

**NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
(Extraordinary Meeting)**

17 May 2017

Present: Councillor M James (Chair)
Mr A Archer, Councillor P Harries, Mrs G Hayward, Councillor R Kilmister, Councillor PJ Morgan, Councillor R Owens and Councillor M Williams.

[Councillor ML Evans, Councillor L Jenkins and Mr AE Sangster arrived at the beginning of the officer's presentation on the first report. Ms C Gwyther, arrived during the debate on the report (Minute 3 below refers).]

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00am – 10.50am)

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Hudson, Councillor RM Lewis, Councillor D Rees and Councillor A Wilcox.

2. Disclosures of Interest

Mr AE Sangster and Councillor M Williams disclosed a personal interest in policies contained within the Preferred Strategy Document (Minute 4 below), but played a full part in the debate thereon. Councillor ML Evans disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in some of the policies and withdrew from the meeting while the matter was considered.

3. Creation of Earmarked Reserves, Approval for Additional Capital Spend on the Roundhouses at Castell Henllys and Approval of Budget Virements over £20,000

The Finance Manager explained that his report was in three parts. Firstly he was seeking approval for the creation of the following Earmarked Reserves: Stitch in Time - £100,000; Pathways Project - £250,000; Wales Coast Path/Year of the Sea Marketing - £180,000; Changing car park meters to cashless - £20,000; and Future Landscapes Wales Implementation (to be allocated for use by 9 Designated Landscapes) - £150,000.

He explained that in March 2017 the Authority had successfully bid for these projects, and was therefore in receipt of funding from Welsh Government. It was recommended that Earmarked Reserves be created to fund the projects in subsequent financial years.

The second element to the report related to additional capital expenditure on the Castell Henllys Roundhouses. The 2017/18 Capital Programme already included a provision of £30,000 for this project, however following an extensive review by Archaeologists and consultants, a more detailed



estimate was now £72,000. Funds existed to cover this additional spend from an already established Earmarked Reserve.

One Member questioned why the Authority continued to run its centres and whether it should concentrate its efforts on increasing access to the National Park itself and to protecting its buildings. The Chief Executive responded that the Centres received approximately 200,000 visitors per year and were therefore very effective in achieving the Authority's second purpose of promoting opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Park. While other Members agreed it was pertinent to ask such questions, they agreed with the Chief Executive that feedback from those who visited the Centres was very good and they played an important role as well as helping to preserve the cultural heritage as part of the Authority's first purpose.

Finally, it was reported that approval of virements over £20,000 required specific approval of the Chief Financial Officer and Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee or National Park Authority in accordance with Paragraph 42 of the Authority's Financial Standards. Accordingly, a list of such virements undertaken in 2016/17 requiring approval were appended to the report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Authority approve the creation of the above-mentioned funding Earmarked Reserves, the additional capital expenditure on the Roundhouses at Castell Henllys and the schedule of virements over £20,000.

[Ms C Gwyther abstained from voting as she had joined the meeting during the debate.]

[Having disclosed an interest, Councillor ML Evans tendered his apologies and left the meeting before any discussion on the following matter.]

4. The Preferred Strategy (Pre-Deposit Local Development Plan Replacement), Draft Sustainability Appraisal, Draft Equalities Impact Assessment, Candidate Sites Register

Members were reminded that as part of the process of reviewing the Local Development Plan, Members had considered drafts of the above mentioned documents at a series of Workshops over the previous twelve months. Approval of these was now sought for the purposes of consultation, which it was anticipated would take place during June and July 2017. The documents were appended to the report and also available on the Authority's website.

The report went on to outline the contents of the Preferred Strategy, Sustainability Appraisal, Equalities Impact Assessment and Candidate



Sites Register and to seek Members' comments on them. Their comments as part of the consultation process itself were also welcomed.

Members asked some questions particularly regarding the Candidate Sites that had been put forward to which officers responded. They added that the policies had been discussed at length over many meetings and hoped that there would be engagement by Communities during the consultation.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following documents be approved for consultation:

- a) Draft Preferred Strategy and Key Diagram for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park;
- b) Draft Sustainability Appraisal for the draft Preferred Strategy;
- c) Draft Equalities Impact Assessment for the draft Preferred Strategy, and
- d) The Candidate Site Register.

5. Thanks

As this was the last meeting of the current term of several Members, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions over the previous 5 years. The Chief Executive added his thanks for the excellent engagement of Members with officers and his particular thanks to the Chairman for all his work and wished everyone well for the future.

