



Shropshire Hills  
National Landscape  
Partnership.  
  
4 February 2025  
  
9.30 am

Item  
  
**2**  
  
Public

**MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP  
MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024  
9.30 - 11.55 AM**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward  
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

**Present**

**Local Authorities**

Shropshire Council

Cllr Hilary Luff  
Cllr Cecilia Motley (Vice Chair)

**Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members**

Individual Member	Emma Bacon
Individual Member	Alison Caffyn
Individual Member	Rachel Cockett
Individual Member	Sue Manns
Individual Member	Gillian Preece
Town & Parish Council representative	Francis Acton
Town & Parish Council representative	Tony Heighway
Town & Parish Council representative	Ruth Houghton
Town & Parish Council representative	John Luck
Acton Scott Heritage Farm	Rachel Lambert Jones
Campaign to Protect Rural England	Sue Steer
CLA	Alex Carson-Taylor (Chair)
Environment Agency	Matthew Lawrence
Forestry Commission	Wayne Barnes
Land Life & Livelihoods	Robert Harris
Middle Marches Community Land Trust	Nigel Jackson
National Farmers Union	Carol Griffiths
National Trust	Charlie Bell
	Dominic Bowyer
Ramblers Association	Charles Edwards
Shropshire Good Food Partnership	Daphne du Cros
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Richard Grindle
South Shropshire Climate Action	Nick Read
Upper Onny Wildlife Group	Leo Smith

## **Observers/Officers**

Shropshire Council	Pete Banford (Culture and Communities Manager) Tim Ward (Committee Officer)
Telford & Wrekin Council	Ben Holloway (Biodiversity Technician)
Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team	Phil Holden (Team Manager)

## **31 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

- 31.1 The Chair welcomed Harriet Halliday, Dominic Bowyer and Rachel Lambert-Jones to their first meeting of the Partnership.
- 31.2 Apologies for absence had been received from Jim Bunce (Long Mynd Adventure Camp), Adrian Cullis (Individual Member), Rob Harris (Land, Life & Livelihoods), Cllr Carolyn Healy (Telford and Wrekin Council), Cllr Dan Morris (Shropshire Council) and Jenny Rouquette (Shropshire Good Food Partnership).
- 31.3 The National Landscape Team Manager advised the meeting that Sarah Bury had stepped down as the representative of the CPRE and welcomed Sue Steer as her replacement. He reminded members that Mrs Bury had been a long serving member of the Partnership serving two separate terms firstly as the representative of South Shropshire District Council and then as an Individual member during which time she had been Chair of the Partnership and then more recently as the representative of CPRE.
- 31.4 The National Landscape Team Manager reminded members that following the biennial review there was a vacancy for an organisational member and advised them that he had received a formal application from the Shropshire Geological Society following expressions of interest from three organisations. He stated that he would circulate the application to members by email for them to approve.
- 31.5 The National Landscape Team Manager advised the meeting that there was a vacancy for a Vice-Chairman following the sad death of Councillor Chris Turley. He asked any member that wanted further information to contact the Chair or him.

## **32 Minutes of the last meeting**

- 32.1 The Committee Officer advised the meeting that Sue Manns' apologies had been omitted from the last minutes.

### **32.2 RESOLVED**

That subject to the addition of Sue Manns to the list of apologies the note of the last meeting be approved.

- 32.3 The National Landscape Team Manager apologised that the agreed item on rivers was not on the agenda due to key people being unable to attend, and that it would be brought to a future meeting.

### **33 Management Plan Review Update**

- 33.1 Members received the report of the National Landscape Team Manager which provided updates and material for discussion on the Management Plan review.
- 33.2 The National Landscape Team Manager commented that the review process was proving challenging for the team but that they were now moving to the drafting stage with the aim of going out to public consultation in March, he reminded members that an additional meeting would be held in February to focus on the Management Plan.
- 33.3 The National Landscape Team Manager advised the meeting that a consultant had been engaged to produce a "State of the Shropshire Hills" report which would set out a detailed profile of relevant aspects of the landscape as well as looking at change and trends across relevant environmental factors and socio-economic influences and that it would incorporate the new Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework.
- 33.4 Members had a short discussion regarding the proposed title and headlines for the Plan, they were asked to feed any further comments to the National Landscape Team Manager.

### **34 NLHF Landscape Connections - Brief Update on Proposed Shropshire Hills Bid**

- 34.1 Members received the report of the National Landscape Team Manager which provided a brief update on progress towards a Shropshire Hills bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Landscape Connections programme.
- 34.2 Charlie Bell gave a short presentation which set out the aims of the bid and work carried out to date.

### **35 Wilder Marches Project**

- 35.1 The meeting received a presentation from Richard Grindle - Shropshire Wildlife Trust which gave an update on the Wilder Marches Project which is a project with four Wildlife Trusts working across border along the Welsh marches which was linking in to the work of the Marches Forward Partnership.

### **36 Progress Report on the First year of the Engagement Ranger Work**

- 36.1 Members received the report of the National Landscape Team Manager which gave a brief update on the work of the new Engagement Ranger post within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape team.
- 36.2 Joe Penfold, Engagement Ranger gave a short presentation which expanded on the contents of the report.

### **37 Briefing on Environmental Land Management Schemes**

- 37.1 The meeting received a presentation from Gillian Preece which gave an update on the Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS).

**38 Defra Policy Update**

38.1 The Chairman gave a short presentation which updated the meeting on recent changes in certain Defra policies.

**39 Shropshire Hills National Landscape Team Update**

39.1 Members received the report of the National Landscape Team Manager which gave selected brief updates on recent activities of the staff team.

39.2 The National Landscape Team Manager informed the meeting that around 96% of the available Farming in Protected Landscapes grant funding for this Financial Year had been allocated. He reminded members that the programme was due to end in March 2025, but that DEFRA were looking for funding to enable the continuation of grants up to March 2027, and that funding had been secured to extend all staff roles to the end of September 2025 and the advisers until March 2027.

**40 Progress with Sustainable Tourism Strategy**

40.1 Members received the report of the National Landscape Team Manager which gave a brief update on actions implementing the Sustainable Tourism Strategy for 2024-29.

40.2 Members were asked to feed any comments to the National Landscape Team Manager.

**41 Dates of Future Meetings**

41.1 The Landscapes Partnership Manager advised the meeting that it was proposed to hold an additional meeting in February to consider the Management Plan.

41.2 It was agreed that future meetings of the Partnership would be held on: -

- Tues 4<sup>th</sup> February
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> March
- Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> July
- Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> November

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: