Authority: 17 September 2025 Agenda Item: 9

National Parks England
Board Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 8th April 2025

In-person Meeting

In Attendance		
Directors Tiffany Hunt (TH) Victoria Mander (VM) Jim Bailey (JB) Ken Smith (KS) Vanessa Rowlands (Chair) (VR) Derek Twine (DT) Dennis Mullan (DM) Pamela Woods (PW) **Officers** Jayne Butler (Executive Director (ED) and Company Secretary) (JBu) Michelle Giles (Executive Support Officer) Notes (MG)	**NPOs/ Chief Executives** Gavin Capstick (GC) Alison Barnes (ABar) Tom Hind (THi) Phil Mulligan (PM) Sion McGeever (SM) David Butterworth (DBu) Tony Gates (TG)	**NPA** Lake District NPA New Forest NPA North York Moors NPA Peak District NPA South Downs NPA Yorkshire Dales NPA Northumberland NPA Dartmoor NP

Item	
1	**Apologies & Intros** Kevin Bishop and David Bence - apologies. Victoria Mander (VM) deputising for David Bence.
2	**Minutes** **2.1** Approve minutes from the meeting held on 29 January 2025. Approved, no amendments. **VR** signed off.

3	**Matters arising** **3.1** No matters arising.
4	**Urgent Business notified to the Company Secretary – JBu** **4.1 JBu** - no urgent business.

Discussion: Our aspirations for National Work (1.5 hours)	
Q 1, 2 & 3	Discussion was made around the need for a collective NP vision which needs to come first before we start talking about operation of NPE and actions. We also agreed that the vision is the story that must guide the action. All agreed to engage an outside facilitator and arrange an offsite as soon as possible in London. **Actions:** • Brief for facilitator – JBu • Identify an outside facilitator - PW and VM to work with JBu. • Get a date in the diary for the session with facilitator once identified - MG works with EAs to get a date. Noted: ○ realistically looking at June/July ○ agreed to go ahead with this with whoever can turn up and send a deputy if not able to attend in person.
Discussion of Items Relating to NPE (1.5 hours)	
5	**NPE Work in 2024/25 (Paper 1)** Paper Noted.
6	**NPE Subscriptions 2025/26 (Paper 2)** **JBu** – we are unexpectedly in a space where Broads and Exmoor rejoining so will have 10 rather than 8 NPs. Increase in subscription rates, inflation impacted. Defra announced to give £20K for subs which was not discussed with me beforehand. TH and VR propose subscription levels to stay the same and that will bring in some extra money. A discussion was held around this, and it was agreed that the baseline of £20K would remain with larger parks paying more. **Action: JBu** to come back with new subscription model based on 3 new bands of grant settlements. Agreed new subscriptions would be for one year only and be reviewed post CSR settlement.
7	**Protected Landscapes Partnership update (Paper 3 and Paper 3a)** **JBu** – this is a paper that PLP wrote, it is the latest intent for PLP. Funding for PLP agreed in March. It is not an entity but staff who were in the PLP do think of it as that. We have worked together to look at what the future can be. Funding from Defra is separate from NP funding. **Paper noted.**

8	**NPE Plans for 2025/26 and NPE Budget 2025/26 (Papers 4 and 5)** A discussion was held on the NPE budgets and plans looking at relationships in and outside of parliament, influencers and the structure of NPE's Comms. The following decisions were made. ***Decisions:*** • Agreed to join Heritage Alliance. • Need to map parliamentary relationships and NPs to share with NPE so they can map a national picture. • Re the Comms Unit - individual NPAs to decide if they want to pay into the £8K in future. NPE will not be putting money into the Comms Unit. • Agreed NPE will hold its own Comms. **Action:** JBu to distribute the Comms Review to the Board. **Paper noted.**
9	**Pro Bono work on funding for NPAs (Dartmoor NPA verbal update)** **DB** presented this proposal to have some pro-bono work by McKinsey's on future funding opportunities for NPs. Co-created proposal with options rather than recommendations. ***Decision: All agreed to move this forward.***
Discussion: Our Aspirations for NPE (1 hour)	
10	**What are the most important objectives for NPE this year?** **a. Updates on H&W, Nature Recovery, Climate Leadership, Access and Agriculture.** *To be revisited as part of the Vision setting session with external facilitator.*
Discussion on policy priorities for the year ahead	
11	**What does the future look like for national parks? How do we set a vision? What are the big questions that we need to answer and how will we do this?** *To be revisited as part of the Vision setting session with external facilitator.*
12	**AOB** **Code of Conduct** VR – asked if there is a Code of Conduct for NPE? If not, we need to create one.
Summary of Actions from this meeting	
1	**JBu** - Brief for external facilitator.

2	**JBu/ PW / VM** - Identify an external facilitator.
3	**MG / NPs EAs** - Date in the diary for Vision session with external facilitator once idenfitied.
4	**JBu** – Provide clarity on figures provided in Paper 2.
5	**JBu** - distribute the Comms Review to the Board.

Next Board meeting: Monday 7th July proceeded by the AGM.