



Shropshire Hills
AONB Partnership

Item
Public

9.30 am

**MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON
31 MARCH 2021
9.30 - 11.35 AM (ONLINE VIDEO MEETING)**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

James Williamson (Chair), Hilary Claytonsmith (Vice Chairman), Cecilia Motley (Vice Chairman), Heather Kidd, Robert Tindall, David Turner, Chris Turley, Alison Caffyn, Adrian Cullis, Chris Naylor, Mark Hughes, John Long, David Mills, Wayne Barnes, Janet Cobb, Sarah Bury, Veronica Cossons, Helen Dale, Ian Dormor, Charles Edwards, Carol Griffiths, Robert Harris and Bill Klemperer

Officers in attendance: Phil Holden, Alison Kay, Alison Jones, Cath Landles, Joy Howells, Mike Kelly, Nigel McDonald, Tim Ward

30 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

30.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

30.2 Apologies for absence were received from Gill Binks (Caring for God's Acre), Sonja Belchere (Visit Shropshire Hills), Emma Johnson (Natural England), John Pritchard (Town & Parish Council representative) and Leo Smith (Upper Onny Wildlife Group)

31 Minutes of the last meeting

31.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020 had been circulated.

31.2 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership held on 24 November 2020 be approved as a true record.

32 Nature Recovery Plan - Draft for Consultation

32.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which introduced a full draft of the Shropshire Hills AONB Nature Recovery Plan for consultation.

32.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded the meeting that the draft plan had been circulated. He advised members that opportunity mapping work for a Nature Recovery Network was being carried out by a number of partner organisations which would provide detailed information to support the plan in due course.

32.3 There was discussion about topics including air quality, road verges, tree planting, connectivity of habitats, hedge trimming, the timing of the plan, its audiences, threatened species and wider public awareness.

32.4 The Chair thanked officers for their work in producing the draft plan and urged partners to submit any further comments to the AONB Partnership Manager.

33 ELM advocacy and Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme - Update

33.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which updated them on the recent small programme of advocacy for the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, and the forthcoming 3 year 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' funding programme from Defra.

33.2 The AONB Partnership Manager informed members that the advocacy work had centred around encouraging attendance at a webinar organised by NAAONB.

33.3 The AONB Partnership Manager said that more details regarding the Farming in Protected Landscapes funding programme were expected shortly.

33.4 The Community & Landscapes Officer advised the meeting that she had worked directly with farmers to encourage them to attend webinars and that she was working with the NFU and CLA to disseminate information and signpost farmers and landowners to further information. She added that there was a difficulty as there was not enough detail yet, but that as the ELM scheme would not start fully for a number of years there was a need to look at other schemes in the interim.

33.5 The Chair commented that it was encouraging that a large number of farmers from the Shropshire Hills had attended the webinar as a result of the team's work, but that he had concerns as to how the hard to reach ones could become involved.

33.6 In response to a question the meeting was advised that there was not one single webpage with all current schemes and grants on it. The AONB Partnership Manager commented that it may be possible to set up a page on the Partnership website signposting farmers to relevant schemes available in the AONB area.

34 South Shropshire Climate Action - Land & Biodiversity Group Plan

34.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided information on the Land & Biodiversity aspects of South Shropshire Climate Action's plan.

34.2 Nick Read gave a presentation which set out the work that had been done by the group and the future work to be carried. He advised the meeting that the plan would be published on May 22nd as part of an online 'Next Steps' Conference.

34.3 The Chair thanked Nick Read for his presentation.

35 NAAONB Collaboration Group on Climate Change

- 35.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which updated them on recent collaboration by the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) and the AONB team's involvement.
- 35.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that the collaboration involved officers from several AONBs and also people from outside the AONB community. He advised that the group had prepared a presentation for the NAAONB Lead Officers meeting which had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

36 Collaboration for Visitor Management

- 36.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which updated them on collaboration between partners in the Shropshire Hills for visitor management during the 2021 season and especially in relation to post-lockdown pressures expected.
- 36.2 The Sustainable Tourism Officer updated the meeting regarding work ongoing with the National Trust, Church Stretton Town Council and other bodies with regard to the pressures created by the easing of the lockdown.
- 36.3 The Sustainable Tourism Officer took the meeting through a six point plan for visitor management which had been developed with partners, and updated members on work undertaken to date.
- 36.4 The Chair commented that the new Countryside Code would need publicising widely.

37 AONB Team Work Programme Update

- 37.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which updated them on the work of the team in 2020-21 as the Financial Year draws to a close.
- 37.2 The AONB Partnership Manager gave a short update on work being carried out by the team.
- 37.3 The AONB Partnership Manager advised members that the biennial review of Partnership membership would be carried out over the summer.
- 37.4 The Chair congratulated the Team on the wide breadth of topics that were being covered.

38 Partner Activity

- 38.1 The AONB Partnership Manager updated members on work being carried out by the Longmynd Bridleways Association on maintenance and upkeep of bridleways across the area.
- 38.2 Bill Klemperer updated members on recent relevant activity by Historic England.

39 Dates of Future Meetings

- 39.1 Members were advised that future meetings of the Partnership would be held on: -

Wednesday 14th July 2021 and
Tuesday 19th October 2021

All meetings at 9.30am

Signed (Chairman)

Date: