

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CLWYDIAN RANGE AND DEE VALLEY  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY JOINT COMMITTEE  
HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, GUILDHALL ON  
FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2017**

**MEMBERS**

Councillors Derek Butler (FCC), Hugh Jones (Chair) (WCBC), David Kelly (WCBC), Carolyn Thomas (FCC), Tony Thomas (DCC), Julian Thompson-Hill (DCC)

Also Present – Andy Worthington (Chair AONB Partnership), Paul Mitchell (Natural Resources Wales), Howard Sutcliffe (AONB Manager), David Shiel (Assistant AONB Officer), Ceri Lloyd (AONB SDF Officer), Huw Rees (DCC), Anna Irwin (Senior Conservation and Environment Officer, WCBC), Michael Skuse (AONB Partnership and Friends of AONB), Karen Holthofer (AONB Communications Officer), Tom Woodall (Access and Natural Environment Manager, FCC), Gareth O Williams (Finance Manager DCC), Paula O'Hanlon (Senior Finance and Assurance Officer, DCC), John Roberts (AONB Partnership and Friends of AONB), Helen Mrowiec (Senior Recreation Officer), Susan Cordiner (DCC) and Marie Russell (Committee Officer, WCBC)

**13 INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair asked all those present to join him in observing a minutes silence as a mark of respect for the family of Carl Sargeant AM, following his recent death.

No apologies for absence were submitted.

There were no declarations of interest.

**14 MINUTES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 JUNE 2017**

The AONB Manager introduced the draft minutes and highlighted the main points for consideration, providing relevant updates where applicable.

**RESOLVED – The minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting held on 23 June 2017 be received and approved as a correct record agreed.**

**15 DRAFT MINUTES OF AONB PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2017**

The Chair of the AONB Partnership introduced the draft minutes and highlighted the main points for consideration, providing relevant updates where applicable.

**AGREED – The minutes of the AONB Partnership meeting held on 6 October 2017 be received and approved as a correct record.**

16 **JOINT COMMITTEE BUDGET**

The Finance Manager, DCC gave an update in respect of the Joint Committee budget. It was noted that whilst a small overspend was currently forecast, it was likely to be recovered by year end. It was also noted that revenue reserves had been identified.

17 **PRESENTATION - AREA STATEMENTS**

Paul Mitchell (NRW) gave a detailed presentation which included further information under the following headings:

- What are Area Statements
- What do they mean for AONB
- Natural Resource Policy (NRP) Priorities
- Timescales

During the ensuing debate the following points were noted, in particular:

- Area statements would not override the LDP but would provide a source of information that the LDP could consider in terms of determining the impact of any development or planning applications with regards to natural resources.
- Confirmation that there were a number of plans and documents which would run in parallel with each other. Officers confirmed that a series of meetings had been arranged for relevant officers in the 3 Local Authorities to ensure that a common delivery mechanism could be established.
- Concern at the disparity between the funding for Snowdonia National Park and AONB.

**RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.**

18 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17 AND PRESENTATION - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE ON 2017- 18 PROJECTS**

The Lead Officer introduced the report and gave a presentation which provided further details under the following headings:

- Total Value of SDF for 2016
- Well-being goals – how has SDF contributed?
- A prosperous Wales
- A globally responsible Wales

During discussion the following points were noted, in particular:

- Some concern was raised around Welsh Governments focus on fewer but larger projects.

- Concern that the minimum project threshold was continuing to rise thus precluding a lot of smaller schemes.
- The importance of small grants was recognised. In particular, the value of local engagement was noted.
- Whilst the AONB was not required to get involved in local issues it was important to recognise that SDF projects promoted the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generation goals

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) That the report be noted;**
- (ii) The Chair write to the Minister on behalf of the AONB Joint Committee, to raise their concerns.**

**19 OUR PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP**

The Lead Officer introduced the report and responded to questions accordingly thereafter.

In response to a particular concern Officers confirmed that the original application included a wider area of the AONB but following advice from the HLF it became more focused.

**RESOLVED – That the Committee:**

- (i) approves the submission of the Stage 2 Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.**
- (ii) confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment as part of its consideration.**

**20 UPDATE ON SPG**

The Lead Officer provided a verbal update which was noted.

**21 UPDATE ON DARK SKIES**

The Lead Officer gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation which included further details under the following headings:

- Designation
- IDA Requirements
- Monitoring the quality of AONB skies
- Engagement of Communities and Business
- Next Steps

During the ensuing debate, the following comments were made in particular:

- Confirmation that all 3 Local Authorities were engaging fully in the initiative.
- A further meeting with street lighting representatives from each of the 3 LAs had been arranged. It was suggested that a number of joint Committee members be invited to take part in the meeting.
- Confirmation that the amount of light emissions was reducing.

**RESOLVED – The presentation be noted.**

**22 SUMMARY OF AONB PLANNING CONSULTATIONS APRIL 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 2017**

The Lead Officer introduced the report, highlighting the main points for consideration. He advised that supplementary planning guidance would be a way to progress forward.

**RESOLVED – That the report be noted.**

**23 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Lead Officer took the Committee through the report, highlighting the main issues for consideration within the Work Programme. He referred in particular to AONB Special Projects, which included an outstanding action for Friends of CR and DV AONB to make a presentation to Local Authority Scrutiny Committees.

**RESOLVED – That the Forward Work Programme be noted.**

**24 FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**RESOLVED – That the next meeting would be held at Flintshire County Council on 23 February 2018.**

Councillor Hugh Jones (WCBC)  
Chair