

**NORTH WESSEX DOWNS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
COUNCIL OF PARTNERS**

**MINUTES of a meeting held at
Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire
Tuesday 7th July 2015**

1. Introduction & Guided walk led by Jayne Manley, CEO of the Earth Trust

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced our host Ms Jayne Manley, CEO of the Earth Trust, who gave a short introduction to the Earth Trust and its purpose, before escorting the members on a guided walk around Wittenham Clumps.

Present

Mr T Hiscocks
Cllr A Bennett
Cllr D Sherlock
Cllr P Giddings
Cllr K Chopping
Cllr F de Rhe-Philippe
Cllr A McNair Scott
Cllr C Mathew

Representing

Chairman
Swindon Borough Council / Vice Chairman
Basingstoke & Deane District Council
Test Valley Borough Council
West Berkshire Council
Wiltshire Council
Hampshire County Council
Oxfordshire County Council

Community & Parish Interest Group Members

Mr B Castle
Mr D Gower

Farming & Rural Business Interest Group Members

Mrs L Philipps

Historic Environment Interest Group Members

Mr P Lemon

Recreation and Tourism Interest Group Members

Mr M Crane
Mr R Clarke

In attendance

Mr G King	Hampshire County Council
Mr N Mottram	Oxfordshire County Council
Mr E Rowsell	Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Miss C Riggs	Swindon Borough Council
Mr R Broadhead	North Wessex Downs AONB MWG Chairman
Mr P Hendry	West Berkshire Council
Mr H Oliver	Director, North Wessex Downs AONB
Mr O Cripps	Projects & Development Manager, North Wessex Downs AONB
Mrs J Baldwin	Partnership Co-ordinator, North Wessex Downs AONB (minutes)
Miss E Hamersley	St John's Secondary School – Work Experience student (Observer)
Mr S Barker	Plymouth University Undergraduate – Intern placement (Observer)

2. **Apologies.** Apologies for absence were received from:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr D Bibby	Test Valley Borough Council
Ms R Somerset	Communications Officer, North Wessex Downs AONB
Mrs L Page	Planning Advisor, North Wessex Downs AONB
Dr J Smith	Interest Group
Mrs M Chambers	Interest Group
Mr N Titchen	Interest Group
Mrs A Ingham	Interest Group
Ms A Witcombe	NFU / Interest Group
Mr I Brown	Wiltshire Council
Mr C Musgrave	CLA / Interest Group

No Apologies received

Cllr J Cotton	South Oxfordshire District Council
Cllr J Shelley	Vale of White Horse District Council
Ms V Heal	English Heritage

3. **Constitutional Items (paper 1)**

TH presented the paper and asked the members to approve the appointment of Richard Clarke as a new Advisory member to the Partnership. Proposed by TH and seconded by AB. TH formally welcomed Richard Clarke to the Council of Partners. **AB** requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Cllr Hilary Cole for her work and support that she has given over the years to the Partnership.

ACTION: Partnership Coordinator to arrange letter.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (paper 2)**

It was agreed that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 be confirmed and signed, subject to highlighted additions to apologies from Cllr A McNair-Scott and Cllr C Mathew.

ACTION: Partnership Coordinator to amend minutes accordingly.

5. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

RB informed the members that **item 8 'draft revised Partnership Agreement'** is still being reviewed by Wiltshire Council legal department and he will continue to press them for their comments.

6. **Chairman's remarks**

I thought you might like to know the headlines of what I have been up to in your name since I joined you all at the last meeting on 10 March. I am doing this so to make you aware rather than me trying to justify my existence.

- I have had 3 training/briefing sessions with Henry Oliver
- We have written to all the politicians and local authorities in the AONB with a copy of the latest Management Plan
- One consequence of this was a follow-up meeting in Winchester in May with the Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Roy Perry

- Prior to the General Election we wrote to all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in North Wessex Downs constituencies, using messages common to all NAAONB members, to highlight the value of the AONB and urging them to make a commitment to their future.
- After the General Election we wrote to the new and re-elected MPs congratulating them and offering a meeting
- So far two such meetings have been set up – with Kit Malthouse, MP for Andover, at the end of this week, and Robert Buckland, MP for Swindon, on the Friday following.
- We are following this with letters to all NWD MPs enclosing a copy of *So Much More Than the View*. This is a prospectus for protected landscapes that the family of AONBs (NAAONB) has produced jointly with National Parks England. It was launched publicly in association with a letter welcoming Liz Truss back to her post as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- In March I attended the Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area event with Richard Broadhead
- The following day I was in Pewsey for the launch of the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership (supported by our SDF) with Rose Somerset
- The following week I visited Cherhill with Oliver Cripps for a site visit and a meeting of the Sustainable Development Panel
- In June I attended a Farm Open-day at Wroughton when Rose instructed me in the art of putting up the AONB tent
- Last week was the climax of the activities thus far – the Landscapes for Life Conference of the National Association of AONBs in Winchester. Henry helped ensure that my time was efficiently used. I was introduced to some of the key people in AONBs across the country, and had a most interesting site visit to Cranborne Chase.
CM raised the point that with the publication of 'So much more than the view' that the opportunity should be taken to highlight the disgraceful actions of the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Council representatives to not engage with the AONB, in a letter to the respective MP to instill some pressure on them to engage with the Partnership. This was echoed by many members. **HO** responded that this was on the agenda with all MPs that TH is meeting.

7. Partnership Round Table

TH wishes for members to use this item to mention general events/happenings and if there is a major issue or topic that a member wishes to discuss in future, that they contact either the Director or Partnership Coordinator to raise a paper for the next meeting.

LP-new Countryside Stewardship Scheme being launched 01/07-30/09. **MC**-A new tourist route being created between Hungerford to Bath which is being supported by Wiltshire Council and Calne with further updates at the next meeting. **BC**-Referred to Salisbury Road Marlborough planning application being aware of development companies encroaching boundary settlements into the AONB. **DG**-advised members that he had heard that in the Lambourn Valley a contractor had received permission from DEFRA to discharge untreated sewage into the river. **HO**-will follow this up. **GK**-very pleased with the useful meeting with Cllr Roy Perry, HCC Senior Management and TH. **AMS**-still concerned about the Bullington Cross Wind Farm. **PG**-Test Valley continues to oppose the Bullington Cross application. **HO** informed members that with the arrival of Lucy Page as Planning Advisor, she is fully aware and briefed on the Bullington Cross application and will continue to comment where necessary. **NM**-new funding for a woodland project with NWD and other AONBs. The Oxfordshire County Council Minerals and Waste Core Strategy policy will be produced in the next couple of weeks. **CM**-would be interested to know which neighbourhood plans within the AONB have been produced. **KC**-will pass on thanks to Cllr Hilary Cole. Will also

investigate the comment raised by DG regarding untreated sewage into the River Lambourn. **FdeRP**-Countryside Access Improvement Plan is now available on the Wiltshire Council website. **RB**-will furnish Partnership Coordinator with link. **AB**-Eastern Development area(Eastern Villages) recently adopted a Solar Farm Development Order as there have been several issues regarding solar farm plans on the AONB boundary near Wanborough. The new Thames Water pipeline will also be running thorough the same area.

ACTIONS: HO to investigate Lambourn Valley sewage discharge.

RB to furnish Partnership Coordinator with link for Countryside Access Improvement Plan.

8. **Final Figures for Accounts 2014-2015 – for approval (paper 3)**
Members agreed and accepted the report.
9. **Measuring Awareness of the North Wessex Downs AONB (presentation)**
The presentation was given by **OC** on behalf of Rose Somerset and asked members to contact Rose Somerset if they want more information. **TH** thanked **OC** and **RS** for this work.
10. **Friends' Group Update – for information (paper 4)**
TH introduced the paper on behalf of the project leader Horace Mitchell. Members were asked to consider anyone of influence who they could approach to join and/or fund the Group to let Horace know. **HO** wished to thank the members involved in the Friends' Group project who have been both helpful and supportive so far. **GK** has also agreed to help and support the group following on from his recent involvement with the setup of the Cranborne Chase AONB Friends' Group.
11. **Signs Project – for information (paper 5)**
HO introduced the paper and asked members to take the paper as read. The project is moving forward with the help of **MC** and Hungerford Town Council agreeing to be a pilot for the project. The Management Working Group has advised the team to continue to use the current AONB logo and develop a flexible set of formats or toolkit that can be adapted and applied to a range of contexts.
12. **Budget Update 2015-2016 – for information (paper 6)**
TH introduced the paper and advised members that this is for noting only.
13. **Planning Update – for information (paper 7)**
HO introduced the report on behalf of the Planning Advisor. Further updates: A date has now been set for the VWH Local Plan - requests for participation 14/08/2015 and deadline for Stage 1 Examination statements 21/08/2015. Housing numbers for the Salisbury Road, Marlborough application have now changed. Please contact **LP** for further details and comments. The Hungerford Common undergrounding scheme by **SSE** has now been completed and recently reported in the e-bulletin. **NM** enquired if the planning team respond to Neighbourhood Plans. **HO** advised yes as and when they are notified to us but every effort is made to comment and engage with the relevant council before the Plan is drafted. **FdeRP** remarked that Neighbourhood Plans are a slow process and **AB** advised that they can now incorporate agricultural land.
14. **Director's Report – for information (paper 8)**
TH wished to draw to the attention of members **item 13** the Director's Report on the **Annual Forum 2015** and would like to encourage all members to attend this event if possible please. **HO** introduced the report and highlighted that this was now being tabled in a new format and he would welcome comments from members.
In future the paper will just be the Unit Work Programme Table. Further updates:- Historic Landscape Character funding assigned to finish off this work that has been ongoing for 3-4 years.

FdeRP advised that it is increasingly becoming apparent that the LEADER funding will not be available now until January 2016.

15. Any Other Business

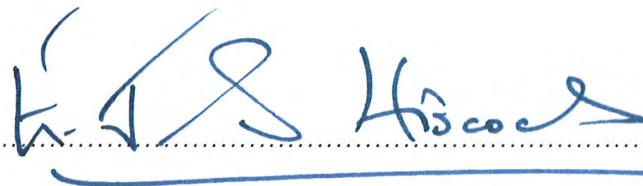
None reported.

16. Date and Place of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th November 2015, Vernham Dean Village Hall, Hampshire, SP11 0JY

(Meeting closed at 12.40pm)

Signed.....


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. J. S. Hiscock', is written over a dotted line. A horizontal blue line is drawn underneath the signature.

Date.....

10 November 2015