

National Park Authority
29 July 2026

Present (In-person)

Dr M Havard (Chair)

Councillor M Bowen, Councillor D Clements, Councillor C George, Mr J Hogg, Mr GA Jones, Councillor V Thomas and Councillor M Williams.

Present (Remotely)

Ms H Gwenllian, Councillor SL Hancock MBE, Councillor M James, Councillor B Price, and Councillor C Williams BEM.

[Mrs S Hoss and Councillor H Murphy joined during consideration of the report on Article 4 Direction – Camping (minute 8 refers)]

Also in attendance:

Lynwen Davies (Simultaneous Interpreter), Steffan Davies (Planning Officer), Charles Felgate (Solicitor) (present for minutes 1-8), Emma Gladstone (Strategic Policy Manager), Georgia Jones (Democratic Services Officer), Tegryn Jones (Chief Executive), Mike Kent (Monitoring Officer), Caroline Llewellyn (Democratic Services Manager), Sara Morris (Director of Place and Engagement) and James Parkin (Director of Nature Recovery and Tourism).

[Preseli Suite, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock and Online, 10.00am – 11.40am]

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Miss F Day, Councillor S Skyrme-Blackhall and Councillor A Tinley.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Councillor B Price declared an interest in relation to report 23/26, Implications of Welsh Government Permitted Development Right Changes to Camping for the National Park Article 4 Direction.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings (Annual General Meeting and Ordinary meeting of the National Park Authority) held on the 24 June 2026 were presented for confirmation and authentication.

On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor M Bowen, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 24 June 2026 be confirmed and signed.

In relation to the Ordinary Meeting, the Chair highlighted that under Chair's Announcements, an incorrect initial had been recorded for the name of the Deputy Chair of the Corporate Joint Committee, and this



should read 'S Hunt'. In addition, the Chair requested that the phrase 'non-statutory' be included under item 7, to describe designated sites for nature conservation. Subject to the above amendments and on the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor V Thomas, it was **resolved** that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the National Park Authority held on the 24 June 2026 be confirmed and signed.

4. Action Log and Matters Arising

The action log was noted.

Noted.

5. Chair's Announcements

Dr M Havard reported that she had attended the following events / meetings in the past month:

- The opening event for the Helen Chadwick exhibition at Oriel y Parc which was a joint venture with the Tate Artist Rooms and Amgueddfa Cymru
- The National Park UK Chairs and CEO's Conference hosted by South Downs National Park. The Chief Executive highlighted that Green Finance had been a focus for the conference, and he confirmed that this information would be relayed to the next Income Diversification Group meeting for further discussion
- The National Park Wales Members Seminar hosted by Bannau Brycheiniog National Park in Llandeilo which was attended by several of the Authority's Members
- The Royal Welsh Show with the Authority's Chief Executive where they met with several stakeholders and awarded the winner of the Young Sheepdog Handler Competition, as National Park Wales were Sponsors of this award.
- A Partnership Forum meeting which had the focus of conservation.
- A Ffermio Bro Grant Awarding meeting where 21 different farms were selected for support
- A Campaign for National Parks Council meeting which focused on Wales and the proposed National Park
- A Welsh Government Public Bodies Chairs meeting where the approach being taken by the new Welsh Government was discussed.
- The first meeting with the Authority's Chief Executive and three newly elected Members of the Senedd with hope of meeting other Members soon



- A Corporate Joint Committee meeting which focused on several project reports and the audited accounts
- The Deputy Chair reported that she had attended two Corporate Joint Committee meetings. An Economic Wellbeing and Regional Economic Development Committee where the local innovation partnerships fund, the local growth fund and the regional energy update were discussed. A Strategic Planning meeting where an update on the strategic development plan was provided.

The Chair highlighted the upcoming Eisteddfod set to take place in North Pembrokeshire on the 1 – 8 August 2026. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Authority was set to feature in a collaborative space with Pembrokeshire County Council named ‘Pentref Garreg Glas’ with a full programme of events scheduled.

The Chair confirmed that the Authority was also set to be represented at the upcoming County show, the Pembroke Show, Fishguard Show and Nevern Show.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank and congratulate Helen Lloyd who was set to retire from the Authority after 22 years of service.

Noted.

6. Reports of meetings of various Authority Committees

The minutes of the meetings of the Development Management Committee held on the 03/06/2026 and 24/06/2026 were presented to Members for consideration.

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

7. Committee Vacancies

The Democratic Services Manager highlighted that there were vacancies on the Operational Review Committee and the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee.

On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor D Clements, it was **resolved** that Councillor H Murphy be appointed to both the Operational Review Committee and the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee.

8. Article 4 Direction – Camping

The Director of Place and Engagement presented a report that outlined the implications of the Welsh Government Permitted Development Right



Changes to Camping for the National Park Article 4 Direction. It was reported that the Welsh Government had amended permitted development rights for temporary recreational campsites through the Town and Country Planning Order 2026, with the new provisions in force from the 1st of June 2026. The Officer explained that the Authority's existing Article 4(1) Direction removed permitted develop rights for 28-day camping, caravans and mobile homes and unless the Authority reintroduced an Article 4 Direction for camping under the amended legislation, that element would cease to have effect on the 1st of September 2026. It was added that the caravan and mobile home elements would remain in force as the relevant legislation had not changed.

The report confirmed that the amended rights retained the 28-day limit within National Parks, National Landscapes and World Heritage Sites, but allowed up to 60 days elsewhere. In addition, it was reported that the new legislation introduced a prior notification process from the 1st of September 2026 which required operators to notify the Local Planning Authority prior to their operation each year.

The Officer clarified that the amended regime addressed some of the risks that had led to the Authority's Article 4 Direction but not all potential landscape, biodiversity, heritage setting and community impacts. It was therefore suggested that the Authority should not immediately reintroduce an Article 4 Direction for camping but monitor the implementation and impacts of the amended permitted development rights for one year before determining whether further action would be justified.

The report featured further background information, consultation details, the strategic policy context and financial considerations.

In response to a Members' query, the Officer confirmed that certified sites were unaffected by the changes in legislation.

The Chair queried that if Members were minded to re-introduce another Article 4(1) Direction in light of the changes to legislation, would the Authority be required to re-consult stakeholders. The Officer and the Solicitor confirmed that the Authority could introduce an Article 4(1) Direction if extensive consultation had already taken place however this would only be recommended in exceptional circumstances and so it was likely that the Authority would need to conduct another consultation if it were to reintroduce another Article 4(1) Direction.

A Member queried how the Authority could best communicate the changes to those impacted to reduce the number of enforcement cases in future caused by a lack of awareness. The Director of Place and



Engagement confirmed that the Welsh Government were yet to publish relevant guidance to accompany the changes however Authority Officers aimed to conduct survey work over the Summer and gather evidence of any impacts on landscape, biodiversity, highways, water quality, local communities, Welsh language considerations and wider public sector duties. In addition, the team aimed to contact relevant stakeholders over the Summer to raise awareness of the changes and offer advice where necessary.

A Member requested a summary of what campsite operators could expect next season, following the changes to legislation. The Officer summarised that campsite operators would be required to complete a prior notification form on the Welsh Government's website which would then be relayed to the National Park website. The Officer explained that campsite operators would be encouraged to complete this step well in advance of the start of their season to avoid any delays.

In response to a Members' query, the Officer clarified that should a campsite operating under the 28-day rule operate without prior notification, this would be considered a planning breach. In addition, the Officer confirmed that should a campsite operator submit a prior notification and operate for more than 28 days then this would also be considered a planning breach.

A Member queried the timescale to process a prior notification application and in response, the Officer confirmed that the Authority had 28 days to consider the application with the potential of prior approval of up to 3 months.

Members expressed concern regarding the changes in legislation to 60 days in some areas due to the potential impact on the landscape and biodiversity however it was agreed that the Officers recommendation was a pragmatic approach.

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

- a) the Welsh Government's amendments to the permitted development rights for temporary recreational campsites, including the retention of the 28-day limit within National Parks and the introduction of prior notification requirements be noted
- b) the Authority agree it would not immediately reintroduce an Article 4 Direction in relation to camping but would monitor the implementation and impacts of the amended permitted development rights for one year before determining whether further action would be justified.



9. Annual Partnership Framework Monitoring Report

The Performance and Compliance Officer presented the Annual Partnership Framework Monitoring Report for 2025/26 which provided an overview of key strategic partnerships the Authority was engaged with in support of its wider strategic priorities. It was reported that the annual report did not cover all of the Authority's collaborative or partnership work but it focused on the Authority's significant partnerships that contributed to delivery of strategic priorities.

It was noted that the partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council for a joint Planning Ecologist had an Amber RAG rating as a result of the Development Management Team having raised concerns regarding the resilience and sufficiency of the shared resource and a Member queried how this concern would be addressed. The Director of Place and Engagement explained that the last 18 months had been challenging as a result of increased workloads and staff changes in the team and the comments featured in the report reflected the situation 4 months prior however since that time, the team had caught up with applications and the situation had improved. The Director added that the situation would be monitored for the next 6 months to ensure resources remained sufficient to manage the number of applications received.

The report featured details of the Authority's support of the Eisteddfod y Garreg Las and a Member asked about the legacy of the event. The Chief Executive confirmed that he had been in discussion with the Minister for Culture regarding the legacy of the event along with opportunities for the future. It was agreed that the legacy of the Eisteddfod built on existing work already carried out by the Authority and other organisations who actively worked to develop and promote the Welsh language.

It was noted that the Authority contributed to the Tenby Park and Ride scheme and a Member queried whether Bourne Leisure had been approached for a contribution. The Director of Place and Engagement agreed to pass this comment on to the Pembrokeshire County Council who managed the service.

Members commended Authority Officers for their partnership working and agreed that this approach was key in order to be strategic and practical in addressing shared challenges.

Noted.



10. **WLGA Annual Conference**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report that sought authorisation for attendance at the Welsh Local Government Annual Conference.

Members were invited to contact the Democratic Services Manager should they wish to attend the conference on behalf of the Authority.

On the proposal of Dr M Havard, seconded by Councillor D Clements, it was **resolved** that one Member (to be determined) be authorised to attend the Welsh Local Government Annual Conference to be held on 16/17 September 2026 at the Brangwyn Hall in Swansea.

