



Shropshire Hills
AONB Partnership

20 July 2023

9.30 am

Item

Public

**MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON
23 MARCH 2023
9.30 - 11.40 AM**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Local Authorities

Shropshire Council

Cllr Hilary Luff

Cllr Dan Morris

Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual Member

Alison Caffyn

Individual Member

George Chancellor

Individual Member

Adrian Cullis

Individual Member

Gillian Preece

Individual Member

Andrew Wood

Town & Parish Council representative

John Luck

Town & Parish Council representative

Ruth Houghton

Town & Parish Council representative

David Mills

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Sarah Bury

CLA

Alex Carson-Taylor (Chair)

Longmynd & District Bridleways Association

Sue Lee

/ British Horse Society

Middle Marches Community Land Trust

Janet Cobb

Ramblers Association

Charles Edwards

Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Veronica Cossons

South Shropshire Climate Action

Nick Read

Upper Onny Wildlife Group

Leo Smith

Observers/Officers

Shropshire Council

Pete Banford (Culture & Communities Manager)

Tim Ward (Committee Officer)

Shropshire Hills AONB

Rachel Glover (Natural Environment Officer)

Partnership staff team

Phil Holden (AONB Partnership Manager)

Resources for Change

Helen Fairweather

Curious Birds

Kate Garner

80 **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

80.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Jim Bunce, Emma Johnson, Cllr Heather Kidd, John Long, Cllr Cecilia Motley, Cllr Chris Turley and Fiona Williams.

81 **Minutes of the last meeting**

81.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the AONB Partnership held on 8 November 2022 be approved as a true record.

81.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reported that Alastair Warrington, a trustee on the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust had sadly died and that this meant that there were now two vacancies for appointed trustees. He asked Partnership members to let him know of anybody that may be interested in becoming a trustee.

82 **AONB Management Plan Review - support for one year delay and identification of new/changed issues to cover in review**

82.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which sought the Partnership's support to delay the substantive review of the AONB Management Plan by a year.

82.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded members that in July 2022 a letter had been received from the Minister giving the option to delay the full review of the AONB Management Plan for one year and it was proposed that this delay should happen. He added that the light touch review had identified a number of emerging issues that would need to be covered in the full plan review.

82.3 The Chair commented that there were a number of policies emerging from Defra that would need to be considered.

82.4 Among other topics raised by members were : -

- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Carbon Offsetting
- The role small landowners can play
- The role of Town and Parish Councils
- The aspirations of local communities

The AONB Partnership Manager asked that if members had any further topics they should let him know.

82.5 **RESOLVED:**

That the Partnership support the proposed delay to the full plan review.

83 Update on AONB Partnership Ancient Woodlands and Peatlands Projects

83.1 Members received the report of the Natural Environment Officer which gave members information on the recently started Shropshire Hills AONB Ancient Woodlands project and the Peatlands project in the Upper Clun. She also gave a presentation which gave further details of the projects.

84 Brief Update on other AONB Partnership Team and NAAONB activities

84.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which updated them on certain topics and areas of activity not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

84.2 The AONB Partnership Manager updated the meeting on the work being carried out on Caer Caradoc as part of the “Fix the Fort” project.

84.3 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that the first meeting of the proposed Climate Action Plan sub-group would be held on the 1 April.

84.4 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that Hilary Clayton-Smith had stepped down from the Partnership. He paid tribute to the contribution she had made to the work of the Partnership both as Vice Chair and a longstanding member. He advised the meeting that this left a vacancy for a Vice Chair of the Partnership and asked that if anyone was interested in filling this, they should let him know. The AONB Partnership Manager also advised that there was currently a vacancy for a Parish Council representative following the resignation of Mark Hughes and suggested that this could be left vacant until the biennial membership review which would be carried out later in the year.

85 Access for All - better engagement and services in the AONB for under-served groups

85.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which gave an update on research currently under way to improve provision for and engagement with under-served groups in relation to the Shropshire Hills AONB.

85.2 Kate Garner gave a presentation which set out the findings to date and future work planned. She then took questions.

86 Stepping Stones Needs Assessment Consultation

86.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which introduced the consultation on Needs Assessment for the Stepping Stones project.

86.2 Helen Fairweather from Resources for Change gave a presentation on the consultation, and then led some workshops to gain the views of members.

87 Other Updates

- 87.1 Mr Cullis advised the meeting that he was currently working with the National Trust and the Longmynd Commoners Association to develop a new “Commoning Framework”, he also informed the meeting that the Foundation for Common Land and the National Trust were working on an interpretation project for the Longmynd.
- 87.2 Mr Chancellor advised the meeting that the AONB Trust had recently met and approved Conservation Fund grants for 13 projects.
- 87.3 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that Mike Kelly, Natural Environment Officer would retire in June and paid tribute to the work he had carried out whilst working for the Partnership team over more than 20 years.

88 Date of Next Meeting

- 88.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Partnership would be held on Thursday 20th July 2023 at 9.30am

Signed (Chairman)

Date: