

**Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Transition Board**  
**Minutes of Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**AONB Partnership office, Drovers House, Craven Arms**



**Present:**

James Williamson (Chair)	Individual member
Cllr Cecilia Motley (Vice Chair)	Shropshire Council
Hilary Claytonsmith	Town/Parish Council representative
Veronica Cossons	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Cllr Chris Turley	Telford & Wrekin Council
Cllr David Turner	Shropshire Council
Neil Willcox	Shropshire Council
Andrew Wood	Co-opted member

AONB Partnership staff:

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

**1. Apologies**

George Chancellor	Individual member
Janine Hayter	Parish Council representative
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 were agreed as correct.
- 2.2 The application for small business rate relief has not yet been made **ACTION – Phil.**
- 2.3 The proposed new terms of reference for the Partnership alongside the Conservation Board had not yet been drafted but would be on the agenda for the next meeting **ACTION – Phil.**
- 2.4 The split of parishes was discussed at the Partnership, and included in the Defra submission.

**3. Update on contact with Defra regarding Conservation Board proposal (verbal)**

- 3.1 Phil reported that Dan Jones from Defra had come to Craven Arms for a meeting with him and James on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Phil gave a presentation, which was followed by plenty of discussion and a short site visit to see some of the team's work on the River Clun.
- 3.2 Phil and James have now been invited to Defra in London on 9<sup>th</sup> February to meet with Dan and Margaret Read. Andrew suggested that it might be helpful for him to accompany them and the Board supported this, if agreed by Defra. **ACTION – Phil.**
- 3.2 James had written again to Philip Dunne MP to request a meeting with Lord Gardiner. A few more letters of support since the submission. Phil gave a presentation to Clunbury Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> January, which seemed to be well received, members not being aware of all the activities of the team. Cecilia had answered questions on the proposal at a meeting of Stoke St Milborough Parish Council before Christmas. It was agreed that concerns which had been voiced that a Conservation Board may interfere with the activities of farmers and landowners were unfounded – the activities of a Board would be similar in nature to now and there were no additional powers, the change was mainly in governance structure.

3.3 Phil raised the question of asking Parish & Town Councils for a financial contribution to the core AONB budget which had been discussed before and some other AONBs were doing. This was felt to be a good idea in principle, but the timing not right, and the point of forming the Conservation Board a better time to make this request. The ongoing process of wider engagement was felt to be important and relevant to this, and presentations to Local Joint Committees were discussed as a way of reaching more people in one go. James felt that we should also be asking people what they would like us to do and it was agreed this linked well with the Management plan review process.

#### **4. Draft project application HLF Resilient Heritage Fund project**

4.1 Phil talked through the draft application, the proposed activities and some of the steering group's thinking. It was agreed the application should be kept under £100k of grant.

4.2 Suggestions to improve the application included stressing that it was not conditional on Defra agreeing to a Conservation Board, strengthening the words on engagement and capacity building in the community, being clearer about the outputs (in numbers) and when these would be achieved, referencing ideas for projects for the officer post to develop and changing some of the language about consultancy e.g. external support. **ACTION – Phil.**

4.3 Which organisation might be the applicant was discussed, and the Board felt that the AONB Partnership through Shropshire Council was probably better placed to do this than the Trust, in order to minimise admin. Phil felt the trustees would agree to this and would take it up again with Anthony **ACTION - Phil.** The processes to go through within Shropshire Council would be investigated **ACTION - Neil & Phil.** It was agreed that thanks should be sent to the sub-group for their work **ACTION – Phil.**

#### **5. AONB Team 2017-18 Work Programme and budgets update**

5.1 Phil talked through new items on the team work programme and said this was accompanied by a spreadsheet version linking the tasks to staff with approximate time allocation.

5.2 The budget for 2016/17 was anticipated to come in more or less as previously projected. The additional Shropshire Council contribution for 2015/16 and 2016/17 had now been paid, but pledged contributions to the Shuttles from Public Transport had yet to be received. Neil agreed to look into this matter again **ACTION - Neil.**

5.3 The income targets for 2017-18 were discussed briefly. £3,399 was currently needed with no known source and the projected £20,000 income from the Commons project was the most significant variable and area of risk.

#### **6. Planned 'Shropshire Hills Uplands Forum' event**

6.1 Phil reported that this idea had partly come his attendance at the Uplands Alliance meeting in September 2016 and discussions at the NAAONB. There is no specific consultation out from Defra at the current time, but over the coming months there is a need and opportunity for pro-active engagement with farmers, landowners and the community on this topic.

6.2 Following discussion, the Board agreed that representatives from both CLA and NFU be invited to speak, making four speakers in total. All available contacts and networks would be used to publicise the event.

#### **7. Any Other Business - None**

**8. Date of Next Meeting** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 9.30am. Further dates to be advised.