

Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



AONB Office, Shears Building, Stone Lane Industrial Estate,
Wimborne, BH21 1HD Tel: 01725 517417
Email: info@cranbornechase.org.uk Web site: www.ccwvdaonb.org.uk

STEERING GROUP

10.00am-12noon, Wednesday 6th September 2017

Wimborne St Giles Village Hall

MINUTES

1. WELCOME / PRESENT / APOLOGIES

Member			Present	Apologies
Richard Broadhead	Wilts	Chairman	√	
Phil Sterling		DCC		
Gary Foyle		EDDC		
Martin Peacock		NFDC		√
Hilary Jordan		NDDC		
Susan Batstone		NE		√
Barry James		SCC		√
David Clarke		MDC		√
Garry King		HCC	√	

AONB Team

Linda Nunn	AONB Director	√	√
Shirley Merrick	Support Officer	√	

ACTION 1

1. Apologies were noted.

1. Welcome and apologies

Gavin Fauvel has resigned from the Group.

2. Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising

Invoices for the contributions from Local Authority partners were sent out last month.
The Canon copier has now been picked up from the Wimborne offices for disposal.

ACTION 2

1. The text in Action 5 to be changed to '1. <i>RB to forward Wiltshire Council's Wire to Shirley</i> ' from '1. <i>RB to forward Wiltshire Council's Wire to Shirley and set her up on email</i> '.
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2. Once the amendment is made to Action 5 of the Minutes of 21 February 2017 then they are to be sent to the Chairman for his signature.
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3. 2017-18 budget update

LN briefed those present on Period report 4. Page 1 of the report was passed round. The figures quoted were not up-to-date. RB reported that he had received a memo to say that the July figures could not be relied upon. LN reported that she was still waiting for a cost centre to be included in the period report that was set up in the last financial year in readiness for the HLF funding. RB gave LN a contact within Wiltshire Council that could help with any issues regarding cost centres, but said to ensure that the Wiltshire Council accounts officer is included in those emails.

LN is trying to set up a meeting at the Council offices with the accounts officer for the AONB, but this is proving difficult.

It was noted that the payments in, as indicated on Page 1 of Period Report 4, were going to 55200, North Wessex Downs AONB and NOT 55100 this AONB.

ACTION 3

1. LN to note the name of the Wiltshire Council officer that deals with cost centre queries.
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2. LN to check Period Report 5 for accuracy when it arrives.
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3. LN to set up a meeting with the accounts officer for the AONB to clear issues with the Period Reports, especially the text number for the NWD AONB on the Cranborne Chase report.
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4. Team work update

Richard Burden (RB) Landscape and Planning Advisor

LN reported on the major planning application at **Tascroft Farm by the Longleat Estate** (17/01124/out) for a 241 bed hotel and resort. This application in outline went to the Planning Committee on DATE. RB had meetings with the agent during the pre-application stage and the consultation period. The main concern over the application is the height of the buildings becoming a visual intrusion. RB had requested that the members of the planning committee visit the site. The Steering Group Chairman confirmed that the visit took place before the committee commenced. The Officer report did not include all of the AONB comments. It was emphasised that the AONB was actually not opposed to the proposal.

LN reported that she had requested that when new Wiltshire councillors had their induction day that the AONB would be invited along to inform them of the AONB. Unfortunately that request was never acted upon by the Council.

The recent proposals by **Kingsdown Farm, Longbridge Deverill** have been objected to by this AONB (17/03155/var). The profiling work appears to be an (unapproved) waste and minerals operation. The AONB has received serious lobbying from residents on the visual impact on the AONB of the ongoing works. Steering Group gave LN advice on how to proceed with these concerns.

Neighbourhood Plans – seven Plans have received comments.

There are many planning applications being responded to, particularly involving farm workers cottages being ‘replaced’ with overly large dwellings, especially in the area of Tarrant Gunville.

David Blake (DB) Projects Officer

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) panel has seen its membership decline. This will need to be addressed.

The SDF has awarded funds to the

- Deverills Festival
- the finger post project in Gussage All Saints
- Springhead Ashscapes Week in October

Other projects DB is working on include

- Plantlife – ‘Flowers in the Verge’, a Post Code Lottery bid led by Plantlife
- ‘Dove Chasers’ funding bid for work with Turtle Doves on Martin Down.
- ‘Big Chalk’ joint working with other AONB and NP partners

Tracy Adams (TA) Farm Conservation Officer

TA works 2 days per week with funding from Wessex Water until November. This will then drop to one day per week.

Wessex Water have an opening ceremony for their new pumping station at Sturminster Marshall in October. This is to celebrate their major grid improvement project. The transfer pipe line was constructed through much of this AONB. TA, RB and LN have been invited as guests.

Wessex Water are putting together a film and TA is helping with the editing.

TA continues to monitor the wildlife cameras looking for sightings of Turtle Doves.

TA is working with the farmer cluster groups. There is talk of a ‘super cluster group’ being formed.

Julie Harding - Communications Officer

Julie is

- writing an article for Country Life;
- sending out press releases;

- looking at a TV filming opportunity;
- working with Rachel Limb to deliver 'Taste the Chase' in October;
- building up the media database;
- overseeing a volunteer who is taking photographs around the AONB;
- posting a bi-monthly e-bulletin;
- dealing with all social media, especially our Facebook page.

Anne Carney (AC) - Funding and Partnerships Officer

AC is working with the Cranborne Chase Landscape Trust. They now have 78 new trustees. They now have an agreed logo. They are looking to revamp the website. AC and LN will attend their meeting next week along with Roger Goulding.

GK holds the bank account for the 'Friends of Cranborne Chase' and LN will now work with the other signatory to transfer funds in that bank account to the CCLT, and then close that account.

Roger Goulding (RG) Landscape Partnership Scheme Development Officer

LN passed around the summary of the project work that RG had undertaken.

Linda Nunn (LN) Director

LN explained that she was looking for new offices as, if the Heritage Lottery Fund bid that RG is working on is successful, it is possible that three/four extra members of staff will be required. LN has again received encouragement by a Councillor to move to the Nadder Centre. LN, the Chairman (RB) and Ian Brown are meeting with that Councillor on Oct 2nd to discuss this.

The ability of the AONB to go onto the Wiltshire Council's (WC) IT system was discussed, and their policy towards this. WC limit their services to Wiltshire owned or serviced offices, within Wiltshire.

A consultant has been engaged to undertake a business plan for the potential Countryside Centre. The location would not be a serviced WC building which means the WC IT system would not be possible. Lackham and Kingston Maurwood Colleges have now indicated that they would probably have no use for the Centre. The potentially identified site for the Countryside Centre is now not thought as suitable as previously as public rights of way are not easily accessible from there. It may be possible with the right location and project to access the Wiltshire Rural Growth Fund in the future. If this AONB achieves International Dark Sky Reserve status a small observatory, visitor centre interpretation, volunteer hub and office space may be possible. Any operation would obviously have to be able to generate income. LN has contacted other AONBs with similar facilities to find the best way forward. The application for International Dark Sky Reserve status will hopefully be ready for July 2018, and LN described that process. The local planning authority partners are needed to help by agreeing to lighting policies for their applications and placing conditions on external lighting. Ruth Coultard progressed the work significantly during her 6 week secondment from the Brecon Beacons earlier this year.

A lighting manufacturer within the AONB has been contacted for assistance and LN is waiting for a date to visit the company. This could be good publicity for them.

Dates and venues for star gazing events are now being planned for this year. LN has arranged with a Tim Peake 'Space Ambassador' to visit schools to take the dark night sky workshops to a younger audience.

A new Dark Night Sky leaflet has been produced.

Road entry signs into this AONB – 18 potential sites have been identified where ideally 'welcome' signs could be placed..

An art project is being considered where businesses can sponsor an artist to paint either a moulded figure of a fallow stag, fawn or doe. These would be placed outside of their premises and would form a tourist trail. After a period of time the deer would be sold off at auction. LN went through the process needed and the percentages that would go to the CCLT, the business and the artist.

Taste the Chase – at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury on the 5th October

The Management Plan review is now due. LN would like to employ Paul Tiplady to assist her with the Plan as he produced the current Plan. The Chairman went through some of WC's procedures for engaging consultants.

5. AONB structure / Chairman

A Panel member has put two names forward as a potential Chairman for the Partnership, and other names have been mentioned. A long discussion ensued on the process for appointing a Chairman or an interim Chairman for a one year period. This person has to be an independent.

ACTION 5
1. LN to approach Alistair Fitzgerald to see if he would be prepared to be interim Chairman.
2. The Chairman RB to discuss appointing a new Chairman with Councillor Bridget Wayman (Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member and their representative on the Panel) due to the requirements of the MoU.

The membership, vacancies and non-attendance of some members of the Partnership Panel was discussed. The relationship of this Group with the Panel, and attendance at Panel meetings of members of the Steering Group was discussed. Topic Groups no longer exist due to lack of attendance at meetings.

The group then discussed changing the name of the Partnership Panel to 'Partnership Board'.

The Chairman (RB) used the North Wessex Downs (NWD) AONB and the way that their structure works as examples for potential change and suggested LN to contact them.

The MoU was discussed and how it related to the NWD AONB version. GK believed that Hampshire County Council had not signed it yet.

ACTION 5
3. Steering Group recommend to the Partnership Panel to change their name to Partnership Board.
4. LN to contact Wiltshire CLA and the NFU to request a representative on the Panel.
5. LN to contact NWD AONB to discover how their structure works.

Membership of the Steering Group, and reasons for lack of attendance was discussed. The terms of reference need to ensure that this Group does more to help the AONB, with use of task and finish groups, especially with the projects currently planned. The Chairman (RB) announced that his term to chair this meeting was up and a replacement is needed.

ACTION 5
6. RB agreed to stay as Chairman of the Steering Group whilst a new structure was looked at.
7. Membership of this Group and how it steers the AONB work needs to be looked at especially with the review of the Management Plan and the possibility of creating new working groups to review the plan.

6. Partnership Panel Reports

The next Panel meeting is on Monday 16th October at the New Remembrance Hall, Charlton. The reports needed:-

AONB Structure

Budget update

Team Reports – extended reports, not necessary for every staff member to go through what is in their report.

Roger Goulding – LPS presentation

Julie Harding - Communications presentation

7. AOB

GK volunteered to help with the Management Plan Review. It was agreed that a light touch only was necessary. The National Association of AONBs has standard text on offer for insertion covering national issues etc, if this was felt to assist..

8. Date of next meeting - TBA

Minutes signed as a true record

By Richard BroadheadChairman

On