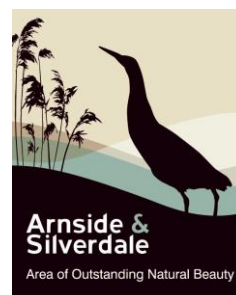


Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 2.00pm
RSPB Leighton Moss



MINUTES

Attending

Members of the Executive Committee:

Fiona Allan	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen	Local Business (Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company)
Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair)	Beetham Parish Council
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)
Sue Harrison	CLA
Gemma Wren	National Trust
Kate Willshaw	Friends of the Lake District
Cllr Kevin Briggs	Warton Parish Council

In attendance:

Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Paul Haggin	Cumbria County Council
Ruth Ainsworth	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Lorayne Wall	South Lakeland District Council

Apologies:

Maggie Robinson	Natural England
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Jarrold Sneyd	RSPB
Cllr Phillippa Williamson	Lancashire County Council
David Porter	Lancaster City Council
Cllr Nigel Goodrich	Lancaster City Council
Elliott Lorimer	Lancashire County Council
Cllr George Taylor	Arnside Parish Council
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Cllr Pete McSweeney	South Lakeland District Council
Ailsa Gibson	Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)
Tony Riden	AONB Countryside Officer

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 Apologies are listed above. Each person present introduced themselves. It was noted that following Eve Hall's retirement Ailsa Gibson would be the new representative for North Lancashire Bridleways Society. The AONB Manager has written to thank Eve for her service on the Committee.

2 AONB Geology Audit and Assessment

The AONB Manager and AONB Officer introduced the Geology Audit and Assessment project, which will deliver an action within the AONB Team Business Plan. Professional geological consultants Cuesta Consulting Ltd have been commissioned to carry out a thorough geology audit and assessment of the whole AONB, bringing together existing knowledge and information and examining both solid geology and active geomorphological processes. This will provide a robust evidence base for the AONB Management Plan review and also provide detailed information to inform future funding bids for geology projects. The outputs of the Audit and Assessment will be a plain English geological story and detailed geological framework for the area, an assessment of the natural capital value of the geodiversity of the AONB and an evaluation of how it influences natural beauty, landscape character, biodiversity and cultural heritage, along with guidelines, recommendations, digital maps and photographs.

ACTION: All to contact AONB Officer if there is any existing knowledge or contacts to pass on to the Consultants

ALL

3 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2017

Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) proposed approval, Fiona Allan (Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust) seconded, unanimously agreed by all members. The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 18th October 2017.

4 Matters arising

- 4.1 (3.1) Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) asked for an update on the art project for Arnside Knott. The AONB Manager reported that this was the 'Places and Spaces' project part of the Headlands to Headspace Landscape Partnership Scheme being led by Morecambe Bay Partnership. Deco Publique who are managing the project had been liaising with the AONB Manager and various landowners. A number of both temporary and permanent art pieces and performances and sites had been considered, with some being discounted. Several pieces were still under discussion but no final decisions had been made.
- 4.2 (8.2) Ann Kitchen asked about progress on the appointment of an ecologist by the National Trust. Gemma Wren (National Trust) reported that this was still going ahead but will be taken forward later in the year.
- 4.3 (13.12) Ann Kitchen updated the Committee that habitat restoration and access management works being undertaken by Natural England at Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve were going well.
- 4.4 (10.1) Ann Kitchen suggested that a report be produced for each of the Parish Councils detailing the work completed within each parish by the AONB Team in advance of each annual parish budget meeting.

ACTION: to prepare parish reports going forward

AONB Manager

- 4.5 (9.1) The AONB Manager updated the Committee on the Heritage Lottery Fund Resilient Heritage bid – an application has been drafted ready to

discuss with the Chairs of the Bittern CIC and Landscape Trust in the coming weeks, following which an application will be submitted.

- 4.6** (15.1) The Bittern Award 2017 was presented to Bill Grayson at the AONB Conference in January for his valuable work in conservation grazing in the AONB over many years.
- 4.7** (13.10) Brian Jones (Ramblers) requested an update on the proposal for a public right of way diversion at the Moss Lane entrance to Trowbarrow LNR. The AONB Manager reported that this matter was still under discussion between the landowner, Network Rail and Lancashire County Council but reassured the Committee that updates were regularly requested by AONB staff.

ACTION: Sue Harrison (CLA) to raise the matter at the next Local Access Forum meeting

Sue Harrison

- 4.8** (17.1) Brian Jones (Ramblers) asked for an update on the potential for a Farleton Knott extension to the AONB. The AONB Manager advised that Natural England are currently reviewing their designation policies nationally and the outcome of this will determine what happens around future designations.

5 Election of landowner/farmer representative

The Executive Committee had one place for a landowner/farmer representative available. Following advertising of the vacant position since the last meeting three nominations had been received for: Fiona Lawton, Margaret Mackintosh and Julian Oston. Blind ballot forms were distributed (to be collected during the break). Candidate resumes had been circulated prior to the meeting and key points were read out.

6 AONB Business Plan 2018/19 (report circulated)

- 6.1** Brian Jones (Ramblers) suggested that more emphasis could be placed on maintenance as this is more cost effective than restoration in the long term (i.e. removal of trees that may undermine dry stone walls). This was noted.

AGREED: to approve the AONB Team Business Plan (2018/19 version) (Sue Harrison (CLA) proposed, Brian Jones (Ramblers) seconded, unanimously agreed by all.)

7 AONB Budget 2017/18 and 2018/19 (report circulated)

AGREED: to note the report and approve the revised 2017/18 budget and proposed 2018/19 budget (proposed Ann Kitchen (CIC), seconded Fiona Allan (Landscape Trust) unanimously agreed by all).

8 AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) (report circulated)

Lorayne Wall (SLDC) updated the committee on progress with the AONB DPD. After the last Executive Committee meeting, the DPD went out for a final six week formal consultation. 174 representations were returned from 99 people and are available, along with the Councils' responses on the SLDC website. 73 representations were positive, 26 felt that the DPD was unsound. The final plan has now been submitted to the planning inspectorate and an inspector appointed. The earliest that the DPD could be adopted is after full council meetings for both SLDC and Lancaster City Council in September.

AGREED: to note the report on the AONB DPD

9 Management Plan Review (report circulated)

9.1 The AONB Manager updated the Committee on progress with the Management Plan Review and outlined key steps that had been completed including establishment of the Review Group, consultations and evidence base preparation.

9.2 The AONB Manager proposed that, taking into account preparation work to date, local and national policy context and recommendations from Defra and the NAAONB, that the review process would focus on:

- Responding to consultation responses
- Updating key issues and forces for change
- Setting out in detail what the delivery of the AONB primary purpose (i.e. to conserve and enhance natural beauty) means on the ground in this area
- Taking a clear ecosystem approach to ensure that the Plan results in a more resilient landscape
- Setting out a framework for delivery of the Defra 25-yr environment plan and post-Brexit agri-environment scheme(s)
- Restructuring and amending objectives and actions according to a 'logic framework' style approach

9.3 It is anticipated that Draft revised Management Plan and supporting documents will be available for public consultation from September 2018

AGREED: To note the report and approve the proposed scope of the AONB Management Plan Review (Gemma Wren (National Trust) proposed approval, Craig Russell (Business) seconded, unanimously agreed by all.)

10 Planning Work Programme Update (report circulated)

The AONB Officer gave an update on the planning work programme. Planning comments now reference the AONB DPD as this should carry more weight now that it has been formally submitted. The AONB Team will be responding to the Lancaster Local Plan publication document and the North West Marine Plan.

AGREED: To note the report

11 Volunteer Programme Update (report circulated)

The AONB Manager announced that the AONB Countryside Officer, Tony Riden would be retiring in September after almost 25 years. Tony was thanked for his commitment to the AONB and the achievements of the volunteer programme were acknowledged.

AGREED: To note the report

12 AONB Grants Fund update (report circulated)

The AONB Funding and Communications Officer updated the Committee on the AONB Grants Fund. Since the report was produced, two further grants had been approved, to Swifts in the Community for £300 for an upgrade to their database and to Arnside Archive for £1000 for a new display board about Arnside's Maritime Heritage.

AGREED: To note the report

13 AONB Communications activity update (report circulated)

The AONB Funding and Communications Officers updated the Committee on the Communications work that had been undertaken. The new parish boards will be going up in Beetham and Storth soon. The AONB Team are working with Lancaster City Council Information Governance Team to ensure compliance with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by the required date of the end of May 2018.

AGREED: To note the report.

14 AONB Delivery Plan update by partners

14.1 National Trust

The NT is working with tenants to prepare long term estate management plans.

14.2 The Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company

reported that they are working with Morecambe Bay Partnership and University of Cumbria on a species reintroduction project.

14.3 CLA

reported that they are working at a national level to help ensure that farming can be sustainable post-Brexit.

14.4 The Environment Agency

reported that Natural England and the EA have been taken to judicial review due to water quality issues in Leighton Moss and Hawes Water. For example, evidence shows that there is currently too much phosphorous in Leighton Moss. They are hoping to reduce the amount of phosphate from septic tanks and agriculture. Rates are going down – but not quickly enough. There is a drop-in meeting at the Gaskell Hall on 12 April for local people to find out more.

14.5 The Landscape Trust

reported that they are developing their communications strategy. Changes have already been made to Keer to Kent. The Trust is buying 15% of Warton Mires to support the RSPB, who will manage the site as a single entity. Flood defences and footpaths on the site will be improved.

14.6 Beetham Holiday Homes

Craig Russell (Business) reported that they are preparing to put in a planning application to extend the site.

14.7 RSPB

had sent the AONB Manager a brief report to update the Committee about the Warton Mires project which was summarised. The land purchase is expected to be completed in early summer with financial support from Lancashire County Council. AONB Landscape Trust, Bannister Trust and the RSPB. The feasibility study is nearing completion with financial support from Natural England and the Environment Agency. Advice on planning permission and supporting documentation required has been sought and received from Lancaster City Council. A Countryside Stewardship Application is to be submitted in April. A community event was held in

Warton in 2017 and further community consultation is planned.

ACTION: to invite a member of RSPB staff to give a talk on the Warton Mires project at the next meeting

AONB Manager

15 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs

15.1 The AONB Manager advised members that the National Association Chairman are liaising with Defra on future funding after Brexit and currently supporting AONBs with their Management Plan Reviews. Further information can be found at www.landscapesforlife.org.uk

ACTION: Craig Russell (Business) asked that Brexit be added to the agenda for the October meeting

AONB Manager

16 Any other business

16.1 The results of the ballot for the landowner representative were announced by the Chair. Julian Oston was duly elected to be the landowner representative on the Committee.

ACTION: to inform the candidates of the results.

AONB Manager

17 Dates for your diary

2018

29 March & 4 April: AONB Wild Project – Easter Holiday Land Art for kids workshops

24 – 26 July (tbc): Landscapes for Life Conference

15 – 23 September: Outstanding week

17 October – 2pm: AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss tbc)

2019

20 March – 2pm: AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss tbc)

16 October – 2pm: AONB Executive Committee meeting (RSPB Leighton Moss tbc)

Signed Date: