

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Management Board
Minutes of Meeting 8th April 2016
AONB Partnership office, Drovers House, Craven Arms



Present:

James Williamson (Chair)	Individual member
George Chancellor (Vice-chair)	Individual member
Lee Chapman	Shropshire Hills Tourism
Veronica Cossons	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
Cllr Cecilia Motley (Vice Chair)	Shropshire Council
John Pritchard	Individual member
Mark Riches	Country Land & Business Association
Cllr Chris Turley	Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr David Turner	Shropshire Council

Also attending:

Howard Davies	National Association for AONBs
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AONB Partnership staff:

Phil Holden	AONB Partnership Manager
Alison Scimia	Administrator (minute taker)

1. Apologies

Caroline Beddell	Country Land & Business Association
Deb Hughes	Shropshire Council
Fran Lancaster	Telford & Wrekin Council

Mark Riches, with the Chair's agreement and in a non-voting capacity, attended in place of Caroline Bedell. Phil Holden and Alison Scimia left the meeting after a brief introductory discussion and questions on item 3.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2.1 No matters arising.

3. Development of Options for AONB Partnership Structure and Budget

The Board discussed the paper and associated issues in detail.

The Management Board unanimously agreed the following with regard to the future structure of the AONB organisation:

1. It believes the best long term future for the AONB structure will be within an independent organisation the same as or similar to options 5 or 6 in the schematic diagram of Appendix 2 to the paper. At this time we have decided option 7 should not be explored further.

2. It believes any future structure needs to retain a close working relationship with both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Council and we think the best way of describing this is by saying the relationship will be interdependent.
3. It would envisage the Councils being entitled to nominate a number, to be determined, of either Councillors or staff to the Governing body of the new organisation.
4. It believes it is essential for the AONB organisation to have a dedicated manager which in the longer term may be either full or part time.
5. It firmly believes that being independent would enable the AONB organisation to attract grant funding and other sources of income from a wider range of organisations and businesses and also the general public.

The Management Board also supported the Chair's proposal that Shropshire Council recharge the AONB budgets in 2016/17 for support costs (including personnel, payroll, finance, IT and audit, all currently uncharged) to the amount identified of £31,290. Offering the Council an immediate saving was felt to be essential to acceptance of the alternative overall proposal.

The Chair would set out the alternative proposal in a letter to George Candler at Shropshire Council, including some other aspects of detail discussed with the Management Board – **ACTION James**.

4. Any Other Business

none

5. Date of Next Meetings

Weds 11th May 2016, and Thurs 8th September 2016, both 9.30am at Drovers House.