

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY (Annual General Meeting)

26th June 2012

Present: Mr A Archer, Councillor JA Brinsden, Mr D Ellis, Ms C Gwyther, Councillor P Harries, Mrs G Hayward, Councillors M James, Mrs L Jenkins, B Kilmister, Mrs A Lee, RM Lewis, PJ Morgan, R Owens and DWM Rees, Mr EA Sangster, Mrs M Thomas and Councillor M Williams.

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00a.m. – 11.20a.m.)

1. Apology

An apology for absence was received from Councillor ST Hudson.

2. Chairman's address

The Chairman began by referring to the front page of that week's edition of the Western Telegraph newspaper which included the headline "Questions raised over Future of National Park".

He explained that the headline referred to comments made by Councillor Jamie Adams, Leader of Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) at the Welsh Local Government Association's Conference the previous week during a debate on the work of the Commission on Public Service delivery set up by the First Minister.

The Chairman went on to say that he had been very surprised to see the comments as he had not been aware that the Authority had received any correspondence or contact from Councillor Adams or anybody else from Pembrokeshire County Council regarding the possible merger of services.

He agreed that in challenging times the possibility of joint working needed to be explored. It was in this respect that the Authority had previously made a number of suggestions for joint working to Pembrokeshire County Council, however, few of these had been taken on board. Some examples were:

- On the retirement of the Authority's Solicitor the County Council had been approached to provide a number of legal services, however they did not have the capacity to help;
- The Authority wrote to Councillor David Pugh, Cabinet Member for Economic Development at PCC earlier in the year, suggesting a merger of the Authority's Visitor Centre in Tenby with the Council's Tourist Information Centre. No progress had been made and it was believed that a new TIC was being proposed as part of the Council's re-development of the car park in Tenby.



- It had been hoped that progress would be made on revision of the Off-Street Parking Order which would lead to joint working opportunities in terms of managing car parks. However, consultation on the Order was due to take place during March and to date nothing had been forthcoming.

The Chief Executive had also presented a long list of joint working proposals to Members of the Pembrokeshire Local Service Board several years previously, however nothing had been done with that list and he had not been invited back.

The Chairman challenged the Leader's view that the National Park Authority and PCC provided the same services as the National Park Authority had been set up with specific purposes. Councillor Adams had mentioned "Planning Service, Economic Development and Rights of Way Department" in his speech, however the Authority did not have an Economic Development Department as the 1995 Environment Act specifically prevented the Authority from acting in this capacity. The Authority did, however, have a Rights of Way service which looked after rights of way within and without the National Park and was managed as part of a delegation agreement with PCC, for which the Authority received no additional funding.

He concluded by suggesting that a merger of services with the County Council would save little; nevertheless, the next nine months were likely to be significant in terms of deciding the future shape of public services in Wales and advised Members of both Authorities to wait for the findings of the Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery before making any decisions on significant changes to their way of working.

3. **Appointment of Chair**

It was reported that one nomination had been received for the office of Chair.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Councillor M James be appointed Chair for the ensuing year.

Councillor JA Brinsden told Members he had thoroughly enjoyed being a Member and Chair of the Authority and, although he was leaving the Authority, he would continue to keep up to date with developments in the National Park.

Members expressed their thanks to Councillor Brinsden for all the good work he had done for the Authority during a difficult period of change. He had been a wonderful ambassador for the National Park and an



inspirational leader for Members. Councillor Brinsden was presented with a memento for his time with the Authority.

4. Appointment of Deputy Chair

It was reported that one nomination had been received for the office of Deputy Chair.

It was **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Mr EA Sangster be appointed Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

5. Disclosures of interest

No disclosures of interest were received.

6. Membership of Committees and External Organisations

The Administration and Democratic Services Manager began by congratulating Councillor M James on his appointment as Chair of the National Park Authority. She thanked Councillor Brinsden for his work as Chair and hoped that the good working relationship built up with Councillor Brinsden would continue with Councillor James and Mr EA Sangster.

It was reported that it was customary at the Annual General Meeting to review the membership of the Authority's Committees and Groups, together with the Authority's Member representation on outside bodies. She went on to say that, due to the change in political balance in Pembrokeshire County Council, Councillor AW Wilcox was no longer a Member of the Authority and Councillor ST Hudson had been appointed by the County Council in his place. He would automatically replace Councillor Wilcox on any Committees unless another Member wished to exchange places instead.

Finally, she reminded Members that, at any time, a County Council or Welsh Government appointed Member could exchange places on any of the Authority's Committees, Groups etc. with another County Council or Welsh Government Member respectively, subject to the Administration and Democratic Services Manager being informed, so that a report could be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority for confirmation of the exchange.

It was **RESOLVED**:

- (a) that the following membership of the National Park Authority, its Committees and Groups be agreed:

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

All Members



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

All Members

AUDIT AND CORPORATE SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE (4 PCC; 2 WG)

Councillor JA Brinsden	Mr A Archer
Councillor RM Lewis	Mrs G Hayward
Councillor DWM Rees	
Councillor M Williams	

CONSERVATION AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE (4 PCC; 2 WG)

Councillor B Kilmister	Mr D Ellis
Councillor Mrs A Lee	Ms C Gwyther
Councillor PJ Morgan	
Councillor ST Hudson	

RECREATION AND TOURISM REVIEW COMMITTEE (4 PCC; 2 WG)

Councillor P Harries	Mr EA Sangster
Councillor M James	Mrs M Thomas
Councillor Mrs L Jenkins	
Councillor R Owens	

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (6 PCC; 3 WG)

Councillor JA Brinsden	Mr A Archer
Councillor M James	Mrs G Hayward
Councillor Mrs A Lee	Mr EA Sangster
Councillor PJ Morgan	
Councillor ST Hudson	
Councillor DWM Rees	

EMPLOYEE FORUM (4 PCC; 2 WG)

Councillor P Harries	Mr D Ellis
Councillor RM Lewis	Ms C Gwyther
Councillor R Owens	
Councillor M Williams	

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT GROUP (4 Members)

Chairman of the Authority	Chair of Recreation and Tourism Review Committee
Chair of the Audit & Corporate Services Review Committee	Chair of the Conservation & Planning Review Committee



MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WORKING GROUP (3

Members)

Mr A Archer

Ms C Gwyther

Councillor M James

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (2 PCC; 1 WG plus three Independent

Members)

Councillor M James

Mrs G Hayward

Mr R Barrett-Evans

Councillor B Kilmister

Mr J Evans

Mr B Powdrill

SDF COMMITTEE (4 PCC; 2 WG)

Councillor Mrs L Jenkins

Mr EA Sangster

Councillor RM Lewis

Mrs M Thomas

Councillor DWM Rees

Councillor M Williams

STANDARDS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS PANEL

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority

Chairman of the Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee

Councillor M Williams

One lay Member

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (6 Members, to include 3 Members on rota
alphabetically, unless elected to any of the offices referred to below)

Chairman of the Authority

Chairman of the Development Management Committee

Chairman of Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee

Councillors P Harries, ST Hudson and Mrs L Jenkins

CAREW CASTLE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (2 Members)

Chair of the Authority

Councillor RM Lewis

CASTELL HENLLYS STAKEHOLDER GROUP (2 Members)

Chair of the Authority

Councillor P Harries

TYCANOL WOODLAND ADVISORY GROUP (2 Members)

Councillor P Harries

Councillor B Kilmister

NOTE:

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority are ex-officio Members of all Committees, Groups, etc. and the immediate past Chair is also regarded in this capacity for a period of one year only after vacating the office of Chair.



- (b) that the following representation of external organisations for 2012/13 be approved:

**ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair of the Authority (*Substitute: Deputy Chair of the Authority*)

NATIONAL PARKS WALES

Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority

**WELSH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL**

Chair of National Parks Wales

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Chair of the Authority (*Substitute: Deputy Chair of the Authority*)

JOINT COUNCIL FOR WALES

Councillor M Williams (*Substitute: Councillor R Owens*)

CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS (*One Member*)

Mrs G Hayward

CARDIGAN BAY ADVISORY GROUP

Councillor P Harries (*Substitute: Deputy Chair of the Authority*)

CARDIGAN COASTAL GROUP

Councillor M James

MILFORD HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (*One Member plus Substitute*)

Mr EA Sangster

Councillor RM Lewis (*Substitute*)

PEMBROKESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (*One Member*)

Councillor P Harries

SOUTH WEST WALES AREA ENVIRONMENT GROUP (EA WALES)
(*One Member plus Substitute*)

Councillor JA Brinsden

Councillor RM Lewis (*Substitute*)

**SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL AGGREGATES WORKING PARTY
– REGIONAL TECHNICAL STATEMENT MEMBER FORUM** (*One Member plus Substitute*)

Mr A Archer

Councillor JA Brinsden (*Substitute*)



SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL TOURISM PARTNERSHIP (*One Member*)

Mr EA Sangster

WALES SPATIAL PLAN (MINISTERIAL GROUP)

Chair of the Authority (*Substitute: Deputy Chair of the Authority*)

