

National Park Authority

07 May 2025

Present (Remotely)

Councillor D Clements (Chair)

Councillor M Bowen, Councillor T Evans, Councillor C George, Councillor SL Hancock MBE, Dr M Havard, Dr R Heath-Davies, Mrs S Hoss, Mrs J James, Councillor M James, Mr GA Jones, Dr R Plummer, Councillor S Skyrme-Blackhall, Councillor A Tinley, Councillor V Thomas, Councillor M Wiggins and Councillor C Williams BEM.

Also in attendance:

Arwel Evans (Farming Conservation Officer), Charles Felgate (Solicitor), Emma Gladstone (Strategic Policy Manager), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Michael Kent (Monitoring Officer), Gayle Lister (Planning Officer – Strategic Planning), Caroline Llewellyn (Democratic Services Manager) and Sara Morris (Director of Place and Engagement).

[Online Meeting, 10.00am – 13.15pm]

1. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B Price.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Councillor V Thomas declared an interest in relation to report 17/25, Confirmation of proposed Article 4 (1) Direction. Dr R Plummer declared an interest in relation to report 19/25, the Remit Letter. Charles Felgate, the Authority's Solicitor, declared an interest in relation to the item regarding the Llyr Floating Offshore Wind and stated that he had represented many businesses within the industry in the past, however he was not present at the meeting during consideration of this item.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 March 2025 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Councillor M James, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 March 2025 be confirmed and authenticated.

4. Action Log and Matters Arising

Members noted the action log.

Noted.



5. Chair's Announcements

The Chair thanked the Authority's Access & Rights of Way Manager, Anthony Richards, who had retired after 28 years of service.

The Chair also thanked Ultra-runner Sanna Duthie who had set herself the challenge of running the full length of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path in under 50 hours, with fundraising proceeds going to the Pembrokeshire Coast Charitable Trust.

The Chair took the opportunity to highlight changes in Membership for the Authority and confirmed at Pembrokeshire County Council's forthcoming AGM, Councillor M Wiggins would step down, with Councillor S Alderman returning to the Authority as her replacement. The Chair added that the terms of two Welsh Government appointed Members had come to an end: Mrs J James and Dr R Heath-Davies. All three Members were thanked for their contributions to the Authority which had been significant.

The Chair announced the passing of David Morgan who had worked with the Authority up until 2012 and left a lasting legacy as a result of his work within the Policy department.

The Deputy Chair reported that she and Tegryn Jones had attended the CEO and Chairs Forum in the Peak District National Park which had proved to be a good opportunity to share best practice and challenges.

Noted.

6. Reports of meetings of various Authority Committees

The following reports of several of the Authority's Committee meetings were presented to Members for consideration:

- i) Development Management Committee held on 05/03/2025
- ii) Standards Committee held on 12/02/2025
- iii) Audit & Corporate Services Review Committee held on 19/02/2025
- iv) Operational Review Committee held on 12/03/2025

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the above-mentioned Committees be received.

7. Article 4 (1) Direction on Camping and Caravans

Before introducing the report, the Chair highlighted that a letter of objection had been circulated to Members regarding this item shortly before the meeting. The Chair paused the meeting for five minutes to allow Members the opportunity to read the letter thoroughly.



The Director of Place and Engagement then presented the report that confirmed the proposed Article 4 (1) Direction for 28-day use of land for camping, caravans and/or/ mobile homes.

It was reported that the Authority had been monitoring the situation with camping in the National Park area for many years but began the process of discussing options to introduce additional controls in Autumn 2023. There had been extensive consultation, a report of which was presented to the meeting, and Members of the Authority were now asked to take a formal decision on whether to confirm the notice of the Article 4(1) Direction which would come into effect on 1 January 2026 if passed.

A Member queried the level of resourcing within the Enforcement Department to process any applications that could be triggered should the Article 4(1) be approved. The Officer confirmed that additional resourcing had been added to the Enforcement Team and additionally, the potential general increase in planning fees could also support the Authority in this area. The Officer explained that the introduction of the Article 4(1) Direction would be beneficial to the Enforcement Team as applicants would be required to inform the Authority of their site location and operating dates which would support the team with any potential enforcement cases and likely reduce their workload.

It was reported that following several decades of restrictive planning policies limiting the development of new camping and caravan sites, the National Park Authority commissioned a new study in 2015 to examine what capacity there was to accommodate more sites without harm to the landscape. The study concluded that there was only very limited capacity in some locations, whilst others were already at capacity. A Member queried whether the limited capacity would impact future applications for camping and caravan sites and the Officer confirmed that although the capacity would be a material consideration, the Authority would look at each application on a case-by-case basis.

A Member queried whether there would be implications for sites on 'better or more versatile' agricultural land and the Officer responded that for 28-day applications, there would likely be few implications. She added that for applications of a longer period or that required any permanent infrastructure, Officers would need to consider this further.

A Member highlighted that the Welsh Government (WG) were in the process of consulting on allowing up to 60 days for camping and caravan sites as permitted development and the question was raised how the Authority would be impacted if this change were to take effect. The Officer responded that as the WG were only at consultation stage, it would likely take some time for the matter to be resolved however if the WG adopted



a 60-days permitted development right without exclusions for the National Park, the Authority would need to consider readoption of the Article 4 Direction with immediate effect. It was confirmed that Officers would be responding to WG consultation on the 60-day proposal to ask for National Parks and Areas of Natural Beauty to be excluded.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Councillor D Clements, it was resolved that:

- a) The proposed Article 4(1) Direction for 28-day use of land for camping, caravans and/or mobile homes be confirmed
- b) The following documents be approved for publication - Appendix A - Consultation Report, Appendix B - Background Paper with updated appendices and Appendix C – Integrated Impact Assessment
- c) The publication of Appendix D – Clarification statement (approved March 2025), Appendix E - Article 4(1) Direction with map (signed 11 December 2024), Appendix F – Working Protocol (approved 11 December 2024) and Appendix G - Advice Note (approved 11 December 2024) be noted.

[Charles Felgate, Authority Solicitor, left the meeting at this juncture. Councillor A Tinley left the meeting during consideration of the following item.]

[The meeting adjourned from 11:30am – 11:42am]

8. Local Development Plan (LDP) 3 Delivery Agreement

The Strategic Policy Manager presented a report that sought Members agreement to undertake consultation on the draft Delivery Agreement for the replacement LDP 3. The report featured background information, details of the consultation and a proposed programme.

A Member noted that Welsh language considerations featured in both the covering report and attached draft Delivery Agreement and provided several suggestions on how to strengthen these sections. It was suggested that a statement be included to acknowledge the recent developments in Welsh policy to highlight the Authority's awareness. Members suggested additional consultees to be involved in the process, and these included central Government departments, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Young Farmers, Religious Groups and the Central 50+ Forum. The Officer noted Members suggestions and invited further consultee suggestions from both Members and the public.

On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Dr M Havard, it was resolved that:



- a) The draft Delivery Agreement (Appendix A) be approved for public consultation
- b) The Integrated Impact Assessment (Appendix B) be noted

9. Remit Letter

The Chief Executive presented a report that outlined the Welsh Government's (WG) Remit Letter. It was reported that Authority received the majority of its funding from WG, who outlined the Authority's priorities in a Remit Letter. In 2022, the Authority received a Remit letter that covered the Term of Government (until 2026). However, for the final year of the Term of Government, an updated Remit Letter was received that in part reflected the Authority's financial challenges and outlined areas to provide greater focus along with the budget allocation.

A discussion ensued regarding the two upcoming vacancies for Welsh Government Appointed Members and the challenges that would likely arise with quoracy as the two existing Members they were to replace would finish at the end of May. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Welsh Government were expected to advertise the vacancies shortly with recruitment events organised by the Authority.

Noted.

10. Designated Landscapes Ffermio Bro Programme

The Farming Conservation Liaison Officer presented a report that sought to establish a Ffermio Bro Local Assessment Panel in order to ratify applications to the programme of over £10,000 and to ensure robust Governance. It was reported that the Ffermio Bro (Farming in Designated Landscapes) scheme would launch in May throughout the Designated Landscapes in Wales and although it was a National Scheme, each landscape would have the discretion to deliver the scheme against its objectives and priorities.

In response to a Members' query, the Officer confirmed that the Committee's decision in relation to any applications would be final. The Officer added that all approved applications would be presented to Rural Payments Wales (RPW) to prevent any 'double funding'.

A Member queried whether a plan was in place to develop the expertise of panel members, and the Officer confirmed that courses were available to help develop relevant skills. It was added that as Ffermio Bro was a National Scheme, Officers would have the opportunity to share best practice and resources.

Following a discussion, Councillors M James, D Clements, C George and Dr M Havard expressed an interest in becoming Members of the Ffermio



Bro Panel. It was agreed that delegated Authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, to confirm the panel members, taking into account any changes in Authority Membership following Pembrokeshire County Council's forthcoming AGM.

On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Councillor M Bowen, it was **resolved** that:

- a) a Ffermio Bro Local Assessment Panel be established and the National Terms of Reference dated March 6, 2025 be adopted
- b) three Authority Members be appointed to the Panel
- c) Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to make necessary adjustments to panel membership in consultation with the Panel Chair

11. Variation to Standing Order

The Chief Executive presented a report that outlined a variation to contract standing order 16 for the replacement of a damaged footbridge on a currently temporarily closed public right of way. It was reported that a key footbridge was destroyed by several fallen trees during Storm Darragh, and the public right of way in Moylgrove was subsequently closed for public safety. A replacement bridge was procured to ensure that the route could be reopened before the main vegetation cutting season.

Members agreed that as a result of the health & safety element, the procurement of the replacement footbridge was a sensible option. It was suggested that the standing orders be reviewed to include a clause for exceptional circumstances such as these and this was noted by the Chief Executive.

Noted.

12. Llŷr Floating Offshore Wind

The Chair stated that following additional information received from applicants, Officers no longer felt it necessary to consider the report in a private session and Members agreed with this.

The Planning Officer (Strategic Planning) presented a report that sought Members views on whether to retain the objection to the proposed development as previously registered or amend the position following consideration of the additional information received.

It was reported that in March 2025, Members approved the submission of the consultation response on the consent required for the Llŷr Floating Offshore Wind Farm project which stated that the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) objected to the



proposed development due to the adverse effects on the seascape, landscape and special qualities which could not be mitigated. The report stated that this response was submitted to PEDW who then responded that a Public Inquiry would be required as a result of the Authority's objection.

The Officer explained that since receipt of PEDW's response, a meeting had been held with the applicants to discuss the Authority's concerns, and further clarifications were provided by the applicants. As a result of the additional information received, which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting, the applicants requested that Members reconsider their objections to the scheme.

A discussion ensued regarding the benefits of the Authority's objection and its weight in leveraging reductions to the scheme from the applicants such as the proposed maximum height commitment. The disadvantages of the Authority's objection were also discussed and the Officer confirmed that a Public Inquiry may still be required should the Authority withdraw its objection as other partners may also have similar concerns.

Members suggested that further assurances be sought from the applicants and that a request for additional compensation for the area and a post construction operation review be included in the Authority's response to the scheme.

It was agreed that the Authority's policy on Offshore Windfarms be reviewed to further support Members decision making in the future.

On the proposal of Dr R Plummer, seconded by Dr M Havard, it was **resolved** that the Authority's objection to the Llŷr Floating Offshore Wind Farm Project be withdrawn and amended to a position of concern with the conditions that a post construction operation review be conducted and further compensation be sought for the local area.