intensively over the past 12

months – with partners, consultants and researchers. Members also recorded thanks to Hannah for carrying out this complex and intensive piece of work.

### **3606 Annual Review 2023/24**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Communications and Engagement (NPA/24/033)

Members commented:

- Typo on page 51 – correction needed for spelling of metres.
- That they would like to see an update on the Partnership Plan targets. The Chief Executive (National Park Officer) advised that this is being worked on and that a progress report will be provided to the Authority in the Autumn.
- On the tremendous amount of work that has been carried out, to pass thanks to all staff and volunteers.
- Once report has been produced, that Members are provided with a link to enable them to share with their contacts and partners.

#### **Resolved:**

Members noted the content of the report and reviewed the draft Annual Review 2023/24.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:40.