

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Transition Board
Minutes of Meeting 24th April 2017 at 2pm
AONB Partnership office, Drovers House, Craven Arms



Present:

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

AONB Partnership staff:

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

1. Apologies

Janine Hayter	Parish Council representative
Cllr Cecilia Motley (Vice Chair)	Shropshire Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
George Chancellor	Individual member

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 14th March 2017 were agreed as correct.
- 2.2 Telford & Wrekin Council have paid three years contribution in advance and have supplied a letter of strong support.
- 2.3 The contribution from Shropshire Council for the Shuttle buses for the last two years has now been paid.
- 2.4 The AONB Trust has now opened a bank account with Barclays.
- 2.5 Sarah Bury will be standing down from the AONB Trust. George Chancellor will be standing to be re-appointed by the Partnership in June.

3. Draft revised Conservation Board submission for Defra

- 3.1 Phil advised that, in amending the Business Case, he had taken on board all the conversations with Defra, and that section 8 had been rewritten to address the two criteria from Lord Gardiner's letter. The proposed Advisory Group Terms of Reference had been added as an appendix.
- 3.2 The General Election will affect timing - any decision will be made by Defra at the earliest in July, but could well be longer.
- 3.3 Discussion took place and the following suggestions were made:
 - Stress that proposal is not reliant on any additional funding from government.

- It is a new public body, but very small.
- Include that re-application will be made for HLF funding but some of the development work would happen even if this grant is not secured.
- Stress the contribution to wider economy from having the second Board purpose on 'enjoyment and understanding'.
- Make clearer the reasons for not being part of Shropshire Council.
- Refer to the enthusiasm and energy generated by the process itself.

3.4 The Board agreed that following further informal comments the submission would be made officially by the end of May, **ACTION - Phil**. New letters from the Councils and the Partnership will be written to accompany the submission. **ACTION – Phil, with James, Neil and Fran.**

4. Discussion on recent planning casework

4.1 Following recent approval of the Hurst Barn poultry application, to which the Partnership had objected, there was a discussion on casework and the extent to which the AONB was taken into account. Phil said as far as he was aware, every single case of 'major development' in the AONB under NPPF had been recommended by officers for approval. The policies say that such developments should only be allowed 'in exceptional circumstances'. Members of the Board expressed dissatisfaction with the treatment of the AONB in planning decisions, and the proposal for a high level meeting with relevant people from Shropshire Council was reaffirmed – **ACTION – Phil with James, and David and Cecilia.**

Phil said he intended to look back at recent cases of major development and review the critical issues and any learning points. The idea of visits to see some of these developments was raised.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 AONB Partnership response to draft Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy

Discussion took place and the Board agreed the letter, with strengthened points on tourism. It was also agreed that the letter should be sent from James direct to Gemma Davies, and that a meeting should be requested. **Action – Phil.**

5.2 HLF Resilient Heritage

It was agreed that a new application be made once a decision has been received from Defra with regard to Conservation Board status. In the meantime, discussions will take place with the Trust, and further guidance will be sought from HLF in order to strengthen the new bid. **Action – Phil.**

5.3 Summer Tour Event – Fri 7th July

This is to be a joint event for the AONB Partnership, Friends and AONB Trust, which should help with numbers and people getting to know each other. Details to be confirmed. **Action – Phil.**

6. Dates of Next Meetings Thursday 18th May 2017, Thursday 13th July 2017

Meeting ended at 15:25pm