

National Park Authority
25 March 2026

Present (In-person)

Dr M Havard (Chair)

Councillor D Clements, Councillor C George, Mr J Hogg MBE, Councillor B Price and Councillor M Williams.

Present (Online)

Councillor M Bowen, Miss F Day, Ms H Gwennllian, Councillor M James, Mr GA Jones, Councillor SL Hancock MBE, Councillor A Tinley, Councillor V Thomas and Councillor C Williams BEM.

Also in attendance:

James Eul (Simultaneous Interpreter), Catrin Evans (Head of Finance & Fundraising), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Michael Kent (Monitoring Officer), Caroline Llewellyn (Democratic Services Manager) Gary Meopham (Estates Officer), Sara Morris (Director of Place and Engagement) Libby Taylor (Head of Engagement and Inclusion) and James Parkin (Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism).

[Preseli Suite, Llanion Park Offices and Online, 10.00am – 12.40pm]

1. Personal

The Chair welcomed Councillor M Williams as the newest Member to join the Authority, appointed by the Pembrokeshire County Council.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Evans, Mrs S Hoss, and Councillor S Skyrme-Blackhall.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Councillor B Price declared interests in reports 10/26, Grant approvals in accordance with Section 76 of the Financial Standards (Coastal Bus Network) and 11/26, Introduction of a licensing scheme in relation to commercial coastering operations on land owned by the National Park Authority. Councillor B Price confirmed that her interest in relation to report 11/26 was prejudicial and she would therefore leave the meeting room for the duration of the item.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 February 2026 were presented for confirmation.



On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor S Hancock, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 February 2026 be confirmed and signed.

5. Action Log and Matters Arising

The action log was noted.

Noted.

6. Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported that she had attended the following events/meetings in the past month:

- A Castlemartin Range Walk where she had the opportunity to network with Authority volunteers and the Ranger for the area
- The Dragon Parade at Oriell y Parc (OYP), attended also by the First Minister and the local MP. The Chair commended the OYP team for their hard work in organising and delivering a programme of events celebrating St David's Day.
- The Annual St David's Day Dinner hosted by the St David's City's Mayor and Councillors.
- A Partnership Forum meeting
- A meeting of the All-Wales Partnership Forum
- The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee where the final Regional Investment Strategy and Delivery Agreement for the Strategic Development Plan were both approved.

The Chair highlighted that the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) would be celebrating its 75th anniversary on the 1st of March 2027. Members' suggestions were sought for celebratory events to mark the occasion.

The Deputy Chair reported that she had represented the Authority on the WLGA Rural Forum and outlined the items discussed during the meeting.

Noted.

7. Reports of other Authority Committee meetings

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

- Development Management Committee held on the 28/01/2026
- Audit & Corporate Services Review Committee held on 12/11/2025
- Operational Review Committee held on 10/12/2025



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

Noted.

8. Committee Vacancies

The Democratic Services Manager reported that vacancies had arisen on several Committees as a result of the departure of Councillor S Alderman. It was agreed that the vacancies be filled as follows:

- Operational Review Committee – Councillor M Williams
- Investigating and Disciplinary Committee – Councillor M Williams
- Member Support Working Group – Councillor M Bowen
- South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Mr J Hogg
- Port of Milford Haven Advisory Committee – Councillor C George
- Grievance Committee – Miss F Day

9. Budgets 2026/27

The Head of Finance and Fundraising presented a report that sought Members approval for the Budget for 2026/27, Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Policies. The Head of Finance and Fundraising ran through the report and highlighted that the budgeted deficit was £544k for 2026/27, and that the Prudential Indicators demonstrated that the Authority's capital plans for 2026/27 were affordable, prudent and sustainable. It was added that the Section 151 Officer had advised that general reserves should be maintained at no less than £1,400k following consideration of the full range of strategic, operational and financial risks facing the Authority.

The report highlighted the emerging and key risks impacting the 2026 annual planning cycle and a Member asked whether a scenario projections exercise had been carried out to predict how the Authority could be impacted by any significant rises in inflation. It was confirmed that a sensitivity analysis and forecasts for 2027/28 to 2029/30 had been featured in the report and provided a breakdown of how the Authority's budget could be impacted in the event of any significant rises in inflation without a corresponding uplift in the National Park Grant. It was explained that should an event such as this occur, the projected deficits of the Authority would materially worsen, the drawdown of reserves would be accelerated, and the available cash holdings would be reduced which would limit the Authority's financial resilience.

In relation to the ongoing increase in fuel prices, a Member queried whether it would be necessary for work patterns to be altered to take this into account. The Chief Executive confirmed that this matter was set to be



discussed at a future Management Team meeting. He added that should a situation arise where fuel was limited, a prioritisation exercise would need to be conducted.

A discussion regarding income generation took place and a Member queried whether any further cost increases would be necessary for areas such as car parking charges and centre admission fees. The Chief Executive explained that as a Public Body, the Authority was bound to manage and facilitate the use of the National Park and therefore needed to ensure prices remained affordable for those wishing to access it. The Chief Executive commented that the potential introduction of a Visitor Levy in 2028/29 presented an opportunity for the National Park Authority as the Authority financially contributed to several services that sat within Pembrokeshire County Council's remit and therefore should be eligible to claim a portion of the levy. He explained that should the Authority not be awarded any of the potential levy, then consideration would need to be given to reducing/discontinuing the Authority's financial contributions however this would ultimately be for the Members to decide.

The projected income for the year was noted and Members recognised that this reflected the hard work of staff. Despite this, Members agreed that further focus on income generation would be required to increase the level of income generated by the Authority.

On the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Mr J Hogg, it was **resolved** that:

- i. the budget for 2026-27 be approved
- ii. the financial forecasts for 2027-28 to 2029-30 be noted
- iii. the Prudential indicators for 2026–27 to 2028–29 be approved
- iv. the Financial Reserves policy and the Investment Strategy & Treasury Management Statements for 2026-27 be approved

10. Coastal Bus Network

The Director of Place and Engagement presented the report that sought Members approval for a payment of approximately £75,000 to the Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) as a contribution towards the coastal bus network and the Integrated Transport Unit Strategy Manager post for the financial year of 2026/27. It was reported that the financial contribution of £75,000 was considered to be manageable for the Authority and the continued funding during the next financial year would be critical during a period of transport reform which would help to secure the future of the coastal bus provision when services would be franchised across the region. The Director explained that the funding aligned with the National Park's statutory duties and that the coastal bus services supported those without access to private vehicles, promoted social



equity, reduced carbon emissions, enhanced biodiversity protection and contributed positively to health, well-being and the Welsh language.

With regards to income generation, a Member suggested that ‘tap to pay’ donation machines be installed on the coastal buses to collect donations for the Pembrokeshire Coast Charitable Trust and this was noted by the Officer.

The passenger numbers reported were noted and a Member queried whether an economic impact assessment of the service had been carried out. The Director agreed to liaise with PCC to establish whether research of this nature had been carried out.

The Welsh Language Impacts of the service were noted and a Member requested further information related to how the coastal bus service would promote the Welsh language. The Director agreed to liaise with PCC to obtain this information to circulate to Members.

A Member took the opportunity to highlight the importance of the Poppit Rocket service which formerly operated in the North of the county, and he asked whether this service could be reinstated after having been discontinued. The Director agreed to highlight the importance of this service to the Greenways Network whilst research surrounding active travel was being considered.

On the proposal of Councillor S Hancock, seconded by Ms H Gwenllian, it was **resolved** that the payment of approximately £75,000 to Pembrokeshire County Council as contribution towards the coastal bus network and the Integrated Transport Unit Strategy Manager post for the financial year 2026/2027 be approved.

[The meeting adjourned from 11:15am – 11:28am]

[Councillor A Tinley joined the meeting at this juncture. Councillor B Price declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left room for the duration of the discussion.]

11. Commercial Coasteering Licensing

The Director of Place and Engagement presented a report that outlined the proposed introduction of a licensing scheme in relation to commercial coasteering on land owned or leased by the National Park Authority (NPA). It was reported that the NPA had historically relied on a combination of voluntary codes of behaviour to guide the operation of a range of recreational activities in Pembrokeshire, including on land which the Authority had an interest. The Director explained that this had operated successfully for many years however changes in the number of



providers operating over time and complaints raised in the last two years had highlighted the benefits of moving to a more formal arrangement. The report stated that the intention was to move to a system of licensing from the 1st of May following the completion of environmental assessments for existing coasteering routes. It was added that should any routes not pass the environmental assessments, they would not be included in such licensed agreements.

A Member queried whether the Authority had approached the Crown Estate (as the Authority's Landlord for the foreshore) with regards to the proposed licensing. The Director confirmed that the Crown Estate had been supportive of the proposal and had indicated that they would be willing to support the Authority in the event that an operator continued to use the foreshore without obtaining a license.

A Member requested further information regarding the National Trust's approach to managing coasteering on their land. The Director confirmed that the National Trust had agreed to work in partnership with the Authority with a parallel licensing process. In response to a Members' query, it was confirmed that operators would need to obtain a license from both the NPA and the National Trust however the process would be streamlined with a single application to obtain both licenses.

In response to a Member's query, the Director confirmed that although no formal consultation had taken place, discussions with operators on the proposals had been ongoing and further discussions would be arranged should the scheme be approved. The Head of Engagement and Inclusion added that NPA Officers had met with coasteering operators in November 2025 to share the first draft of the proposed scheme and to seek feedback. It was reported that the NPA aimed to work with operators and to collate feedback throughout the process.

Members noted that other water sports had not been considered as part of the proposed licensing scheme. The Director explained that Officers had been focused on managing activities that were within their control and that had a potential negative impact on the environment. She explained that Officers were particularly concerned regarding coasteering given the nature of the activity and as access across Authority land would be required, the Authority could take action. It was acknowledged that other forms of water sports could have a negative impact on the environment however additional research would be required to identify the level of impact and what actions, if any, could be taken.

A discussion ensued regarding the cost of the licenses with Members commenting that they considered the fees to be too low. It was reported that the fee of £100 for the PCNPA license had been assigned for the first



year and although it would not cover the costs of the environmental assessment work, it would contribute towards costs whilst the Authority transitioned to these arrangements. It was added that the Authority intended on working towards a position of full cost recovery over the next few years. The Officer explained that the National Trust also intended on charging £100 for their licenses.

Members discussed the benefits of the proposed licensing scheme and recognised the scheme as an opportunity for operators who were licensed to be seen as exemplar and provided them with additional credibility within the industry. The Head of Engagement and Inclusion confirmed that the Authority would look to provide stickers to licensed operators to display in their vehicles.

In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that the licensing offered a stronger legal framework to support the Authority in protecting the National Park and formalised the environmental assessments which were being conducted by the Authority's Lead Ecologist. The Lead Ecologist provided further information regarding the elements of the environmental assessments.

Members recognised that there were currently inconsistencies in expectations and practices between coastering providers however a licensing scheme would ensure consistency and fairness.

On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor C George, it was **resolved** that the delegation of the introduction of a licensing scheme in relation to commercial coastering operations on land owned or leased by the National Park Authority, subject to the satisfactory completion of associated environmental assessments for specific routes be agreed.

[Councillor B Price rejoined the meeting at this juncture.]

12. Member Remuneration

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report that outlined the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru's decisions in relation to the Basic and Senior Salaries payable to National Park Authority Members for the financial year 2026/27.

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

- i. the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru's Annual Remuneration Report 2026/27 be noted



- ii. the posts of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Development Management Committee be remunerated with a Senior Salary

13. Exclusion of the Public

It was noted that in discussing the following report, information might be shared which was commercially sensitive, and it was therefore requested that the public be excluded from the meeting.

On the proposal of Councillor M Havard, seconded by Councillor D Clements, it was **resolved** that the public be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 16 of part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

14. Rosemoor Nature Reserve

The Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism presented a report that provided an update regarding the proposed acquisition of the Rosemoor Nature Reserve following a period of legal and financial due diligence. The Director provided a summary of the proposal and highlighted the key benefits and risks of the proposed acquisition.

Following a discussion and on the proposal of Councillor D Clements, seconded by Councillor S Hancock, it was **resolved** that the acquisition of Rosemoor Nature Reserve be rejected due to the financial and legal risks associated with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority managing the site.