



<b>Committee and Date</b> Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership	<b>Item</b>
9 February 2010	
10.00am	Public

## Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2009

10.00am – 12.00pm

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

#### Shropshire Council

Shropshire Council

Cllr Tim Barker

#### Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual member	Alison Caffyn
Individual member	George Chancellor
Individual member	David Gibbon
Individual member	Peter Norman
Individual member	David Francis
Individual member	Elizabeth Thomas
LEADER Panel Chair	Glynn Barratt
Parish Council representative	Jenny Collingridge
Parish Council representative	Dr Keith Bartlett
Parish Council representative	Bob Welch
Advantage West Midlands	Amanda Cunningham
Butterfly Conservation	Nick Williams
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)	Claire Cox
Caring for Gods Acre	Michael Whithouse
Hereford Diocese	Rev. Nick Read
Institute of Chartered Foresters	John Voysey
Long Mynd & District Bridleways Association	Sue Lee
National Farmers Union	David Watson Jones
National Trust	Peter Carty
Offa's Dyke Association	Sophie Andreae
SASTAK	Julia Brereton
Shropshire Geological Society	Andrew Jenkinson
South Shropshire Tourism Association	Ian Kemsley
Teme Catchment Fisheries Association	Tony Bostock
Upper Onny Wildlife Group/ Shropshire Ornithological Society	Leo Smith

#### Observers/Officers

Shropshire Council

Mark Blount  
John Harrison  
Tim Ward  
Jane Bushell  
Clare Fildes  
Phil Holden  
Mike Kelly

Borough of Telford & Wrekin  
Shropshire Hills AONB Team

## Welcome and Apologies for Absence

1. Mr Norman as the outgoing Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Mr Lee Chapman (Individual Member), Mr Paul Cobbing (GOWM), Lady Veronica Cossons (Shropshire Wildlife Trust), Mr Bob Evans (Forestry Commission), Dr Jenny Joy (Butterfly Conservation) and Mr David C Smith (SGS).

## Election of Individual and Organisation Members

3. The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that two organisations, the Offa's Dyke Association and Butterfly Conservation had applied to join the Partnership. He went on to say that there were still two vacant seats for organisations on the Partnership and that he was in contact with organisations with a view to filling these vacancies. It was **resolved** that the Partnership endorse the appointment of the Offa's Dyke Association and Butterfly Conservation as members of the Partnership.
4. The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that 8 applications had been received for the 7 Individual Member seats on the Partnership and that ballot papers had been distributed. He reminded any member that had not submitted their voting form to do so now. Following the counting of ballots it was announced that the following people had been appointed as individual members of the Partnership: -
  - Ms Alison Caffyn
  - Mr George Chancellor
  - Mr Lee Chapman
  - Mr Tom Eyre
  - Mr David Francis
  - Mr David Gibbon
  - Mrs Elizabeth Thomas

## Election of Chair and Vice Chairs

4. The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting that one nomination had been received for the position of Chair. It was **resolved** that Mr George Chancellor be appointed Chair of the AONB Partnership for the ensuing year.
5. The AONB Partnership Manager reminded the meeting that there were two vacancies for Vice Chair, one of which had to be filled by a Shropshire Councillor. He informed the meeting that two nominations had been received. It was **resolved** that Cllr Tim Barker and Ms Alison Caffyn be appointed Vice-Chairs of the Partnership for the ensuing year.
6. The retiring Chair Mr Norman thanked the AONB team for their help and support during his time as Chair of the Partnership. He also thanked Officers of Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council and all members of the Partnership. He then vacated the Chair, and Mr Chancellor took the Chair.
7. Mr Chancellor thanked Mr Norman for all the work he had done during his time on the Partnership and the AONB Partnership Manager made a presentation to Mr Norman.

## Election of Members to the Management Board

8. The AONB Manager advised members that three nominations had been received for the six seats on the Management Board. It was resolved that Elizabeth Thomas, Leo Smith and David Francis be appointed to serve on the Management Board.

9. The Chair commented that he was keen to see all vacancies filled and that if any members were interested on serving on the Management Board could they speak to the AONB Partnership Manager.

### **Signing of Membership Accord**

6. A paper setting out the Partnership's Membership Accord had been circulated. The AONB Partnership Manager asked that all Members sign the Accord on behalf of their organisations and return the signed copy to him.

### **Note of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

7. It was resolved that the note of the meeting held on 20 October 2009 be approved.
8. The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting the Partnership had made a detailed response to the draft Shropshire Sustainable Community Strategy.
9. The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting that the Partnership had responded to the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 3 consultation and that there had been useful collaboration with other organisations over this.
10. The AONB Partnership Manager informed members of the consultation into Natural England draft Protected Landscapes policy and asked members to contact him if they wanted more details.
11. The AONB Partnership Manager made reference to the Shropshire Hills Shuttles which the AONB Partnership had been running since April and gave the background into why the Partnership had taken over the running of the service. Discussion followed regarding the improvements to the service.

### **Wenlock Edge Quarries**

12. The meeting viewed a short video which gave details of the National Trust's consultation on the future of the disused quarries on Wenlock Edge. Mr Carty then explained that the National Trust in conjunction with the AONB Partnership were carrying out a public consultation on a number of options such as allowing the areas to regenerate naturally, introducing a recreation and leisure facilities, conserving the industrial heritage and other options. He went on to say that he would be having meetings with funding providers in the near future.
13. Mrs Thomas commented that the 2012 Olympics may have an impact on footfall in the area especially on the Shropshire Way which may link up with the Much Wenlock Olympics trail and on to Ironbridge. Mr Blount commented that the Access Officer was currently looking at this.
14. Mr Williams commented that it was important to establish good access links especially with public transport to encourage people to come from the larger areas of population. Mrs Thomas agreed.
15. Mr Jenkinson commented that this was a big opportunity as the geology of the area was very special and in a lot of cases unique.
16. The Chair thanked Mr Carty for his presentation and asked that the Partnership be kept updated on progress for the scheme.

## Shropshire Hills Rivers Project

17. The meeting received a presentation from Mike Kelly, River Valleys Officer on progress with the Rivers Project which outlined the work currently being undertaken and future work planned.
18. Mr Smith commented that this was a very good project which had benefited birds like the dipper. He went on to say that the Upper Onny Wildlife Group had expressed concern at the coppicing of alders at the Bridges which had resulted in the removal of a large number of mature trees and the removal of a number of nesting sites. Mr Kelly commented that at the Bridges it had been necessary to remove all the trees from a short stretch of the river as they were badly affected with *Phytophthora* disease.
19. The Chair thanked Mr Kelly for his presentation.

## LEADER in the Shropshire Hills Update

20. A report updating members on the progress of the Shropshire Hills LEADER programme had been circulated. Pete Banford, LEADER Coordinator, informed members that the funding agreement had been signed in September which meant that the funding was now available for distribution. He went on to say that while waiting for the funding agreement, some projects had been asked to develop full applications. This meant that a meeting of the Approvals Panel had already been held and that three projects had been approved. He added that expressions of interest had been received from nine organisations and he was currently working with these to develop full applications.
21. Ms Andreae asked what level of match funding was required. Mr Banford advised that this would vary but the maximum level of grant would be 70%.
22. Rev. Read commented that it was difficult to get funding for cross border projects.
23. Mr Barker expressed appreciation of the amount of work done by the LEADER Coordinator.
24. The AONB Partnership Manager commented that there were good links and complementarity between the Sustainable Development Fund and LEADER, and that it would be important over time to develop the role of the Partnership group itself in relation to LEADER, as the overseeing Local Action Group.
25. The Chair thanked the LEADER Coordinator for his presentation.

## Date of Next Meetings

26. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 9 February 2010 at 10.00am. Members were advised that future meetings of the Partnership would be held on Tuesday 22 June 2010 and Tuesday 19 October 2010.

## Other Business

27. The AONB Partnership Manager advised that he was planning a half day briefing for new members of the Partnership.
28. The Chair advised members that copies of the Annual Report were available, and that they could take spare copies to pass on to others.