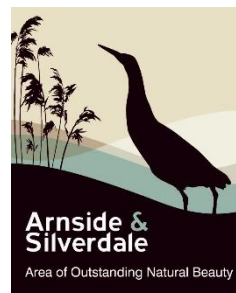


Arnside & Silverdale

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 2.00pm
RSPB Leighton Moss



MINUTES

Attending

Members of the Executive Committee:

Fiona Allan	Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust
Cllr Kevin Briggs	Warton Parish Council
Cllr Helen Chaffey	South Lakeland District Council
Andrew Frankish	Environment Agency
Ailsa Gibson	Local User Group (North Lancashire Bridleways Society)
Sue Harrison	CLA
Brian Jones	Local User Group (Ramblers)
Ann Kitchen (Vice Chair)	Local Business (Bittern Countryside Community Interest Co)
Cllr Pete McSweeney (Vice Chair)	Cumbria County Council
Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair)	Beetham Parish Council
Julian Oston	Farming/Landowner (Dallam Tower Estate)
Cllr Keith Palmer	Silverdale Parish Council
Craig Russell	Local Business (Beetham Holiday Homes)
Sam Stalker	National Trust
Andrew Tait	CPRE (Friends of the Lake District)

In attendance:

Ruth Ainsworth	AONB Funding & Communications Officer
Lucy Barron	AONB Manager
Barbara Henneberry	AONB Communications & Funding Officer
Sue Hunter	AONB Officer
Damian Law	South Lakeland District Council
David Porter	Lancaster City Council
Rachel Whaley	Cumbria County Council
Feleena Taylor	Dementia-friendly walks project leader

Apologies:

Joan Jackson	NFU
Cllr Mike Macklin	Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Helen Rawlinson	AONB Countryside Officer
Cllr Phillipa Williamson	Lancashire County Council

1 Welcome, apologies and introductions

- 1.1** The Chair welcomed everyone and each person present introduced themselves. Apologies received are listed above.

2 Presentation by Feleena Taylor: Dementia-friendly walks project

- 2.1** The AONB Partnership is launching a new series of weekly guided walks aimed at people living with dementia and their carers to help them retain a sense of adventure by getting outdoors and connecting with nature and their community in a safe and secure environment.

Feleena Taylor, the Project Leader, gave the background to the project which will initially run for a trial period of April to October, when an evaluation of its popularity and benefits will be undertaken.

Training for the walks leaders and support volunteers by Dementia Adventure will take place on 29th March, with the official launch being held on 2nd April and the first walk planned for 23rd April. Walks will be taking place every Tuesday morning, starting at 10am and lasting no more than an hour and afterwards there will be a chance to relax over a chat and some refreshment in one of the local cafes.

The AONB Manager thanked Feleena for the presentation and all her hard work in getting this excellent project off the ground and opened up the floor for comments from members which included:

- Recommended reading – ‘Somebody I used to know’ by Wendy Mitchell
- A suggestion to contact Arnside Ramblers who may be able to help with suggested routes
- An offer to help publicise the project

3 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2018

The minutes were accepted and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting held on 17th October 2018.

4 Matters arising

- 4.1** (16.1) The AONB Manager thanked members for submitting nominations for the Bittern Award and reported that this year had been very unusual in that all nominations received had been for the same person!

We were delighted to be able to present the award at our Annual Conference in January to Tony Riden, the former AONB Countryside Officer, who was in the role for almost 25 years before retiring last August and during that time made a huge contribution to the biodiversity of the area and to the success of the volunteer programme. His knowledge of the flora and fauna of the AONB and his enthusiasm to inspire others was second to none.

5 Update on the Review of Designated Landscapes

- 5.1** The AONB Manager advised members that Julian Glover, Chair of the Review Panel, will be visiting Arnside & Silverdale AONB on Thursday 11th April when we will have the opportunity to discuss any issues, challenges

and successes with him.

Recommendations from the Review are due to be submitted in the Autumn.

Andrew Tait (Friends of the Lake District) reported that he had submitted a response to the Call for Evidence on behalf of Friends of the Lake District and that he felt the AONB DPD was a key document.

6 AONB Management Plan 2019-24 (report circulated)

- 6.1** The AONB Manager apologised that the AONB Management Plan text had not been finalised in time for circulation before the meeting but would circulate it as soon as possible. Members will be given two weeks from the date of receipt to submit any final comments/amendments to the Review Working Group before the document is submitted to the Local Authorities for adoption.

As the timescales for adoption are tight, it was

AGREED: that the Review Working Group would have delegated powers to sign off the Pre-adoption Draft AONB Management Plan 2019-14 and to submit it to the 4 Local Authorities for adoption.

ACTION: to circulate the final text for comment

AONB Manager

7 AONB Team Business Plan 2019/20

- 7.1** The AONB Manager advised members that as this document is intrinsically linked to the Management Plan, it would be finalised and circulated as soon as possible after the Plan has been submitted for adoption.

ACTION: to circulate the Team Business Plan for approval

AONB Manager

8 AONB Budget revised 2018/19 and 2019/20 (report circulated)

- 8.1** A report detailing the in-year adjustments to the 2018/19 budget and the proposed 2019/20 budget was circulated.

The AONB Manager advised members that the AONB's accountant at Lancaster City Council has confirmed that the Council's contribution in 2018/19 will be increased to rectify the 2017/18 discrepancy caused by last minute changes to internal recharges which was reported at the last meeting.

Q: Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) asked if the necessary funding is available to cover the Countryside Officer's upcoming maternity leave as it is vital that this full-time post be maintained

A: The AONB Manager confirmed that Lancaster City Council has agreed to advertise a one year contract based on a 37 hour week for maternity cover. The 4 local authorities have been approached to see if they are able to make a contribution to the additional circa £5000 costs. Lancashire County Council has agreed to make a contribution but we are still waiting to hear from the others. Any shortfall will be covered by monies in the AONB reserve or in-year adjustments.

AGREED: members accepted the revised 18/19 and proposed 19/20 budgets unanimously

9 AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) adoption update (report circulated)

9.1 David Porter (Lancaster City Council) updated the committee on progress with the AONB DPD.

The Councils received the Planning Inspector's final report on 30th January 2019 in which he concluded that the DPD 'provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB' subject to a number of modifications. He concluded that the document was soundly prepared and can now be adopted.

The Plan has subsequently been adopted by Lancaster City Council at their meeting on 11th March and is due to go before South Lakeland District Council on 28th March 2019.

The challenge now is to ensure the policies are applied consistently across the two districts. Training will be given to all planning officers and the two councils will continue to collaborate closely.

Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council) thanked David Porter, Dan Hudson and other council officers for their hard work and achievement in getting such an innovative and important plan adopted.

AGREED: to note the report on the AONB DPD

10 Planning Work Programme Update (report circulated)

An update on the planning work undertaken since the last meeting was circulated.

Q: Craig Russell (Beetham Holiday Homes) asked if it would be possible to work more closely with the private sector and to give consideration to the local economy.

Q: Brian Jones (Ramblers) asked if it was possible to indicate where our responses have had an effect on the planning decision.

A: the AONB Manager replied to say that she does feel our responses are taken into account and that even if applications are approved, sometimes improvements are negotiated or relevant conditions imposed to achieve better outcomes in relation to the AONB purpose. The Partnership's responses are not always objections and we often give positive suggestions. Good working relationships have been established between the AONB team and the local planning officers.

Q: Cllr Pete McSweeney (Cumbria County Council) said that if the AONB Partnership is asked for an opinion on an application that it would be helpful to the Planning Committees if they avoid 'No comment' responses.

A: The AONB Manager responded by confirming that in circumstances where the AONB Partnership is consulted but have no concerns that wording is used to confirm the 'applications have been assessed and there are no objections'.

Cllr Brian Meakin (Beetham Parish Council) took the opportunity to remind members that if specific planning applications are discussed at meetings, then members must declare any interests, and also that members cannot use their position on the AONB Executive Committee to try to influence any decision, where they have an interest.

AGREED: To note the report

11 Volunteer work programme update (report circulated)

An update on the volunteer work programme including tasks undertaken, sites managed and events & training was circulated.

The AONB Manager congratulated Helen Rawlinson, the new Countryside Officer on her achievements since taking up the role in August. The AONB Volunteer Programme is thriving, Countryside Stewardship agreements for Warton Crag and Trowbarrow LNRs are being implemented and an Ash Dieback workshop for 70 delegates was held to launch a series of events and activities for farmers, land managers and woodland managers. The Team would like to develop closer relationships with the land management community and it is hoped to host further workshops on deer management and soil management to build up a land management network. Suggestions for further topics welcome.

Q: Ann Kitchen (Bittern Countryside CIC) asked if a summary of the Ash Dieback workshop could be placed on the website

AGREED: To note the report

ACTION: to upload Ash Dieback information

**AONB Comms
& Funding
Officer**

12 AONB Grants Fund update

The AONB Communications & Funding Officer updated the Committee on the AONB Grants Fund which is run jointly with the Landscape Trust. Two grants have been awarded in this financial year. £229 has been awarded towards an arts project with children from Arnside Primary School and £1300 to RSPB towards their habitat restoration work at Challan Hall Allotment. The final decision on a third application from Westmorland Red Squirrels is still pending. An expression of interest has also been received in connection with the restoration of an historic designed landscape in Silverdale.

13 AONB Delivery Plan update by partners**13.1 Friends of the Lake District**

reported that they would like to build stronger/better relationships with both Arnside & Silverdale and Solway Coast AONBs.

13.2 The Landscape Trust

reported that a fundraising appeal launched in November in connection with their 2 new reserves has raised over £30,000. Work is now being undertaken on writing a business plan and drafting management plans and they are also working with other organisations to develop an access programme to benefit people with mental health issues. A new events programme for 2019 has been launched with a new Events Team in place following the retirement of Peter Standing.

13.3 Ramblers

Natural England has now finalised the proposed route for the section of the England Coast Path passing through the AONB and consultation on this is expected in the summer.

13.4 The Environment Agency

reported that as part of their work on reducing diffuse pollution in the Leighton Moss catchment area they are now undertaking their own monitoring at 7 different sites and this will continue for 2 years.

13.5 CLA

reported an increase in the number of incidents locally of sheep worrying by dogs and urged partners to encourage people to keep their dogs on a lead, especially at lambing time.

13.6 Dallam Tower Estate

has been working on Catchment Sensitive Farming schemes to help reduce diffuse pollution and has also been supporting the Westmorland Red Squirrels Initiative. Adding to the CLA's comments on sheep worrying, they would also urge partners to encourage people to clean up after their dogs following an increasing number of cases of Neosporosis, which can cause abortion in cattle.

13.7 Bittern Countryside CIC

reported that a new advice leaflet on reducing use of plastic is available to download from their website www.bitterncountrysidecic.org.uk

13.8 Silverdale Parish Council

confirmed their continued financial support for the AONB Partnership and thanked the AONB volunteers for their hard work in managing sites in Silverdale.

13.9 National Trust

are working to update their site management plans and undertaking an audit of their signage.

13.10 North Lancs Bridleways Association

thanked the Landscape Trust for the work they are doing to improve the bridleway network by creating a route through the Coldwell Reserves. The NLBA is able to help fund any hardware such as gate latches if required.

13.11 Beetham Parish Council

owns Sandside Cutting and will be carrying out some tree felling on site.

14 Update on the work of the National Association for AONBs

14.1 The AONB Manager advised members that being on the Board provides a useful link with national activity which at present is focussed on the Glover Review. We are also delighted to be playing an active part in their 'Taking the Lead' programme which aims to encourage AONB Partnerships to work more collaboratively - Ruth Ainsworth, AONB Communications & Funding Officer, is an active member of the focus groups.

The National Association for AONBs continues to liaise with Defra, Natural England, Forestry Commission, CLA, NFU and other bodies at a national level on behalf of all AONBs and it is essential we continue to support them.

15 Any other business

15.1 Julian Oston (Dallam Tower Estate) wished to address the rumours over the Estate's intentions through registering their manorial rights.

Manorial rights are rights which were part and parcel of a manorial title and which were usually retained by the Lord on any disposal of manorial land. Such rights might include for example, the right to hunt, shoot or fish.

Prior to 13 October 2013, manorial rights were “overriding interests” which could affect a property even if they had not previously been protected in the register maintained by the Land Registry. The Government’s intention with the Land Registration Act 2002 was to ensure that all matters affecting property are apparent from inspection of its title register and therefore required owners of Manorial Rights to register their interest against the title to a property.

Dallam Tower Estate, in line with landowners all over the country, is therefore undergoing this process of formal registration of their historic rights. They are not claiming any new rights.

If anyone has any concerns, the Estate is happy to meet and discuss further.

16 Dates for your diary

2019

Sunday 5 th May	National Geo-week – WILD! Project family geology walk in Trowbarrow
9 th – 11 th July	National AONBs Landscapes for Life Conference, University of Essex
14 th – 22 nd Sept	Outstanding week – celebrating AONBs
Saturday 28 th Sept	AONB Apple Day, Orchard Barn, Arnside
Wednesday 16 th October	Executive Committee meeting, RSPB Leighton Moss

2020

Wednesday 18 th March	Executive Committee meeting, RSPB Leighton Moss (tbc)
Wednesday 14 th October	Executive Committee meeting, RSPB Leighton Moss (tbc)

Signed Date: