



<b>Committee and Date</b> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
20 October 2009
10.00am

<b>Item</b>
<b>6</b>
Public

## Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2009

9.30am – 11.00pm

**Responsible Officer** Tim Ward  
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### Present

#### Shropshire Council

Shropshire Council  
Shropshire Council

Cllr Tim Barker  
Cllr Heather Kidd

#### Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual member	Alison Caffyn
Individual member	George Chancellor (Vice Chair)
Individual member	David Gibbon
Individual member	Peter Norman (Chair)
LEADER Approvals Panel Chair	Glynn Barratt
Parish Council representative	Jenny Collingridge
Parish Council representative	Dr Keith Bartlett
Parish Council representative	Pat Fairclough
Parish Council representative	Bob Welch
Advantage West Midlands	Amanda Cunningham
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	Claire Cox
Caring for Gods Acre	Michael Whithouse
Country Land & Business Association	Michael Watney
English Heritage	Bill Klemperer
Long Mynd & District Bridleways Association	Sue Lee
Natural England	Sally Powell
Ramblers Association	David Shelley
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Veronica Cossons
South Shropshire Tourism Association	Ian Kemsley
Teme Catchment Fisheries Association	Tony Bostock
Walford & North Shropshire College	Jon Parry

#### Officers/Observers

Shropshire Council	Mark Blount
	John Harrison
	Tim Ward
Borough of Telford & Wrekin	Jane Bushell
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership	Clare Fildes
	Phil Holden
South Shropshire Tourism Ltd	Lee Chapman

## Welcome and Apologies for Absence

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Paul Cobbing (GOWM), Cllr James Gibson (Shropshire Council), Mr Stewart Minton-Beddoes (CLA), Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council), Mr David C Smith (Shropshire Geological Society), Mr Leo Smith (Upper Onny Wildlife Group/ Shropshire Ornithological Society).

## Note of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

3. It was resolved that the note of the meetings held on 10 February 2009 and 26 February 2009 be approved.
4. The Chair commented that David Francis had now retired and wished to record his thanks to David for all the work he had done on behalf of the Partnership.
5. The Chair informed the meeting that the Core Strategy had been developed further. Mr Harrison commented that a consultation on the Core Strategy Policy Directions document would be published shortly.

## Governance

6. A paper updating members on progress with the Partnership's main governance documents had been circulated.
7. The AONB Partnership Manager reminded members that with the change to the Unitary Authority an update of the governance documents for the Partnership had been required. He reminded members that the Partnership had considered the Terms of Reference at its meeting in October 2008, and went on to say that members had been consulted on the proposal made by the Management Board to increase the number of individual member seats from 5 to 7. Since no objections were raised to this the Partnership were being asked formally to agree this, and the agreement of existing Individual Members to bringing the appointment of Individual Members forward to September 2009 was appreciated (N.B. later discovered that this was in error – the reappointments were due in Autumn 09).
8. The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting that previously the Memorandum of Agreement had been for six years, but that the new one was on a three year cycle. Natural England had committed that during this cycle the amount of funding given would not be less than 95% of the funding gained in the first year.
9. Mr Shelley commented that as Natural England get their funding from DEFRA and due to the recession and the cuts in public spending should we be confident about getting the funding we require. The AONB Partnership Manager said that the Memorandum was intended to provide as much security as possible, but that beyond its term there was inevitably a degree of uncertainty.
10. The AONB Partnership Manager then explained the role and functions of the Planning Protocol between the Partnership and the Local Authorities and explained that with the transition to the Unitary Council this needed renewing but that no major changes were being made. He then briefly explained the direction of the national agreement between NAAONB and Natural England.
11. It was **Resolved** that the Partnership

- a) formally agree the increase in Individual Member seats on the Partnership from five to seven,
- b) approve the advertising of all seven Individual Member seats in September 2009,
- c) support the approval as soon as reasonably possible of the Partnership's new Terms of Reference, funding Memorandum of Understanding, and Planning Protocol by relevant parties,
- d) note the national agreement between the National Association for AONBs and Natural England, and the future directions for AONB management indicated in it.

### **Shropshire Sustainable Community Strategy Consultation**

12. A report describing the consultation on Shropshire's new Sustainable Community Strategy and putting forward an outline of an AONB Partnership response to the consultation had been circulated.
13. The Chair welcomed Celia Bahrami, Director of the Shropshire Partnership who was standing in for Jenny McNicol who was ill.
14. The Director of the Shropshire Partnership explained that the new Sustainable Community Strategy would influence other documents such as the Local Development Framework. She added that the full draft Strategy would be produced in October 2009.
15. Mr Chancellor asked whether the Sustainable Community Strategy would deal with land issues. The Partnership Director informed him that there was a lot of integration between the Community Strategy and planning.
16. The Chair commented that there were different interpretations of sustainable, and asked whether there was a model or definition of a sustainable community was being used. Mr Chancellor commented that the Government gives a definition of sustainable communities.
17. Mr Whithouse asked how the strategy linked with the Sustainable Communities Act. The Partnership Director commented that there was some links. She went on to say that he Council was looking to opt in to the Act once clarity about it was gained.
18. Lady Cossons commented that the consultation was very human-centred and that there was need to take account of the health of the environment, of ecosystem services and of biodiversity within the strategy.
19. There was further discussion after which the meeting broke into workshop groups which looked at different aspects of the consultation and what made Shropshire special.
20. The AONB Partnership Manager thanked Members for their input and urged member organisations to contact him if they had any further comments.

### **West Midland Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 3 Revision: Option Consultation**

21. A report outlining the AONB Partnership response to the consultation on the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 3 Revision: Option Consultation had been circulated.
22. The AONB Partnership Manager took members through the report. He commented that the West Midlands Rural Affairs Forum had held a seminar on the consultation and had shared their draft response with the AONB.

23. Mr Shelley asked why there was no response to the section on Gypsy and Traveller Sites. The AONB Partnership Manager replied that as this did not directly impact on the AONB it was felt that a response was not needed.
24. The AONB Partnership Manager asked members to feed any other comments to him by the end of the week.
25. It was **Resolved** that the Partnership endorse the general approach of the proposed AONB Partnership response to this consultation.

### **Natural England Draft Protected Landscapes Policy**

26. A report providing members with a copy of the recent consultation on the draft Natural England Policy on Protected Landscapes had been circulated.
27. The AONB Partnership Manager commented that in general the policy was strong and endorsed many of the approaches taken by the Partnership, although there were some points of detail to comment on.
28. Mr Chancellor commented that there was not much in the policy on the subject of farming and land management.
29. Mr Shelley commented that there needed to be something in the policy about cross-border working.
30. The AONB Partnership Manager asked members to feed any further comments to him.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

31. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 20 October 2009 at 10.00am.