



Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

9 March 2021

9.30 am

Item

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Public

MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2020

9.35 - 11.35 AM

Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams Live

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

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Present

Local Authorities

Shropshire Council

Cllr Cecilia Motley (Vice Chair)

Cllr Robert Tindall

Cllr David Turner

Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members

Individual Member

Alison Caffyn

Individual Member

Adrian Cullis

Individual Member

James Williamson (Chair)

Town & Parish Council representative

Hilary Clayton-Smith (Vice Chair)

Town & Parish Council representative

David Mills

British Horse Society

Ronald Repath

Campaign to Protect Rural England

Sarah Bury

Middle Marches Community Land Trust

Lizzie Hulton-Harrop

National Farmers Union

Carol Griffiths

Natural England

Hazel McDowall

Ramblers Association

Charles Edwards

Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Veronica Cossons

Observers/Officers

Shropshire Council

Tim Ward (Committee Officer)

Edward West (Principal Planning Policy Officer)

Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

Steph Hayes (Promotions Officer)

Staff Team

Phil Holden (AONB Partnership Manager)

Joy Howells (Funding and Programmes Officer)

Alison Jones (Clun Catchment Officer)

Mike Kelly (Natural Environment Officer)
Cath Landles (Community & Landscapes Officer)
Nigel McDonald (Sustainable Tourism Officer_

21 **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

- 21.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 21.2 Apologies had been received from George Chancellor, Heather Kidd, Sue Lee, Leo Smith and Chris Turley

22 **Minutes of the last meeting**

- 22.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2019 had been circulated.

22.2 **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership held on 8 October 2019 be approved as a true record.

23 **South Shropshire Climate Conference and Shropshire Climate Action Partnership**

- 23.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided information on two complementary community climate action partnerships.
- 23.2 The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting that two community led partnerships had been set up, one covering South Shropshire and one covering the whole of the county and drew members attention to the various links to the partnerships contained in the report.
- 23.3 Members received a short presentation from Mark Fermor, Director Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP). He explained that the Partnership was made up of local businesses, groups and individuals and was supported by both Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council and that there was currently in the region of 200 volunteers working to create a plan to show what the sustainable future of Shropshire looked like. He informed the meeting that the draft plan would be published at the end of the year and urged all members of the Partnership to become involved.
- 23.4 The AONB Partnership Officer advised the meeting that Nick Read had been unable to join the meeting and explained that the South Shropshire Climate Action Group had been formed following a public event held in 2019 and had held a conference in September 2020. He commented that whilst the group shared the same aims as the SCAP it also concentrated on the problems specific to South Shropshire. Members who had attended the conference commented that it was good that Philip Dunne had been involved, especially as he was Chair of the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee.
- 23.5 The Chairman thanked Mark Fermor for attending and urged all members to get involved with the Partnerships.

24 **Shropshire Local Plan and Planning Policy for the AONB**

- 24.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which summarised some of the key issues raised in the AONB Partnership's response to the Shropshire draft Local Plan and setting out future approached to planning policy affecting the AONB.
- 24.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded Members that the Partnership had responded to the latest consultation on the Local Plan and that the response had been circulated to members. He welcomed the inclusion of a specific Local Plan policy for the Shropshire Hills AONB and commented that this along with the reference to the AONB in a number of other policies gave added protection for the AONB.
- 24.3 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded Members that the possibility of developing an AONB-specific Development Plan Document had been discussed at previous meeting. However it was felt that a separate planning document was not viable at the present time and in light of what is contained in new Local Plan the AONB Team would continue to work with Planning Policy Team in other ways to advance the cause of the AONB.
- 24.4 The Principal Planning Policy Officer advised the meeting that there had been a large response to the latest consultation, and that some changes had been made to the plan as a result. He explained that the revised plan would be taken to a forthcoming meeting of Cabinet for approval to conduct a Regulation 19 consultation which if approved would last for a period of seven weeks and that following this a report would be taken to Council in March for approval to submit the plan for examination.
- 24.5 **RESOLVED:**
- That the Partnership
- a) note the report and
 - b) support the proposal not to take further at the present time the idea of a Development Plan Document (DPD) for the Shropshire Hills AONB.

25 **Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme tests & trials in the Shropshire Hills AONB**

- 25.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided background material to support presentations on the various ELM Tests and Trials currently operating in the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- 25.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded the meeting that Tests & Trials were being carried out over the whole of country and that all trials reported into DEFRA. He commented that each trial was independent of each other and not linked.
- 25.3 Presentations were received from Andrew Hearle (National Trust), Karen Fisher (Soil Association) and Lizzie Hulton Harrop who outlined what work they were carrying out within their trials. The AONB Partnership Officer updated the meeting briefly on trials being carried out by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and the NFU.

25.4 The Chair thanked all those that had given presentations.

26 **National Association for AONBs and Europarc Federation**

26.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which updated them on relevant recent activity of the National Association for AONBs and the Europarc Federation.

26.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that representatives of the NAAONB were meeting with DEFRA representatives to discuss the Government action following the Glover Review.

26.3 The AONB Partnership Manager updated the meeting on the Art in the Landscape Project which aimed to produce a National Arts Strategy for AONBs. He advised that Funding & Programmes Officer had undertaken the online training and would be rolling out a programme in the new year.

26.4 **RESOLVED:**

That the AONB Partnership

- a) Note the information in the report and;
- b) Adopt the NAAONB 'Art in the Landscape' Strategy

27 **AONB Management Plan Progress Report, Green Recovery Challenge Fund bids and partner activity**

27.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which gave updates on progress with the AONB Management Plan and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund bids.

27.2 The AONB Partnership Manager informed Members that it was good practice to update on actions contained in the Management Plan periodically, he asked Partners to update him where necessary in order that the Plan was fully updated.

27.3 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that the bid made by the AONB Partnership and the Wildlife Trust to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund had been unsuccessful. He commented that the Fund had been oversubscribed and that Government had added a further £40M to the fund and would open a second round of bidding.

27.4 The Chairman asked all Members of the Partnership to let the AONB Partnership Manager have any updates on the action plan so that the update could be as complete as possible.

28 **Shropshire Community and Rural Strategy consultation**

28.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which gave details of the current consultation on a Community and Rural Strategy for Shropshire.

28.2 The AONB Partnership Manager updated the Partnership on the current consultation on a Community and Rural Strategy for Shropshire being carried out by Shropshire Council. He advised the meeting that he hoped to make a response on behalf of the AONB Partnership.

29 **Date of Next Meeting**

29.1 **RESOLVED:**

That the date of the next meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership would be confirmed in due course.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: