

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership Transition Board
Minutes of Meeting Tuesday 6th February 2018
AONB Partnership office, Drovers House, Craven Arms



Present:

James Williamson (Chair)	Individual member
Andrew Wood	Individual member
Hilary Claytonsmith (Vice Chair)	Town/Parish Council rep
Tim Jenkins	Shropshire Council
John Long	Individual member
Cllr David Turner	Shropshire Council
Cllr Cecilia Motley (Vice Chair)	Shropshire Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council

AONB Partnership staff:

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Chris Turley	Telford & Wrekin Council
Mark Latham	Telford & Wrekin Council
Veronica Cossons	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Janine Hayter	Parish/Town Council rep

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of Thursday 7th December 2017 were agreed as correct.
- 2.2 The Sustainable Tourism Strategy has been completed and was endorsed by the Destination Partnership at their meeting in January.
- 2.3 A note of thanks had been sent to George Chancellor.
- 2.4 Chasing letters from both Councils had been sent to Defra.
- 2.5 A new Resilient Heritage application was submitted on 15th January.
- 2.6 All other actions have been completed.

3. 2017-2018 Work programme update

- 3.1 Short contract extensions have been agreed for Joy and Prue and for Jen and Joe, however the LPS will have finished completely by the next Transition Board meeting. It was agreed that formal thanks should be sent to the LPS team and Board. **Action - Phil**
- 3.2 We have secured the work for Cath to act as the Area Facilitator for the upland commons project.
- 3.3 It was noted that a stop has been put on approval of planning applications for poultry sheds pending the Environment Agency reviewing their assessment criteria.

4. 2018-19 AONB Partnership budget and team work programme

- 4.1 The annual bid had been submitted to Defra at the end of January.
- 4.2 The 2018-19 core contribution from Shropshire Council needs to be reconfirmed, and James is meeting with George Candler on 15th February to discuss this. **Action - James**
- 4.3 There was discussion about the proposed Monument Volunteers Project and the Shuttles. It was agreed that Shropshire Council's contribution to the 2018 Shuttles service would be confirmed.
- 4.4 The Board agreed that organisations on the Partnership should be asked to make financial contributions to the Partnership budget, and that this matter be raised at the next Partnership meeting on 6th March. **Action - Phil**
- 4.5 The Board did not support making a blanket approach all Parish Councils for contributions at the present time, but to follow up certain possibilities where contacts have been closer. Talks to Local Joint Committees were recommended as a way of building relationships.

5. Conservation Board update and report back from sub-group

- 5.1 Contact had been received from Defra via Philip Dunne inviting us to a meeting with Lord Gardiner. The date has not yet been fixed.
- 5.2 It was agreed to invite Philip Dunne to a Partnership meeting. **Action – Phil**
- 5.3 The sub-group had discussed particularly the possibility of an independent charitable body as the AONB governance structure. Tim was now in discussion with Shropshire Council's Legal team over this, taking into account a number of minimum essential criteria for this model which had been specified by James. Tim would feed back – **Action Tim.**
- 5.4 Phil and James had also spoken with the Marches LEP Director to discuss the LEP team's hosting arrangement with Shropshire Council, aspects of which could provide a model for the AONB Partnership.

6. AONB Management Plan Review and Sustainability Appraisal scoping

- 6.1 The Board agreed that the four strategic priorities probably did not need changing. The statement of key issues was discussed. It was agreed that the wording "the future of farming" should be retained within this. The issues needed to be worded differently from the delivery priorities (i.e. specifying the 'problem' rather than the action to be taken).
- 6.2 The headline indicators and trends were discussed. It was agreed that some of these were worrying, and that they should guide future activity by the team and partners.
- 6.3 The delivery priorities were discussed and it was agreed that 'local working with communities' was a theme which cut across all the others. Having this at the bottom may not give it the profile it deserves, and the presentation of this could be amended.
- 6.4 The NAAONB papers on involvement in new environmental land management schemes were discussed. Board members expressed forcibly that the AONB Partnership should not administer any new schemes, and did not support leading a pilot within the AONB. It was felt there was a lack of clarity in the papers as to what was being proposed, and that this went beyond the role of what the Partnership should do.

7. AONB Trust update

- 7.1 The next trustees meeting is on 8th February.

- 7.2 The Conservation Fund Panel takes place in March and the trustees have decided that grants will be more directed towards community groups.
- 7.3 The short written agreement on joint working between the Trust and the Partnership is to be renewed.
- 7.4 The proposed scheme of 'supporter giving' to address erosion on the hillfort monument on Caer Caradoc is developing, and will hopefully be launched in the spring.
- 7.5 A few volunteers have agreed to help with recruitment of Friends.
- 7.6 Planning continues for the joint 60th anniversary event on 19th June, and the Hay Meadow Festival on 7th July.

8. Any other Business

None.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 22nd May 2018.

Meeting closed at 12:10pm.