

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY AREA  
OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, GUILDHALL, WREXHAM ON  
FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2015**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Derek Butler, Hugh Evans, Hugh Jones (Chair), Huw Jones and Ian Roberts

**Observers:** Councillors Stuart Davies, Rhys Hughes and Carolyn Thomas

**ALSO PRESENT**

Liz Carding, Senior Countryside Officer – WCBC, Tom Woodall, Head of Countryside Services – FCC, Howard Subcliffe, AONB Officer, David Shiel, Assistant AONB Officer, Paul Mitchell, Countryside Officer – Natural Resources Wales, Gary Williams, Secretary, Steve Parker, Head of Service – DCC, Steve Gadd, Finance Manager – DCC, Huw Rees, Countryside and Heritage Services Manager – DCC, Linda Sharp, Senior Planning Officer, WCBC

**1 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE - 14 NOVEMBER 2014**

Correction to Minutes

Minute 8 – Appointment of Partnership and Associated Bodies for the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Resolution (i) be amended as read as follows :-

***(i) Approves the appointment of a sub-group comprised of Councillors Derek Butler, Huw Jones, Hugh Jones and Ian Roberts to appoint the AONB Partnership (subject to the formal confirmation of the sub-group's membership by each authorities delegated decision procedures);***

**AGREED – That the Minutes be agreed subject to the aforementioned amendment.**

4 **MINUTES OF THE INTERIM JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 5 DECEMBER 2014**

Corrections to Minutes

Welcome

The first sentence be amended to read 'The Chair welcomed all those present....'

**AGREED – That the Minutes be agreed subject to the aforementioned amendment.**

5 **JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/15 AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2015/16**

The Finance Manager for Denbighshire County Council introduced the report which provided details of the AONB's revenue budget monitoring position for 2014/15 as well as the proposed budget for 2015/16.

During discussion of the report, the following points were noted, in particular :

- The need for a clear agreement between the 3 Local Authorities of financial commitment and the need for a clear approach to funding commitment in the future.
- Recognition of the additional £12,000 put forward by Wrexham County Borough Council, which was welcomed by the Committee.
- The core and area budgets were set up in order to distinguish between the fundamental spend required to carry out the overall functions of the Joint Committee and those area specific projects which were not equally funded. It was suggested that further information needed to be provided at the next meeting in order to provide members of the Joint Committee with a better understanding of how the core and area budgets operated and related to each other.
- Figures in respect of the national programme needed to be reflected in the next financial statement
- More information was requested on figures relating to officer expenses.
- Some concern that Denbighshire County Council was the significant contributor and the suggestion that a shortfall was being left by the remaining two authorities. It was stressed that the contribution being made by Denbighshire was not sustainable and that partners needed to increase their contribution further.
- The Chair stressed that all Local Authorities were currently facing severe financial pressures and were prioritising services towards the most vulnerable groups.

***RESOLVED- That the Joint Committee notes the progress against the agreed budget strategy for 2015/16 and approves the proposed budget for 2015/16.***

## 6 **DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE AONB**

The Assistant AONB Officer introduced a report which allowed the Joint Committee to consider the draft management plan and to approve it for public consultation. Thereafter he gave a presentation which provided further details under the following headings:

- Management Plan Review – Context
- Special Features
- Special Qualities
- Consultation

The Chair thanked the Officer for the work he had undertaken in preparing the draft Plan which was recognised by the Committee as a clear and comprehensive document. It was pointed out, however, that there were a few grammatical errors within the report which would need amending. It was also important to ensure that any acronyms and abbreviations used within the report were fully referenced within the document.

During discussion of the report, the following points were noted, in particular:

- Links between national parks and AONB's were made within the report in recognition of their equality in terms of landscape beauty and quality. It was also important to have regard for the WG statement and policy directive in respect of this area. It was agreed, however, that paragraph 1.1 could be amended to make a clearer distinction between the two in terms of their policy delivery.
- Whilst the document acknowledged, in general terms, those structures that could interfere with tranquillity and view, e.g. communication masts, it was acknowledged that there was a need for further work to be undertaken to consider the impact of such structures.
- In acknowledging the WG key drivers, the plan considered habitats on a grand landscape scale and also took into account changes in climate. It was suggested that PolHW2 (page 42) be reworded to reflect these points more clearly.
- Request to ensure that the AONB Partnership 2015 reflected the majority in the democratic sense and suggestion of the need to move away from extensive focus being placed on planning issues. The Chair stressed that the success of the AONB Joint Committee was dependent on positive partnership working which extended way beyond the clear representation of the Committee. The Joint Committee allowed for democratic processes to be followed but not to the exclusion of working with volunteers, partners and individuals beyond the elected estate, to assist in the delivery of its key areas.
- Options to widen the scope of key partners to allow them to bring in grant aid/match funding were always being explored.
- The importance of ensuring that the consultation exercise was fully costed and taken account of within the Joint Committee's budget.

**RESOLVED – That the Joint Committee**

- (i) Endorse the Draft Management Plan and approve it for public consultation, subject to the aforementioned amendments; and**
- (ii) Receive a revised report at the next meeting of the Joint Committee, which takes account of those changes to the document following consultation.**

**7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

It was noted that the work programme had been updated to take account of the two additional items requested at the previous meeting.

**RESOLVED that the forward work programme be approved.**

**8 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Joint Committee be held on 26 June 2015 at 10.00 am at County Hall, Mold.**

Councillor  
Chair